



State Transportation Board of Georgia

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The Honorable Glenn Richardson
State Representative
PO Box 1750
Hiram GA 30141

December 8, 2006

Dear State Representative Glenn Richardson:

As a former legislator I know how many issues you deal with and how little time you have to deal with them so having a short, succinct detailing of an issue is important. As Chairman of the State Transportation Board it is my duty to speak to the facts, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant. The fact is Georgia is in a transportation funding crisis. Dramatic increases in construction and right of way costs over the last 12 to 18 months and the federal requirement that we balance anticipated available money with project costs has made the predicament unavoidable.

This year, the Department of Transportation has to remove 510 projects worth \$7.7 billion from the State's six year (2008 – 2013) construction program into "Long Range"- meaning that they will not be built within the foreseeable future. These are important projects in your district that I know are critical to you and the people you represent. **For your convenience, I have attached a list of transportation projects which are delayed due to funding or that are now unfunded in the counties you represent.**

That's right. Georgia faces a \$7.7 billion dollar transportation funding shortfall over the next six years. As we look at projects needed between now and 2035 the funding gap expands drastically to \$197 billion. This means Georgians will struggle with the continued congestion, deteriorating roadways, worsening air quality and stifled economic development.

Consider also that while Georgia's population has increased by over 1 million people in the last five years, our transportation system has not kept up with this growth which is projected to expand by nearly 3 million people over the next 20 years. In addition, Georgia's gas tax has remained virtually unchanged for the past 27 years. Clearly, in the face of such great transportation needs in this state, action must be taken now.

I realize these facts are hard to swallow. You will likely have questions and want more information about these funding issues. Be assured that I and my fellow Transportation Board members, as well as the staff of Georgia DOT, are ready and willing to answer your questions and provide you with more details. In addition, I will be meeting with you and your colleagues in the upcoming days and weeks.

In order to fully address this problem and what it means, I have set up a website at www.whatsthebigpicture.ga.us that will further explain these issues and Georgia's immediate \$7.7 billion transportation funding shortfall.

Sincerely,

Mike Evans, Chairman
State Transportation Board



Georgia Department of Transportation Fact Sheet

Georgia Faces a \$7.7 Billion Dollar Transportation Funding Shortfall

The Problem

Unprecedented Growth

- Georgia has added over 1 million people in the last five years.
- Georgia's population is projected to grow by 3 million over the next 20 years.

Funding Issues

- Overall construction costs have increased by 28% in just one year. (between July '05 to July '06).
- Average cost per Right of Way parcel has jumped by approximately 400% over the past ten years.

Deteriorating Infrastructure, Needs and Issues

- In just six years:
 - 84% of Georgia's road pavement will be rated "fair, poor or bad"
 - Nearly 30% of state bridges are projected to be structurally deficient.
- In 2006, the Georgia DOT was only financially able to resurface 4.7 % of our roadways, yet our engineers agree we should be resurfacing 10% of our roadways each year to ensure a "good" or "excellent" pavement rating.
- Georgia's Aviation Program ranks 28th nationally and 7th in the Southeast.

www

The Funding Gap:

- Georgia faces a \$7.7 billion dollar transportation funding shortfall over the next six years:
 - 510 projects are unfunded and have been moved into Long Range
 - 210 urban area projects
 - 294 rural area projects
- Over the next 30 years the transportation funding gap is conservatively at \$197 Billion (in year of expenditure)

The Challenge

"States will not be able to count on federal money to keep up with highway construction needs. States must find other ways to finance new roads and maintain the ones they have."

-U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Mary Peters

- U.S. Chamber reports that SAFETEA-LU will have a zero cash balance in 2008!

"If we do not act now, we face... continued congestion, deteriorating roadways, severely limited new capacity, no additional funding for programs such as ports, airports, and transit, and stifled economic development. It is up to us to face tomorrow's problems today."

-State Transportation Board Chairman, Mike Evans

Motor Fuel Taxes:

Federal = 18.4¢ per gallon
(since 1997)

State = 7.5¢ per gallon +
4% Sales Tax
(Since 1979)

- 3% to GDOT
- 1% to the General Fund
- Currently 15¢ (based on ~\$2.20 per gallon)

Local = 2% - 4% of retail
price per gallon

- Currently 4¢ - 8¢
per gallon

To learn more visit:
www.whatsthebigidea.org

12/08/2006

Projects Phases Delayed Due to Funding in the Next Six Years

County	Phase	Work Type	Description	Original Plan Year	Year Moved To	Congressional District	Total \$
Congressional District 11:							
BARTOW	PE	Intersection Improvement	SR 293 @ CR 155/GRASSDALE RD	2010	2011		\$30,000
BARTOW	ROW	Widening	SR 140 FM SR 53/FLOYD TO OOTHKALOOGA CREEK/BARTOW	2008	2009		\$6,500,000
BARTOW	CST	Interchange	SR 3/US 41 AND SR 61/US 411 INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION	2009	2010		\$16,729,000
CHATTOOGA	CST	Bridges	CR 322/OLD HIGHWAY 337 @ CHELSEA CREEK 3.2 MI NE OF MENLO	2009	2010		\$440,000
CHEROKEE	PE	Preliminary Engineering	I-75/I-575 HOV/BK1 AND TRUK LANE COBB & CHEROKEE - PE CIVIL	2010	2012		\$3,000,000
CHEROKEE	ROW	HOV Lanes	I-575 FM I-75/COBB N TO SIXES ROAD/CHEROKEE - FOR HOV LANES	2008	2011		\$3,450,000
COBB	ROW	Interchange	I-75 NORTH @ I-575 - BUILD HOV INTERCHANGE	2010	2012		\$600,000
COBB	CST	Transit Projects	NORTHWEST CORRIDOR TRANSIT - GRTA	2010	2012		\$43,200,000
DOUGLAS	CST	Widening	SR 92 FM CS 502/BROWN ST TO CS 519/NEBO RD - SEGMENT 1	2010	2012		\$16,424,100
FLOYD	PE	Interchange	SR 101/DEAN AVE @ SR 1/SR 20/SR 53/US 411 IN ROME	2008	2009		\$5,000,000
FLOYD	CST	Widening	SR 746/SE ROME BYP FM SR 101 NE ALONG 4 EXIST RDS TO US 411	2009	2010		\$4,603,000
GORDON	CST	Interchange	I-75 @ SR 156 IN CALHOUN AND WIDENING OF SR 156 / REDBLUD RD	2010	2012		\$25,577,000
PAULDING	CST	Roadway Project	EAST HIRAM PARKWAY FROM SR 92 TO US 278 - GRTA	2008	2009		\$11,015,000
Projects Phases Delayed Due to Funding in the Next Six Years for Congressional District 11:							\$822,587,400
Projects Phases Delayed Due to Funding in the Next Six Years(Statewide):							\$3,880,595,893

Long Range (LR) - unfunded, moved to 2014 and beyond
 Preliminary Engineering (PE) - Concept, Design, and Environmental Clearance.
 Right-of-Way (ROW) - Acquisition of property needed for transportation project.
 Construction (CST) - Actual construction of project.