



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

61 Forsyth St. SW
Suite 17T100
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

In Reply Refer To:
HIP-GA

Georgia Division
February 2, 2006

Mr. Gerald Ross
Director, Transportation Planning, Data &
Intermodal Development
Georgia Department of Transportation
No. 2 Capitol Square, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Ross:

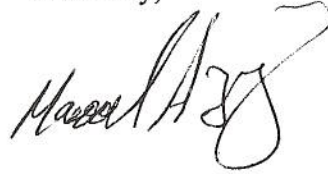
We have reviewed the 2005-2035 Georgia Statewide Transportation Plan (SWTP) and find that the plan is in conformance with 23 CFR Part 450. The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), signed into law on August 10, 2005, included numerous changes to the statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes. We have been in discussion with your staff regarding the SAFETEA-LU provisions for the SWTP and have mutually agreed to update the plan by July 1, 2007. We would like to draw your attention to planning provisions that should be included in the SWTP.

SAFETEA-LU added "increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and nonmotorized users" as an additional planning factor to be included in plans and programs. Additionally, SAFETEA-LU expanded the environmental planning factor to include "promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns." SAFETEA-LU requires statewide transportation plans to include a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities. This discussion could identify environmental resources such as parks, wetlands and archaeological sites throughout the State of Georgia developed in consultation with Federal, State and Tribal Wildlife, land management and regulatory agencies. The objective of this provision is to encourage States to consider environmental impacts as plans, programs and strategies are developed which will ensure improved program delivery Statewide.



We look forward to continuing our work with the Department to implement the changes brought forth by SAFETEA-LU. Please contact Max Azizi at (404) 562-3650 for any questions or concerns about this matter.

Sincerely,



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Robert M. Callan, P.E.
Division Administrator

cc: Joseph Palladi, GDOT
Matthew Fowler, GDOT
Cindy VanDyke, GDOT
Tamrat Kassa, GDOT