



The General Assembly
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

June 5, 2007

Hon. Russell W. Hinton
State Auditor
Department of Audits and Accounts
270 Washington Street, SW Suite 1-156
Atlanta, GA 30334-8400

Dear Mr. Hinton:

We write to request a special performance audit of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Specifically, we would ask that you provide the following information:

- 1) An analysis of current utilization of design-build contracts by GDOT, with a specific focus on how frequently design-build is implemented and whether contractors bidding on design-build projects have sufficiently ability to achieve savings by flexibly engineering to published GDOT specifications.
- 2) An accounting of routine maintenance services including, but not limited to, patching, resurfacing, landscaping, signage and signalization currently being performed in-house by the Department and an analysis of whether those tasks could be performed more efficiently by private sector contractors. Additionally, we would request recommendations on whether such outsourcing could expand the base and size of contractors eligible to bid on GDOT projects within Georgia.
- 3) A complete performance audit of pre-construction processes at GDOT with a focus on the Office of Environment and Location. This performance audit should include benchmarking against analogous private and public sector transportation planning departments, and a recommendation on specific parts of the process that could be reorganized or privatized to bring projects online faster.
- 4) A critique of the current project management structure at GDOT, with specific recommendations on changes that could be made to bring projects to completion more rapidly, including delegating more authority to the district engineer level,

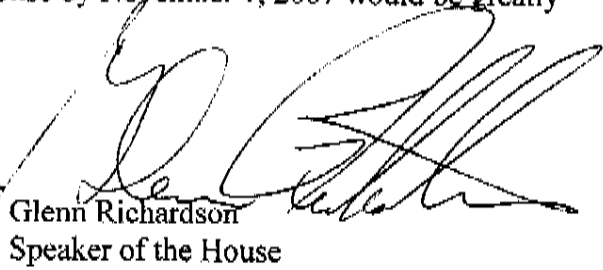
including supplementary contract changes. This critique should also examine human resources practices with a focus on whether better results can be achieved by attracting and retaining high-performing project managers.

5) A value analysis of a selected sample of GDOT projects, with a focus on whether engineering standards are being set with a focus on achieving maximum value on a dollar for dollar basis. This analysis should focus on project design, material selection, and contract revisions to determine whether roads are being engineered to levels that appropriately balance durability, efficiency, and cost.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The recommendations of this audit will be used in development of transportation legislation for the next session of the Georgia General Assembly, so an initial response by November 1, 2007 would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Casey Cagle
President of the Senate


Glenn Richardson
Speaker of the House