

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

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TRANSPORTATION FUNDING KEY TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation joins The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) in recognizing the first anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and its impact on the nation and Georgia's economic recovery.

“The Georgia DOT and all state DOTs are grateful for the added federal funding made possible through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We have all worked tirelessly to get projects implemented as quickly and fairly as possible,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr. during a press conference in Atlanta.



Deputy Commissioner and Chief Engineer Gerald Ross (left); Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr.; and Assistant to the Chief Engineer Meg Pirkle participate in a press conference recognizing the first anniversary of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“The message is simple: transportation investment equals good jobs now and produces lasting assets for the future,” he added. “The additional ARRA funds were crucial to all states in continuing transportation investment. State motor fuel tax and other transportation revenues are in decline. The 100% in federal funding through ARRA greatly bolstered regular state highway and local transit capital investment programs.

More than 9,200 projects totaling \$20.6 billion are under construction nationwide and Georgia DOT has awarded more than \$632 million for 243 separate stimulus projects since the program began last May.

In Georgia:

- 28 bridges are being replaced,
- 1107 miles of pavement will be poured, including 353 miles of local roads paved,
- 54 enhancement projects are underway which will have a long lasting quality of life effect for communities,
- Approximately \$300 million worth of widening projects have begun,
- 166 transit vehicles will be purchased,

- 62 safety projects are underway.

ASSHTO also today released a report -- Projects and Paychecks: a One Year Report on State Transportation Success under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – which included findings from all 50 states, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committees and the Federal Highway Administration. The report is available at www.recovery.transportation.org.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America's economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. Georgia DOT maintains a Web page (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

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).