

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
MINUTES**

**Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree St.
Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**December 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann R. Purcell, Chairman
Dennis McEntire, Secretary
Cathy Williams
Robert L. Brown Jr.
Stacey Key
Rudy Bowen
Curt Thompson
Tim Golden
Emily Dunn
Jeff Lewis
Dan Snipes
Micah Gravley

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jamie Boswell, Vice Chairman
Dana Lemon

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell R. McMurry, Commissioner
Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Jannine Miller, State Planning Director

Chair Purcell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Dan Snipes gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Purcell called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2024 board. Tim Golden made a motion to approve the November board meeting minutes, seconded by Cathy Williams and unanimously approved. *

Albert Shelby, Director of Program Delivery gave a report on the Letting results for Fiscal Year 2025, the November 2024 Letting results and the projects in the January 2025 Letting. Chair

Purcell called for a motion to approve the January 2025 Letting. Emily Dunn made a motion to approve the January 2025 Letting, seconded by Dennis McEntire and unanimously approved.

Matt Markham, Deputy Director of Planning, presented one revision to the Construction Work Program for review and will bring it back to the board next month for approval.

Commissioner McMurry began with the monthly department report including transportation fund collections ending November 2024 which was not available at the time of the meeting; total employment figures ending November 2024; and the monthly procurement report for November 2024. The commissioner provided an update on the budget from the federal level and the impact on projects in Georgia.

The commissioner moved on to highlight projects open to traffic: Bridge construction on US 80 over Indian Branch in Laurens County. (Congressional District 12, GDOT District 2); resurfacing on US 1/SR 4 from the Richmond county line to south of Prong Creek in Richmond County. (Congressional District 12, GDOT District 2); bridge construction on SR 109 over Southern Railroad in Meriwether County (Congressional District 3, GDOT District 3). Next the commissioner highlighted an aviation project which consisted of the reconstruction of a runway and replacement of runway lighting at the Macon - Downtown Airport in Bibb County (Congressional District 8, GDOT District 3); finally, the commissioner highlighted a resurfacing project on SR 25 from north of Sydney Lanier Bridge to south of Fountain Lake Drive in Glynn County (Congressional District 1, GDOT District 5).

Commissioner McMurry began the awards and recognitions section by congratulating Dave Adams who won the 2024 Governor's Public Safety Awards at an event hosted by Governor Brian Kemp. Dave Adams won in the "Outstanding Contribution to the Profession" category.

Next, the commissioner congratulated the GDOT's Office of Environmental Services who received the Georgia Historical Records Council 2024 Award for Excellence in Documenting Georgia's History for the Georgia Statewide Cemetery Context titled "Identification and Evaluation of Georgia's Historic Burial Grounds." The document also won The Excellence in Preservation Service Award, The National Council on Public History Award for the "Outstanding Public History Project for a Large Institution Award and an award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. The commissioner congratulated the Eric Duff and the entire Office of Environmental Services.

The commissioner then focused on the Georgia DOT and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (or ACEC Georgia) who co-hosted the 30th annual Georgia Transportation Summit in Athens on December 3rd. The 30th anniversary of this annual event featured updates from transportation leaders and was attended by representatives and transportation and engineering

professionals from around the state. The Summit always serves as a vital forum for discussing the current state and future of transportation in Georgia. The commissioner recognized Tom Turner, who recently retired, for his role in starting the transportation summit 30 years ago. The summit also includes the 2024 Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality Awards. Known best by the acronym “GPTQ,” the awards were established to strengthen the working relationship between GDOT and its consultants and contractors. Several GDOT team members won awards which the commissioner showed on a slide.

Moving on, Commissioner McMurry discussed the Governor’s Toy Drive. Each year, Governor and First Lady Kemp ask state agencies to help children in foster care by helping to fulfill their wish lists during the holiday season. The department were honored to be able to play a role in making the holidays brighter for 35 Georgia kids in foster care this year with gifts including books, toys, bikes and electronics. And with the help of the Office of Equipment Management, GDOT delivered a bundle of toys to the Governor’s Office at the Capital. The commissioner thanked all involved for their generosity with a special thank you to the Office of Human Resources including Thuy Niedrach and a team of HR helpers for collecting and delivering the joyful gifts!

