

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OF GEORGIA**

PRESS RELEASE

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NEXT SEGMENT OF FALL LINE FREEWAY APPROVED BY STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
\$50 Million in Capital Improvements for GRIP Corridor

ATLANTA – The State Transportation Board today voted to approve over \$350 million on various phases of projects across Georgia. All 13 Congressional Districts will receive funds, with District 12 receiving the largest amount at \$57.5 million. Approximately \$50 million is dedicated to the Fall Line Freeway construction.

The Fall Line Freeway is part of the original Governor's Road Improvement Program (GRIP) started in 1989, and crosses the entire width of the State from the Alabama state line at Columbus to Macon and then to Augusta at the South Carolina state line. The total corridor is approximately 215 miles in length, and when completed will provide four-lanes of roadway generally separated by a grass median.

The GRIP program purpose as adopted by the Georgia General Assembly is to enhance economic development by improving connectivity in Rural Georgia by providing quicker access to a four-lane road for 98% of all areas of the State. The program also strives to improve safety for motorists because four-lane roads have a significantly reduced number of accidents versus two-lane highways. The corridors covered through the GRIP initiatives work in conjunction with other projects of the Department of Transportation to build an effective and efficient transportation system for the growing statewide population.

"I am pleased with the decision to fund this section of the Fall Line Freeway. We have worked on this GRIP corridor for a number of years, and this is one more step towards the final completion of the Fall Line Freeway," said Bobby Parham, State Transportation Board representative for Congressional District 12. "This is an important section to get underway, and I think that it will serve many purposes upon completion, including assisting with freight distribution from the Ports."

In addition to the Fall Line Freeway project, Congressional District 12 also received about \$7 million for a project in Chatham County to widen SR 307/Dean Forest Road from R.B. Miller Road to SR 21. The final project selection was chosen from 270 projects, valued in excess of \$650 million.

Details on all the projects approved today are available via this link:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/informationcenter/pressroom/Documents/Releases/2010/BoardRelease-12-9-10.pdf>

The State Transportation Board determines policy and exercises general governance of Georgia's Department of Transportation. The Board's 13 members, representing each of the state's congressional

districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. Georgia is the 3rd fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. Additional transportation revenues are imperative to grow and sustain Georgia's economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).