



# The Torch

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## Points of Light:

Research and Development (R&D) is part of the Office of Materials and Research (OMR).

- Funded by State Planning & Research (SP&R) funds.
- Manages GDOT's state and national R&D activities.
- Manages the GDOT Library and foreign exchange activities.

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## Research Hits the Road

As part of its mission of developing, managing, and implementing strategic research, the Research & Development (R&D) Branch is expanding its outreach to potential research partners within GDOT through "Research Road Shows."

R&D held its first Road Show at One Georgia Center in August 2010 and semiannually thereafter. Road Shows, which provide an overview of GDOT's research program with emphasis on active research, have been well received, particularly with the addition of guest

speakers on research topics of general interest to GDOT staff.

To foster more collaboration with GDOT districts, R&D plans to hold a Road Show in each district over the next few years. The first "district" Road Show was held in Gainesville on March 28. Guest speakers included Ray Dorsey, GDOT Maintenance, discussing GDOT research benefits, and Drs. Michael Chamberlain and Robert Warren, University of Georgia, speaking on animal-vehicle collision research. Catch the Road Show in your district!

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## Research Welcomes New Staff Member

R&D welcomed its newest staff member, Ms. Gretel Sims, in January. Gretel joins us as a Transportation Engineering Associate who will, pending completion of GDOT's Professional Engineering Development Program,

assume the title of Research Engineer.

Ms. Sims is a graduate of the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, and will serve as Secretary of the Research Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) on

Asset Management (see pp. 2-3 for updates on RTAG activities). Gretel is very excited to be a part of the R&D family and has already assumed oversight of a good cross-section of projects. Please join us in welcoming Gretel to R&D!



## Glimmer: Georgia's University Transportation Center Scores Big in National UTC Competition

Georgia Transportation Institute (GTI), Georgia's University Transportation Center (UTC) won two large research grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for transportation research in January 2012.

USDOT's Research and Innovative Technology Administration (RITA) administers the national UTC program, which leverages university academic programs and research capa-

bilities to educate transportation professionals, conduct transportation research, and transfer research results (see [www.utc.dot.gov](http://www.utc.dot.gov)). Funding for the two grants is to be matched by GDOT.

The UTC program includes grants for centers focusing on regional needs and for other cen-

ters with varying research themes. GTI-UTC will support a regional center led by the University of Florida and lead another center focusing on critical interactions among safety, transportation infrastructure and services, and economic competitiveness.

### RTAG Update: Mobility

Mobility research is aimed at planning and constructing multimodal projects that (1) make travel times lower and more predictable; and (2) ensure efficient movement of freight. Research scope includes (1) planning to relieve congestion; (2) intermodal programs; and (3) preconstruction, construction, and operations activities.

**Meeting Highlights (12/1/11).** One project was approved for FY 2013 funding: Establishment of Georgia Native Grasses in Different Planting Zones and Seasons. Prior to the December 1, 2011 meeting, Mobility RTAG approved one project for FY 2012 funding via e-ballot: Dixie Highway Context Study. For more information, contact

Binh Bui, RTAG Secretary, at [bbui@dot.ga.gov](mailto:bbui@dot.ga.gov).

**Membership Update.** Darrell Richardson (Roadway Design) will serve as the new Chair for 2012, and Eric Duff (OES) was elected Vice-Chair. Mobility RTAG welcomes Alan Ware (Intermodal) as a member.

### RTAG Update: Asset Management

Asset Management research is aimed at providing the most efficient care of current assets. Research scope includes (1) infrastructure (materials, construction, maintenance); (2) customer satisfaction; and (3) use of funds.

**Meeting Highlights (12/1/11; follow-up 2/9/12).** Two projects were approved for FY 2012

funding: (1) Storage of Historic Steel Trusses; and (2) Automated Raised Pavement Marker Placement Implementation. Three projects were approved for FY 2013 funding: (1) Enhancing Vegetation Management Practices; (2) Long-Term Performance of Rubberized Pavements, Phase II; and (3) Semi-Autonomous Inspection of Sign Structures.

For more information, contact Gretel Sims, RTAG Secretary, at [gsims@dot.ga.gov](mailto:gsims@dot.ga.gov).

**Membership Update.** Angela Alexander (OOPM) was re-elected Chair for 2012, and J.T. Rabun (OMR) was elected Vice-Chair. Gretel Sims (OMR) joined as Secretary and Dale Brantley (OPE) as a member.

## RTAG Update: Policy/Workforce

Policy/Workforce research is aimed at (1) evaluating and enhancing GDOT policies to improve program delivery and business results; and (2) improving the success and engagement of GDOT employees to help achieve GDOT strategic goals. Research scope includes administration, finance, planning, and program delivery.

