

Georgia DOT Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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A \$1.7 MILLION TRANSPORTATION STIMULUS PROJECT AWARDED IN GA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 6

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation has just awarded another American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) federal stimulus transportation project contract, valued at nearly \$1.7 million, in the state's 6th Congressional District in northwest Georgia. The project is among hundreds to be awarded in coming months to create and sustain jobs throughout the state, according to Transportation Board 6th District Member Brandon Beach and Georgia DOT Commissioner Gerald Ross.

Construction should begin next month on this ARRA funded transportation project, awarded to C.W. Mathews Contracting Co., Inc. of Marietta. It includes 7.930 miles of resurfacing and shoulder reconstruction on State Route (SR) 140 in Cherokee County, beginning west of I-575 and extending to the Fulton County line.

The SR 140 project in Cherokee County is among 46 recently awarded throughout Georgia. Cumulatively, they are valued at some \$50 million. Another 41 projects worth an additional \$138 million are expected to be awarded in late June. Combined, they represent much of Georgia DOT's Phase One highway and intermodal stimulus program. In addition, by December the Board is expected to select projects for another \$340+ million in Phase Two ARRA funding.

"This is only the beginning of the stimulus projects in the area, and we are hopeful that we will move forward with more projects that will put more Georgians back to work," said Beach, who represents Congressional District 6 on the Board. "In addition to creating jobs, these Economic Stimulus funded transportation projects will continue to positively influence the lives of our citizens," he added.

"Our goal throughout this process has been to carefully evaluate and select those 'most-needed' projects throughout Georgia and then award projects that will create and sustain as many jobs in as many parts of the state as possible, especially those area considered economically depressed," Ross said.

The Department is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia's \$932 million in highway system stimulus funds. The remaining 30 percent goes to the state's 15 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), which are funding projects directly from their respective allocations. The state also is receiving \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit and is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

The ARRA is a national effort 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. As noted previously, Georgia DOT has created a Web page (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

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. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site (www.dot.ga.gov).

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