Then the commissioner provided a recap of the department’s efforts in 2024 in the form of a letter to Santa. The letter read:

- Dear Santa, I hope you are in good health and ready for the holiday season. I want you to know that throughout 2024, the Georgia Department of Transportation has been working to provide a safe, innovative and efficient transportation network for the citizens of Georgia. Santa, let me recap the ways GDOT has been working to make it on the nice list this year....
 - In February, the department signed the Bat Programmatic Agreement with the Georgia department of Natural Resources which streamlined GDOT projects while helping to preserve bat habitats.
 - In 2024, GDOT launched “Keep Georgia Safe”, a comprehensive, free K-12 Car and Road Safety Educational Program in partnership with We Are Teachers, a leading national educational media organization. This five-year program, provided by Georgia DOT at no cost to schools for teaching road and pedestrian safety in Georgia classrooms, offers smart, ready-to-use classroom resources designed to instill vital road safety skills in students from a young age.
 - This year, the department received a \$1.5 billion transportation infrastructure investment from Governor Kemp’s amended Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24) budget recommendation, approved by the Georgia General Assembly. This additional funding was immediately allocated to transportation projects across the state and is advancing these projects while also serving as a down payment for future expansion as Georgia continues to experience record job and population growth.

- The new State Route 42/ North Druid Hills Road bridge over North Fork Peachtree Creek opened to traffic after a 90-day road closure. The old bridge, originally built in 1962, had outlived its useful lifespan and needed to be demolished and reconstructed. The new bridge opened on time.
- In July, Georgia's transportation infrastructure received high marks from the ASCE. The American Society of Civil Engineers or ASCE issued their 2024 Infrastructure Report Card for the state of Georgia. In 2024, the group gave the state of Georgia an overall grade of C+. Georgia's grade is higher than the national average of C-. And, the state's transportation system was considered a highlight and a significant contributor for the state's above average score. Additionally, In the bridges category, Georgia improved from a C+ to B. And in the roads category, we received a C+, up from the national grade of D.
- In 2024, Georgia DOT was elected to the ITS World Congress Hall of Fame. The department won for its joint agency transportation data acquisition and management program with the Atlanta Regional Commission which improved the big data acquisition process. The program aimed to enhance data analytics capabilities, reduce data duplication and associated analyses and lower overall agency costs.
- And in November, GDOT's State Transportation Board selected an Operations, Maintenance and Commercialization partner for Georgia DOT's Broadband Project. GDOT's broadband project will install 1,400 miles of broadband infrastructure along interstates in Georgia which will provide faster, more reliable broadband access for communities, households and businesses in 70 Georgia counties.
- SR 400 Express Lanes project took a major step in 2024. This past November, the department reached a commercial close with SR 400 Peach Partners, our private-sector partner, which advances final concept designs, start environmental re-evaluations and permitting. It was the largest P3 deal in US history.

Santa, you can see GDOT is continuously working for a safe and efficient transportation network that works for both the families and businesses of Georgia. Most importantly, everyone at the department would really like for all drivers to put down their cellphones, buckle up, slow down and drive sober. It is our sincere hope that everyone arrives home safely to their loved ones.

With that, the commissioner thank the board for their support and ended his presentation.

Committee Vice Chairman Micah Gravley gave the Administrative Committee report. * No action was taken during this committee meeting.

Committee Chairman Dan Snipes gave the Legislative Committee report. * During the committee Chairman Dan Snipes called for a motion to approve the proposed 2025 legislative agenda. Committee Member Micah Gravley made a motion to approve, seconded by Committee Member Curt Thompson and unanimously approved. Committee Chairman Snipes now called

for a motion from the full board to approve the proposed 2025 legislative agenda. Tim Golden made a motion to approve, seconded by Micah Gravley and unanimously approved.

Committee Chairman Emily Dunn gave the Intermodal Committee report. * There were no actions taken during this committee.

Chairman Ann R. Purcell gave the Committee of the Whole report. * During the committee Chairman Ann R. Purcell asked for a motion to send the proposed amendments to Rule Chapter 672-12, Grant Programs, and Rule 672-9-.03, Airports; Licensing Minimum Standards to the full board to vote to open the rules to public comments. Cathy Williams made a motion to approve to open the rules to public comment, seconded by Dennis McEntire and unanimously approved. Chairman Purcell now made a motion to the full Board, pursuant to the Georgia Administrative Procedural Act, to give notice to the public of the intention of the Georgia Department of Transportation to amend Rule Chapter 672-12, Grant Programs, and Rule 672-9..03, Airports: Licensing Minimum Standards, with the period for public comment ending January 13, 2025 and further action by the Board to adopt these rules on February 20, 2025. Micah Gravley seconded Chairman Purcell's motion, and it was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chair Purcell adjourned the board meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted

Ann R. Purcell., Chair

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

December 11, 2024
1:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell*	Emily Dunn
Dennis McEntire	Jeff Lewis
Cathy Williams*	Dan Snipes
Robert Brown*	Dana Lemon
Stacey Key	Micah Gravley*
Curt Thompson*	
Rudy Bowen	
Tim Golden*	

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Committee Vice Chairman Micah Gravley called the Administrative Committee to order at 1:30 PM.

