



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

PRESS RELEASE

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Georgia Transportation Board Selects 33 Projects Across State For Special Jobs Creation and Preservation Effort

ATLANTA – As promised just three weeks ago, the State Transportation Board today voted to expedite work on 33 transportation infrastructure projects – valued at as much as \$400 million – to create new jobs and save existing ones in Georgia’s troubled highway construction industry.

“This is win-win,” Board Chairman Rudy Bowen of Gwinnett County said. “We’re saving and creating jobs for hard-working Georgians while at the same time making important improvements to our transportation system.”

The 33 projects – approved unanimously in the Board’s final meeting of 2010 – delineate approximately \$152 million for new capacity projects; \$132 million for maintenance work; and \$117 million for right of way acquisition. The money for these projects is available from the Department of Transportation’s fund balance reserves because Georgia DOT has been extremely conservative in its spending during the economic downturn and at the same time aggressive in maximizing its use of available federal monies.

Lettings (taking bids) for the new projects will begin in January and most work is anticipated to be underway next spring. Among the larger of the projects are:

- Construction of eight additional miles in Washington County of the Fall Line Freeway, a Governor’s Road Improvement Program (GRIP) corridor, for an anticipated \$50 million;
- Widening seven miles of U.S. Highway 27/State Route 1 in northwest Early County, estimated to cost \$31 million;
- Rehabilitation of some six miles of Interstate Highway 75 between Interstate Highway 285 in Clayton County and State Route 54 in Fulton County, anticipated to cost \$29 million; and
- Right of way acquisition in conjunction with the planned widening of State Route 20 near Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Gwinnett County, expected to require \$28 million.

Expenditures for rights of way purchases were included in the program, Bowen explained, to create a “reserve” of additional projects ready for letting as soon as the necessary construction funding becomes available.

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

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/aboutGeorgiadot/Board/Documents/Projects/2010/ProjectList-12-9-2010.pdf>

All were selected from 270 projects, valued in excess of \$650 million, the balance of which remains ready for immediate letting; but lacks 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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