

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
MINUTES**

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

**November 21, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann R. Purcell, Chair
Jamie Boswell, Vice Chair
Dennis McEntire, Secretary
Cathy Williams
Robert L. Brown Jr.
Tim Golden
Emily Dunn
Jeff Lewis
Dan Snipes
Micah Gravley

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VIA TELEPHONE:

Rudy Bowen

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Stacey Key
Curt Thompson
Dana Lemon

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell R. McMurry, Commissioner
Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Jannine Miller, Director of Planning
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

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

Micah Gravley gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Purcell called for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 2024 board meeting; Dennis McEntire made a motion to approve, 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 December 2024 Letting. Kenneth Franks, State TIA Administrator, then discussed the proposed TIA projects for the December 2024 letting. Chair Ann R. Purcell called for a motion to approve the December 2024 Letting; Cathy Williams made a motion to approve, seconded by Tim Golden and unanimously approved.

Matt Markham, Deputy Director of Planning, presented two revisions to the Construction Work Program. Chair Ann R. Purcell asked for a motion to approve the revisions. Cathy Williams made a motion to approve the revisions, seconded by Dennis McEntire and unanimously approved.

Commissioner McMurry began with the monthly department report including transportation fund collections ending October 2024; total employment figures ending October 2024; and the monthly procurement report for October 2024. The commissioner used this time to highlight the retirement of GDOT employees including Keenan Ford and Brian Check.

The commissioner moved on to highlight four projects open to traffic: Reconstruction on SR 42 from Bill Gardner Road to Peeksville Road in Henry County. (Congressional District 10, GDOT District 2); resurfacing on SR 54 from SR 138 to Fulton County Line in Clayton County (Congressional District 5 & 13, GDOT District 7); bridge replacement on Lower Cartecay Road over Cartecay River in Gilmer County (Congressional District 9, GDOT District 6); construction of a roundabout on Langston Chapel Road at Harville Road in Bulloch County (Congressional District 12, GDOT District 5).

Commissioner McMurry began the awards and recognitions section by highlighting Georgia DOT winning multiple awards from the Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia including:

- John Hibbard who won the Larry R. Dreihaup Award
- GDOT District Six, in partnership with AECOM, won in the “Best Use of Existing ITS Technologies” category for its “Blocked Railroad Crossing Response Plan” in Cartersville.
- GDOT’s Office of Traffic Operations won in the ITS Small Project of Significance Award for the “Wrong Way Driving Alert System.”
- Office of Alternative Delivery Design-Build Projects, in collaboration with the Office of Traffic Operations, won the “ITS Large Project of Significance” award for GDOT’s Broadband Project.

The commissioner congratulated all the winners for being a testament to department’s commitment to the safety of Georgia’s citizens.

Next, Commissioner McMurry congratulated Clement Solomon and the Office of Intermodal for winning the Most Innovative State Program Award for its Airport Obstruction Identification

Program. The Airport Obstruction Identification Program assist Georgia's airport owners as they improve safety standards required for public-use airports.

Earlier the fall, Georgia DOT hosted the annual meeting of AASHTO's Committee on Transportation Communications, also known as "TransComm" in Atlanta. The TransComm committee is made up of public affairs professionals from all 50 state DOTs, plus those of Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. Georgia DOT was proud to welcome an all-time high number of 42 state DOTs represented at this year's conference, as well as a record number of attendees. Organized this year by GDOT's Office of Strategic Communications, TransComm promotes excellence in transportation communications through the exchange of ideas and educational presentations and programming. Natalie Dale hosted the Atlanta TV & Radio reporters on a panel about what the media needs from DOTs. The commissioner mentioned that he had heard from his peers that the panel was very insightful. In addition to hosting the annual meeting, the Office of Strategic Communications was recognized by AASHTO by winning a TransComm Skills Award in the Public Awareness Events category for its work in promoting GDOT's Safe Driving Summits to the media and the public. The commissioner expressed that he was proud that the department was able to host and congratulated Strategic Communications for winning the award.

Next, the commissioner discussed the AASHTO Safety Summit & Peer Exchange. He highlighted that the week of the board meeting was First Responder Safety Week. He also mentioned that deaths on Georgia's roadways totaled 1249 in 2024, which is 15 percent below what it was last year. The commissioner cautioned that there is an upswing in fatalities at the end of the year indicating that the total may rise and that it is a national issue. GDOT participated in the AASHTO Safety Summit & Peer Exchange to come together with transportation professionals to focus on safety. GDOT's attendees and presenters included:

- Director of Engineering Chris Rudd
- Sam Harris, Assistant State Traffic Engineer, who spoke on evolving data applications and the safety enhancements they bring
- Kelli Roberts, State Safety Engineer, who presented as part of a panel on Programming for Safety
- Scott Higley, Director of Strategic Communications, who provided an overview of GDOT's safety communications campaigns and our Keep Georgia Safe K-12 classroom curriculum

The commissioner highlighted the attention the Keep Georgia Safe program was receiving around the country.

