

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
OF GEORGIA**

PRESS RELEASE

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**GEORGIA DOT RECEIVES
NATIONAL INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION AWARD FOR REGIONAL
SIGNALIZATION EFFORT**

ATLANTA – Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr., today accepted the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) America Smart Solution Spotlight award recognizing the Department's efforts in the Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP). The award was presented at the monthly State Transportation Board meeting. Through RTOP, the Department is installing new technology to improve the traffic signal operations in the Atlanta region's most congested corridors using Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

"Studies show that poor signal timing accounts for up to ten percent of all traffic delays," said Traffic Engineer Grant Waldrop in his presentation to the Board. He added that the average rush-hour commuter spends nearly a full work week stuck in traffic each year, according to a report by the Texas Transportation Institute which ranked Atlanta third in the nation with 57 hours of delay and 40 gallons of wasted fuel each year per traveler. Congestion in the Atlanta area costs each rush-hour commuter over \$1,250, totaling almost \$3 billion annually for the region.

The Regional Traffic Operations program will repair and maintain traffic signals on major arterials in multiple corridors that often lead to stop and go traffic when moving from one jurisdiction to another. The program will actively manage and streamline traffic flow across many jurisdictions; improve traffic flow; minimize congestion and reduce delays along regional commuter corridors.



Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr. accepts the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) America Smart Solution Spotlight Award from ITS America Vice President Tom Kern at the October Board meeting.

Regionally significant corridors that will be addressed include US 41/Cobb Pkwy; SR 92; SR 140/Holcomb Bridge Rd/Jimmy Carter Blvd; SR 9/Roswell Rd; Piedmont Rd; SR 141; SR 8/Ponce De Leon/Scott Blvd; US 78; SR 42/Moreland Ave; SR 85; and US 41/Tara Blvd.

“ITS is a critical component in our efforts to operate our system at its most effective level,” Commissioner Smith said when accepting the award. “To have that effort recognized by ITS America is very gratifying and a tribute to the Department employees working with this technology.”

ITS America Executive Vice President Tom Kern, commended GDOT’s traffic signal project noting that it “demonstrates how public agencies can leverage technology to cost-effectively reduce delays and optimize system efficiency, which in turn will save commuters time and money, improve on-time delivery for area businesses, cut down on CO₂ emissions, and prevent crashes caused by stop-and-go traffic.”

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 information on the Georgia DOT and all of its programs, please visit our Web site at www.dot.ga.gov.

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