

Talking Points:

1. Financial Need: Based on a study done by industry experts, the bi-partisan 2014 Joint Legislative Study Committee on Critical Infrastructure Funding certified Georgia's annual need for additional transportation resources as:

- \$1.0-1.5 billion to simply preserve our existing infrastructure;
- \$2.1-2.9 billion to increase our interstate capacity, interchanges and transit systems ;
- \$3.9-5.4 billion to address the full universe of transportation needs in the state.

2. System Impact: GDOT's 2014 budget restricted resurfacing to a meager 2% of state's road network, resulting in an average 50-year cycle for maintenance.

3. Competitiveness: [According to the Reason Foundation](#), GDOT spends \$13,092 per mile on roadway maintenance. In contrast, our neighboring states of Tennessee, Florida, Alabama, and South Carolina spend an average of Florida \$30,376.

4. Consequences: Georgia ranks 49th in per-capita transportation spending.

5. Safety: Over 17% of Georgia's bridges are rated "structurally deficient" or "functionally obsolete." An average of 9.4 bridges per Georgia county are posted with safety weight notices. *SOURCE: National Bridge Inventory Database, 2012*

6. Sovereignty (Independence): \$1.5 billion additional annually would reduce Georgia's dependence on the federal government from 55% to 32%. This is critical considering the uncertainty of the federal Highway Trust Fund. This allows Georgia to construct more roads free from federal restrictions like NEPA. Three times more Georgians (30%) believe that we rely too much on the federal government for transportation needs than believe we rely on them too little (10%).

7. Prosperity: Transportation professionals found that tremendous economic benefits result from increasing transportation investment. For each \$1.00 spent, an economic return-on-investment of \$4.00-\$7.80 can be expected.

8. Mobility: The Joint Study Committee strongly recommended creating a dedicated funding stream for transit at \$120-160 million annually for the 128 statewide transit systems in Georgia.

9. Efficiency: Despite cutting their workforce in half over the last 15 years, Georgia's Department of Transportation is consistently ranked one of the top departments of transportation in the United States.

10. Obligation: Georgians expect good jobs, modern and safe infrastructure, reasonable commutes, and the peace of mind that comes from booming economic development. 54% of Georgians believe that transportation issues have gotten so bad that the state should step in and take action on providing additional funding. 49% of Georgians say they would be more likely to support a legislator who took that step. The time to act is now.