

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA
MINUTES**

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

**September 19, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ann R. Purcell, Chair
Dennis McEntire, Secretary
Cathy Williams
Robert L. Brown Jr.
Stacey Key
Rudy Bowen
Curt Thompson
Jeff Lewis
Dan Snipes
Dana Lemon
Micah Gravley

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE VIRTUALLY:

Tim Golden

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jamie Boswell
Emily Dunn

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

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

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

Dennis McEntire gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Purcell called for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2024 board meeting; Robert Brown made a motion to approve the 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 August 2024 Letting results and the projects in the October 2024 Letting. Chair Purcell called for a motion to approve the October 2024 Letting; Jeff Lewis made a motion to approve the October Letting, seconded by Cathy Williams and unanimously approved. Congressional District Two representative, Cathy Williams, had a question about noise and rumble strips and Chief Engineer, Meg Pirkle, informed the board that the department recently adopted a new standard for rumble strips that has a softer sound that would address previous complaints about the sound associated with rumble strips.

Matt Markham, Deputy Director of Planning, presented two additions to the Construction Work Program that will be brought to the board for action next month. He then presented two revisions he brought to the board last month for approval. Chair Purcell asked for a motion to approve the revisions to the Construction Work Program. Rudy Bowen made a motion to approve the changes to the Construction Work Program, seconded by Dennis McEntire and unanimously approved.

Deputy Commissioner Brad Saxon began with the monthly department report including transportation fund collections ending August 2024; total employment figures ending August 2024; and the monthly procurement report for August 2024.

The deputy commissioner moved on to highlight three projects open to traffic: Resurfacing on SR 1 from the Alabama state line to the Chattahoochee County Line and from SR 520 to west of the Stewart County line in Chattahoochee and Muscogee Counties. (Congressional District 2, GDOT District 3); widening and reconstruction on US 23/SR 87 from Log Cabin Road to South of SR 257 in Bleckley and Dodge Counties (Congressional District 8, GDOT District 2); resurfacing on SR 15/SR 365 from north of J. Warren Road/CR 542 to north of SR 17 in Habersham County (Congressional District 9, GDOT District 1);

Deputy Commissioner Saxon began the awards and recognitions section by highlighting the department winning the 2024 FHWA Environmental Excellence Award for the Bat Programmatic Agreement. This biennial award recognizes leaders across the county who make contributions to environmental stewardship and partnership above and beyond traditional transportation project outcomes. The deputy commissioner then invited FHWA Georgia Administrator Sabrina David and Chief Engineer Meg Pirkle to the podium for the presentation of the award to GDOT's Assistant State Environmental Administrator Doug Chamblin, and Ecologist Ryan Pawlikowski. Deputy Commissioner Saxon then congratulated Eric Duff and the entire Office of Environmental Sciences for their work in getting these historic agreements completed.

Next, the deputy commissioner discussed the Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) World Congress international meeting which highlights the best in intelligent transportation. Commissioner McMurry was in attendance representing the department. Georgia DOT won an

award in the local government category for its joint agency transportation data acquisition and management program with ARC which improved the big data acquisition process. Commissioner McMurry captured a short video of the announcement which the deputy commissioner shared with the board. Deputy commissioner Saxon then thanked the Office of Traffic Operations for helping to position Georgia DOT as a world leader in transportation.

Continuing with the themes of awards, Georgia DOT was announced as the winner of two regional awards in AASHTO's 2024 America's Transportation Awards competition. These prestigious awards serve to recognize the important work of state DOTs and highlights the projects they deliver that make their communities better places to live, work, and play. Deputy Commissioner Saxon showed a video that highlighted the winning projects.

Deputy Commissioner then Congratulated Treasury Young, Mary Zirock and the entire Office of Procurement for winning the 2024 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award. This is the 6th time, and fifth consecutive year Georgia DOT's Office of Procurement has won the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute. This prestigious award is given to public and non-profit agencies that showcase unwavering dedication to procurement excellence by embracing key attributes such as innovation, professionalism, productivity, leadership, and e-Procurement. Georgia DOT was one of only 5 state agencies to receive the award this year.

Then the deputy commissioner announced that Georgia DOT won a 2024 Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) award in the Emerging Practices and Technology category for the Joint Agency Data Management Program. The TSMO Award is bestowed by the National Operations Center for Excellence, which is related to AASHTO. The award highlights an organization that has deployed an emerging practice or technology to support their transportation system. GDOT's winning submission, known as "The Georgia Joint Agency Data Management Program," is a comprehensive initiative developed in partnership with the Atlanta Regional Commission to improve the big data acquisition and management processes. Deputy Commissioner Saxon then congratulated John Hibbard and the team for once again positioning Georgia DOT as a leader in transportation.