Then the commissioner honored Markell Elder who sadly passed away on October 16. He was a constant presence in the AV booth for the board and committee meetings each month, and an extraordinarily professional and positive presence within the IT department and the whole GDOT organization. A loyal Falcon fan, Markel left behind his wife of 24 years, Margaret; as well as his

five children, 13 grandkids and many extended relatives and great friends. The commissioner then asked for a moment of silence in honor of Markell Elder. Commissioner McMurry then acknowledged the valiant efforts of several of GDOT team members in working to help Markell the day of his passing. Chiefly, State Safety Manager Sharon Morales, who was the first on the scene and worked to administer CPR. Sharon also asked the commissioner to mention that several other team members from HR and IT were also critically important in that effort and she is deeply thankful for their support that day, as are we all.

Commissioner McMurry then provided a Thanksgiving travel forecast. According to AAA, nearly 80 million Americans are expected to travel for Thanksgiving this year. The department suspended construction related lane closures to reduce congestion and create a smother travel experience. The commissioner recommended traffic operations and strategic communications for collecting and disseminating the travel information to the public.

The commissioner then ended his presentation by offering a message of thanks in honor of the season. Specifically, to the women and men of GDOT and their commitment.

Andrew Heath, Deputy Chief Engineer, then requested board action on the Broadband Operation Maintenance and Commercialization Partner Approval. He walked through the procurement process and revealed the best value proposer. He requested approval from the board on the best value proposer which was Plenary Broadband Infrastructure.

P3 Committee Vice Chair, Stacey Key, gave the P3 Committee report. * During the P3 committee Vice Chair Stacey Key asked for a motion to approve the selection of the best value proposer for the OMC P3 project. Jeff Lewis made a motion to approve, seconded by Dan Snipes and unanimously approved. Ms. Key now presented this motion to the full board. Chair Purcell asked for a motion from the full board. Jeff Lewis made a motion to approve, seconded by Dan Snipes and unanimously approved.

Administrative Committee Vice Chairman, Micah Gravley, gave the Administrative Committee report. * There were no actions taken during this committee.

Legislative Committee Chairman, Dan Snipes, gave the Legislative Committee report. * There were no actions taken during this committee.

The Board Chair, Ann R. Purcell, gave the Committee of the Whole report. * There were no actions taken during this committee.

There being no further business, Chair Purcell adjourned the board meeting at 9:58 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

November 20, 2024
1:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

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

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner
Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Treasury Young, Chief Procurement Officer, provided an update on the activities of the Office of Procurement in its support of fulfilling the mission of GDOT. He discussed the organization of the office, and the methods used to procure and purchase commodities and services. With FY24 having ended on June 30, 2024, he also provided an update on the total purchases (totaling over \$1.2 Billion) made through the end of FY24 including all engineering and design related services, operational services (including administrative needs, routine maintenance, and those needed to support daily operations).

There being no further business, Vice Chairman Micah Gravley adjourned the meeting at 1:53 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

November 20, 2024
1:54 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

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

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner
Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Joshua Waller, GDOT's Director of Policy & Government Affairs, provided a state and federal legislative update following the recent general election. He highlighted the TSPLOST results for the 11 counties and the newly elected members of the Georgia General Assembly. Additionally, Joshua presented the proposed 2025 legislative agenda for later consideration at the December Board meeting and provided an update on the Federal continuing resolution which expires on December 20th.

There being no further business, Chairman Dan Snipes adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Dan Snipes, Chairman

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

P3 COMMITTEE
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

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

November 20, 2024
2:11 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

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

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner
Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Andrew Heath, Deputy Chief Engineer, provided an update on the Department's broadband program. He explained how the program is comprised of two key components; 1) multiple design build projects to build broadband infrastructure on interstates and 2) an operate, maintain, commercialize (OMC) P3 agreement to maintain and drive value from the infrastructure. Andrew walked through the procurement process undertaken to select an OMC entity and revealed the apparent best value proposer from that process.

Vice Chair Stacey Key asked for a motion to approve the selection of the best value proposer for the OMC P3 project. Jeff Lewis made a motion to approve, seconded by Dan Snipes and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Vice Chair Stacey Key adjourned the meeting at 2:33 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Rudy Bowen, 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

November 20, 2024
2:34 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell	Tim Golden
Jamie Boswell	Emily Dunn
Dennis McEntire	Jeff Lewis
Cathy Williams	Dan Snipes
Robert Brown	Micah Gravley
Stacey Key	
Curt Thompson	

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner
Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner
Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer
Angela Whitworth, Treasurer
Jannine Miller, Planning Director
Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Emily Fish, Assistant State Maintenance Engineer, provided an update on the current emergency operations that the department is responding to including Hurricane Debby, Hurricane Helene, and the flooding that occurred in early November. She also provided an update about the 2024 winter weather preparedness.

Ron Knezevich, State Safety Engineering Supervisor, gave an update on the Vulnerable Roadway User and Safe Systems Program. Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, states must develop a Vulnerable Roadway User Safety Assessment to address rising pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities. Georgia's plan highlights three key elements:

1. A shift to a systemic, network-level approach through strategies such as midblock pedestrian crossings analysis on all bus stop systems and network-level roadway reconfiguration scans.
2. Prioritizing proactive safety measures by recognizing that individual crash and complaint data may not fully capture broader VRU risks.
3. Maintaining a data-driven focus by using predictive models and near-miss analysis to address VRU safety effectively.

There being no further business, Chair Ann R. Purcell adjourned the meeting at 3:22 PM.

Approved:

Ann R. Purcell, Chair

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis McEntire, Secretary