Nicole Glenn, the Department's Recruitment Manager, provided a Recruitment Update. She talked about the Department's efforts with pipeline recruitment. This fall, GDOT partnered with the Fernbank Science Center and Dekalb County Schools to teach over 70 9th grade students about civil engineering, bridge design and careers in transportation. This was just one of many efforts for the pipeline recruitment efforts. She also spoke about the GDOT Summer Internship Program. GDOT welcomed the largest summer intern class, a class of 104 interns to our offices statewide. She also shared the most recent recruitment efforts with the Technical College System of Georgia. GDOT partnered with the Technical College System of Georgia to recruit Civil Engineering Technology students. GDOT subject matter experts have participated in workforce panels, worked with faculty and reviewed curriculum to help with this effort. Expanding the program provides resources to areas that are notoriously difficult to recruit in. Candidates in this program are hired in a variety of areas throughout the Department; however, their true value is stabilizing construction in the districts. When CETs are hired here at GDOT they are given unique opportunities here to become Construction Project managers. We look forward to opening the summer internship program to these students this summer and then welcoming them into the Department as full-time employees after graduation.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman Curt Thompson adjourned the meeting at 1:43 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Curt Thompson, Chairman

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

December 11, 2024
1:44 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell*

Dennis McEntire

Cathy Williams

Robert Brown

Stacey Key

Curt Thompson*

Rudy Bowen

Tim Golden*

Emily Dunn*

Jeff Lewis

Dan Snipes*

Dana Lemon

Micah Gravley*

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner

Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer

Jannine Miller, Planning Director

Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Joshua Waller, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, reviewed three proposed statutory changes in the 2025 legislative agenda, first presented at the November committee meeting, for the Committee's consideration to approve with a recommendation to the full board for its approval.

Chairman Dan Snipes called for a motion to approve the proposed 2025 legislative agenda. Micah Gravley made a motion to approve, seconded by Curt Thompson and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman Dan Snipes adjourned the meeting at 1:49 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Snipes, Chairman

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

INTERMODAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

December 11, 2024
1:50 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell*	Emily Dunn*
Dennis McEntire*	Jeff Lewis
Cathy Williams*	Dan Snipes
Robert Brown	Dana Lemon*
Stacey Key	Micah Gravley
Curt Thompson*	
Rudy Bowen	
Tim Golden	

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Collette Williams, Aviation Program Manager, gave an update on the Commercial Airport Funding Study. The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) completed the 2024 Commercial Service Airport-Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Funding Analysis in response to recommendations from the Georgia Joint Legislative Study Committee on Airport Infrastructure and Improvements. This analysis focused on project costs per FY25-FY29 CIPs submitted to GDOT in December 2023 for seven commercial service airports. The study compared the CIP costs to historical funding and identified potential funding gaps.

There being no further business, Committee Chairman Emily Dunn adjourned the meeting at 2:05 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Emily Dunn, Chairman

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

December 11, 2024
2:06 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann R. Purcell
Dennis McEntire
Cathy Williams
Robert Brown
Stacey Key
Curt Thompson
Rudy Bowen

Tim Golden
Emily Dunn
Jeff Lewis
Dan Snipes
Micah Gravley

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Board Chair Ann R. Purcell called the Committee of the Whole to order at 2:06 PM.

The Office of Intermodal and the Office of Legal Services proposed amendments to Rule Chapter 672-12, Grant Programs, and Aviation Rule 672-9-3, Airport Licensing: Minimum Standards. The purpose of the amendments is to update language in the rules to reflect current program operations. Opening these rules will allow the public to comment on the proposed amendments through January 13, 2025, after which time the Board will consider them for adoption at its February 20, 2025, meeting.

Sam Harris, State Safety Program Manager and President of the Georgia Section of ITE (GAITE), made a presentation about the STEAM summer camp hosted in partnership with Art it Out Therapy Practice at GDOT's Transportation Management Center on July 13-14. The camp introduced nearly 80 children, 30% of whom were female, to transportation engineering and planning through hands-on activities tailored to different age groups. Licensed therapists and GAITE volunteers led the sessions, using curriculum developed with ITE STEM resources. Highlights included interactive sessions by Georgia State Patrol and GDOT HERO and over \$2,600 in scholarships funded by NV5 and Thomas & Hutton, supporting disadvantaged children. The camp received overwhelmingly positive feedback, showcasing its success in sparking enthusiasm for STEAM fields.

David Moellering, President and CEO of Georgia Highway Contractors gave an update about the GHCA High School Caterpillar Simulators program and how it has grown over the last three years since it began. He highlighted the interest it brings students to work in construction and brought a caterpillar simulator for board members to try.

Chairman Purcell asked for a motion to send the proposed amendments to Rule Chapter 672-12, Grant Programs, and Rule 672-9-.03, Airports: Licensing Minimum Standards to the full board in order for the full board to vote to open the rules to public comments. Cathy Williams made a motion to approve to open the rules to public comment, seconded by Dennis McEntire and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chairman Ann R. Purcell adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Ann R. Purcell, Chairman

Dennis McEntire, Secretary