Deputy Commissioner Saxon then transitioned to the GDOT Aviation Program Recognition Awards. Recently, Georgia DOT held the first annual Aviation Program Forum at the Thomaston District Office. It was a one-day event attended by more than 90 airport sponsors, aviation consultants, and GDOT aviation staff. At the close of the Forum, the aviation program presented 4 awards to airport sponsors for their outstanding involvement and support to advancing Georgia aviation. The winners were:

- The City of LaFayette for Outstanding Sponsor Involvement
- The Burke County Board of Commissioners for Outstanding Sponsor Investment

- Tift County Airport Authority, also for Outstanding Sponsor Investment
- Toccoa Stephens County Airport Authority for Outstanding Efforts in Promoting Aviation

The Georgia section of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (GAITE) hosted its first STEAM Camp in partnership with Art it Out Therapy Practice at the TMC earlier this year. The camp was designed to introduce children to the fields of transportation engineering and planning and included a special focus on supporting children from disadvantaged situations and encouraging female participation in engineering. In addition to GAITE engineer volunteers, the camp was led by Art it Out Therapy Practice who specializes in helping children, adolescents, and adults with anxiety, grief, high functioning autism and ADHD by using talk therapy, creative expression and hands-on experiences. The GAITE camp's activities were tailored to specific age groups. Specifically, K through 4th, 4th through 7th and 8th through 10th grades. The organizers were especially thrilled that of the close to 80 children that signed up, an impressive 30% of them were female. Feedback from parents, volunteers, and therapists has been overwhelmingly positive, which highlights the camp's success in sparking interest and enthusiasm for STEAM subjects among the kids. The deputy commissioner expressed that he was proud that the department could share engineering with the next generation.

Finally, Deputy Commissioner Saxon discussed the SASHTO Annual Meeting. Georgia DOT produced a video that showcased the department's progress over the past year. The deputy commissioner then shared the video with the board.

The deputy commissioner then provided an update on the culvert failure on State Route 69 in relation to Hurricane Helene. He thanked the Office of Bridge Design, and all the GDOT employees who worked to restore SR 69, including the Southern Concrete Company that partnered with the department on the project.

The board presented a retirement resolution for Andy Doyle. After reading the resolution, Jeff Lewis made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Stacey Key and unanimously approved.

A Resolution by the State Transportation Board

WHEREAS, Andy Doyle is retiring from the Georgia Department of Transportation after 23 years of dedicated service to the state of Georgia; and with a focus on the maintenance of the state's roads and bridges, Andy has contributed greatly to improving the safety, mobility and efficiency of Georgia's transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Andy spent his first four years at the Georgia Department of Transportation working in District 6, Area 1 in Cartersville; first, as a transportation engineering associate and later moving on to project engineer, kicking off what would turn out to be an impactful career serving the citizens of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, Andy Doyle became the Regional Bridge Inspection Engineer in the Office of Bridge Design and Maintenance; and in 2008, he earned the title of Senior State Bridge Inspection Engineer. In 2012, Andy was once again promoted to State Bridge Maintenance Engineer; and in 2017 he accepted his most recent role at the department, State Maintenance Engineer, where he oversaw the Capital Maintenance program and led designers, landscape architects, outdoor advertising and the Maintenance Activity Unit. Known by all to be an excellent leader, Andy's contributions have had a positive impact on Georgia's transportation network; and

WHEREAS, Andy Doyle has played a pivotal role on many significant projects in Georgia including overseeing the National Bridge Inspection Program for the state, the I-75 ramp upgrades in Bartow and Gordon counties and helping lead the transition from boots on the ground road inspection to automated pavement data collection which has greatly enhanced safety and promoted effective use of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, Andy Doyle is a graduate of the National Transportation Leadership Institute. He has also led the Southeast Bridge Preservation Partnership and the Bridge Technical Working Group which are both part of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Committee on Maintenance. Additionally, he is a member of the Federal Highway Administration's Bridged Preservation Expert Task Group; and

WHEREAS, Andy is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and holds a professional engineer license in Georgia. He currently resides in Marietta, Georgia with his wife of 25 years, Michelle, and their three children Deanna, Jesse and Joseph; he credits his family as the reason he was able to successfully serve the state of Georgia.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State Transportation Board recognizes Andy Doyle for his exemplary contributions, his loyal service, and for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the citizens of Georgia and the Georgia Department of Transportation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a copy of this resolution shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and a suitable copy be presented to Andy Doyle in honor and recognition of his retirement from the Georgia Department of Transportation after 23 years of service to the state of Georgia.