**Meeting Highlights (12/1/11).** One project was approved for FY 2013 funding: Job Reassignment/Shadowing to Motivate Workforce. Four projects were approved for FY 2013 funding pending support from GDOT offices: (1) Streamlining Project Delivery through Risks; (2) Identifying Fire Station Access/School Impacts; (3) GDOT Engineers

Retention; and (4) Maximizing Exceptional Employee Talent. For more information, contact Supriya Kamatkar, RTAG Secretary, at [skamatkar@dot.ga.gov](mailto:skamatkar@dot.ga.gov).

**Membership Update.** Gail D'Avino (OES) will serve as the new Chair for 2012, and Brent Story (ODPS) was elected as Vice-Chair.

## RTAG Update: Safety

Safety research is aimed at ensuring the overall safety of state transportation infrastructure and making safety investments and improvements where the traveling public is most at risk. Research scope includes (1) accident analysis; (2) work zone safety (motorists & workers); (3) bike/pedestrian safety; (4) employee safety; and (5) homeland security.

**Meeting Highlights (12/1/11).** One project was approved for FY 2012 funding: Operational Analysis of I-85 HOT Lane Striping. Two projects were approved for FY 2013 funding: (1) Bicycle Pedestrian Safety in the *Highway Safety Manual*; and (2) Operational Analysis of Diverging Diamond Interchange. For more information, contact

David Jared, RTAG Secretary, at [djared@dot.ga.gov](mailto:djared@dot.ga.gov).

**Membership Update.** Brad Ehrman (ODPS) was re-elected Chair for 2012, and Steve Gafford (Utilities) was elected Vice-Chair. Safety RTAG bids farewell to Byron Rushing, previous Vice-Chair.

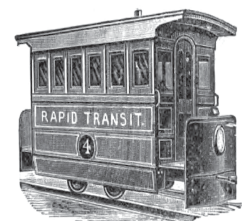
## Shining Beacon: Historic Streetcar Context Implementation

The Historic Streetcar Systems Context Study, completed in January 2012, has already proven to be a useful tool in identifying, interpreting, and assessing the significance of resources associated with the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century Atlanta streetcar system. The context is available as a free download on [dot.ga.gov](http://dot.ga.gov), and a geoda-

tabase is to be published by GDOT-IT so that planners, designers, and preservationists can identify potential effects of projects on streetcar resources like tracks, car barns, or landscape features. GDOT Environmental Services is working with New South Associates, which wrote the context and created the

geodatabase, to develop (1) training for implementing the context; and (2) a collection of case studies. These tools will be published on a website that will also provide a location to download the context and geodatabase. A display has been installed on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of One Georgia Center to showcase this project.

*“...a useful tool in identifying, interpreting, and assessing the significance of [streetcar] resources...”*



Street Railway Journal 1891

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**Georgia DOT  
Strategic Goals:**

- Making *GDOT a better place to work* will make GDOT a place that works better
- Making *safety* investments and improvements where the traveling public is most at risk
- *Taking care of what we have*, in the most efficient way possible
- *Planning and constructing* the best set of mobility-focused projects we can, on schedule



## Library Illumination

The Roy A. Flynt Memorial Library was founded in 1967 and provides library services for GDOT and the public. The Library collection includes documents from national and state resources, plus audio/visual resources. GDOT employees can access the Library from myGDOT

(under Policies and Manuals, "Library Resources") or in person (M-F, 8-5). The Library is open to the public for on-site use of its materials; however, an appointment must be scheduled for this service. For borrowing or search assistance, please contact Ms. Stardina Wyche,

GDOT Librarian, at [swyche@dot.ga.gov](mailto:swyche@dot.ga.gov) or 404.608.4800. Please include the bar code number provided in the online search in your request for materials. The Library is in the process of upgrading its catalog/search software to better serve its patrons.

We're on the Web! Visit us at  
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/doingbusiness/research/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Sharing the Light: Submitting Ideas

The R&D Branch has created a Research Idea Mailbox open to all GDOT employees (see link below).

GDOT employees are encouraged to submit brief (1-2 paragraph) ideas for research that could potentially benefit GDOT. Contact information for submitters should also be included for follow up.

The ideas will be reviewed initially by R&D staff, which serve as secretaries for the RTAG's. The RTAG's will review

the ideas and determine which ones would be pursued under the GDOT research program.

For further information on the Research Idea Mailbox, please contact David Jared, Acting R&D Branch Chief, at [djared@dot.ga.gov](mailto:djared@dot.ga.gov) or 404.608.4799.

*"Thought is the seed of action."* —Ralph Waldo Emerson

**Mailbox link:**

**[ResearchIdea@mygdot.dot.ga.gov](mailto:ResearchIdea@mygdot.dot.ga.gov)**

