



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GEORGIA DOT: ARRA TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS PROGRAM A “TREMENDOUS STATEWIDE SUCCESS”

ATLANTA – The federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) stimulus program that has channeled nearly a billion dollars to Georgia transportation projects is a continuing “tremendously important success story” throughout the state, top Department of Transportation officials say.

All of Georgia’s \$980,966,050 in transportation stimulus funds has been allocated to specific projects and purposes. More than half already has been spent and the remainder will continue to fund jobs and ongoing projects through 2015. Nearly 500 separate ARRA-funded projects and contracts are improving highway, aviation and transit services and safety across Georgia and already have provided for more than 3.6-million man-hours of work.

“As far as the transportation engineering and construction industries are concerned, without question the stimulus program prevented a very bad recession from becoming a catastrophic depression,” State Transportation Board Chairman Rudy Bowen of Gwinnett County notes. “We still have huge funding challenges, but at least the (highway) engineers and contractors are still in business and their employees still have jobs. That wouldn’t have been the case for a lot of them without the stimulus program.”

“Quality public service is a product of cooperation among government agencies,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr., adds. “This is a perfect example; the partnership between the Federal Highway Administration, the Department, regional planning agencies and local governments made it much easier to implement this complex program and provide real jobs and real hope for Georgia workers. Meg Pirkle (the manager of GA DOT’s ARRA implementation) has done a magnificent job coordinating that effort.”

Of Georgia’s total stimulus funding, \$903 million is going to 401 bridge, safety, resurfacing, rehabilitation, new capacity and enhancement projects; \$38 million to purchase more than 200 new buses, vans and other equipment for small urban and rural transit systems; \$30 million to the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA); and \$10 million to five general aviation airports in the state.

The ARRA is a national effort begun in 2009 to create jobs and transform America’s economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. Georgia DOT maintains a webpage (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

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 6th fastest-growing state in the nation, yet 49th in per capita spending on transportation. The exhaustion of federal stimulus funds underscores the critical need for additional state transportation revenues to grow and sustain Georgia’s economic vitality and quality of life through the 21st Century. For general information on Georgia DOT, please visit our website (www.dot.ga.gov).

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