ADOPTED, this the 19th day of September 2024.

Dan Snipes gave the Legislative Committee report. * No action was taken during this committee.

Dana Lemon gave the Intermodal Committee report. * No action was taken during this committee.

Cathy Williams gave the Gateways Committee report. * No action was taken during this committee.

Chairman Ann R. Purcell gave the Committee of the Whole report. * No action was taken during this committee.

Chair Purcell then motioned to move the June and December board meetings to the second Thursday of the month due to holidays. Included in that motion she stated that the October board meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia. Dennis McEntire made a motion to approve the changes to the board meeting dates and locations, seconded by Cathy Williams and unanimously approved. *

There being no further business, Chair Purcell adjourned the board meeting at 1:54 p.m.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted

Ann R. Purcell., Chair

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

***Denotes documentation in file.**

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA

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

September 18, 2024
1:30 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell*

Cathy Williams

Dennis McEntire

Robert Brown

Stacey Key

Rudy Bowen

Curt Thompson*

Jeff Lewis

Dan Snipes*

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner

Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer

Angela Whitworth, Treasurer

Jannine Miller, Planning Director

Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Joshua Waller, Director of Policy and Government Affairs, provided a federal transportation update. He discussed the status of the IJA which is completing its third year, the FAA reauthorization signed in May, and the Water Resources Development Act which is still pending. With the end of the federal fiscal year on September 30th, he discussed the very likely scenario of a continuing resolution to fund the federal government and the possible duration of such a resolution based on the experience of the previous five fiscal years.

There being no further business, Chairman Dennis McEntire adjourned the meeting at 1:42 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

September 18, 2024
1:43 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell*

Dennis McEntire*

Cathy Williams*

Robert Brown

Stacey Key

Rudy Bowen

Curt Thompson*

Jeff Lewis

Dan Snipes

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Brad Saxon, Deputy Commissioner

Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer

Angela Whitworth, Treasurer

Jannine Miller, Planning Director

Annette Simelaro, General Counsel

Phil Peevy, Division of Intermodal Planning and Environmental Manager, presented on Regional Transit Development Plans (TDP), providing an overview and update of this Transit Program initiative. GDOT's 2020 Statewide Transit Plan outlines strategies to address rural and regional transit needs, including the development of Regional Transit Development Plans (TDPs). GDOT, with support from Georgia's Regional Commissions, has completed TDPs for the Georgia Mountains and Southwest Georgia regions, with eight more in progress. These plans identify transit needs, opportunities, and guide future investments, aiming to improve regional coordination, expand rural transit services, and enhance regional partnerships.

There being no further business, Dennis McEntire adjourned the meeting at 1:51 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Dana Lemon, Chair

Dennis McEntire, Secretary

GATEWAYS COMMITTEE
MINUTES

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

September 18, 2024
1:52 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

Ann R. Purcell*	Curt Thompson
Dennis McEntire	Jeff Lewis
Cathy Williams*	Dan Snipes
Robert Brown*	
Stacey Key	
Rudy Bowen*	

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

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

Felicity Davis, Landscape Architect Manager, gave an update to the Department's Wildflower Program. She discussed the background of GDOT's Wildflower program, where it came from and how it is supported. She then gave an overview of how the program fits into GDOT's Right of Way Vegetation Management, including how it fits in with important environmental initiatives such as preserving the Monarch Butterfly and other pollinator insects. She discussed accomplishments of the program over the last few years and showed several pictures of recent blooms.

There being no further business, Robert Brown adjourned the meeting at 2:17 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Robert Brown, 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

September 18, 2024
2:18 PM

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

(* indicates committee member)

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

DOT STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

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, presented on GDOT's Hurricane Debby. Employee and district efforts were highlighted, along with GDOT's assistance to counties. Pierce County's resource request for road repair and repairs to GDOT infrastructure were also reported on. She also took a moment to discuss the behind the scenes work that occurs to help make GDOT emergency responses run smoothly.

There being no further business, Chairman Ann R. Purcell adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Ann R. Purcell, Chairman

Dennis McEntire, Secretary