



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

PRESS RELEASE

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Georgia Transportation Board Acts to Create and Preserve Jobs

ATLANTA – The State Transportation Board today voted to begin as much as \$350 million in new spending on statewide infrastructure projects to bolster job creation and preservation in Georgia’s struggling transportation construction industry.

“This is an important step,” Board Chairman Rudy Bowen of Gwinnett County said. “While the state’s economy is recovering, it is taking longer than expected. And this industry needs as much support as we can provide. I am certain our action today will end up creating and saving jobs across Georgia.”

The Board’s unanimous vote was to dedicate an additional \$350 million from the Department of Transportation’s fund balance for expenditure in the first quarter of 2011 to supplement Georgia DOT’s normal programmed project spending during that period. Department staff was instructed to allocate approximately \$250 million of the additional monies for capital and maintenance projects (60% for capital/40% for maintenance) and to use the remaining \$100 million for right of way purchases needed to ready still more projects for construction.

“The Board and the Department have been cautious and conservative in maintaining a healthy fund balance,” member David Doss of Rome, observed. “That is commendable, but these are extraordinary times with extraordinary needs.”

Specific projects that may be included in the special program will be determined this month and during December with bid lettings to begin in January. They will be selected from 270 projects throughout Georgia, valued in excess of \$650 million, which are ready for immediate letting but lack funding.

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).

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