

# Managing Urban Goods Movement: Growing the Georgia Economy



*Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl  
Georgia Dept. of Transportation*

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# Business Facilities

## THE LOCATION ADVISOR

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**Plus:**  
A logistics expert's  
view on transportation  
costs, globalization, and  
contingency planning

# Conditions: Georgia Ports



- Two deepwater Atlantic Ocean ports:
  - Savannah is focused on container shipments
  - Brunswick handles primarily bulk and auto imports/exports
- Two inland ports: Bainbridge and Columbus serve barge traffic.
- 4<sup>th</sup> largest East Coast container port (in TEUs - Twenty foot Equivalent Unit); ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in North America.
- 9.3% increase in container traffic between 2003-2004.



# Conditions: Georgia Rail Network

- Most extensive rail system in the Southeast: 5,000 mi. main-line and branch track.
- 19 rail carriers
- Expedited all-piggyback and container train services connect Port of Savannah and metro Atlanta.
- CSX and Norfolk Southern Railroads' intermodal terminals: four in metro Atlanta, two in Savannah.



# Studies and future trends

The logo for the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is centered at the bottom of the slide. It features a stylized map of Georgia in blue, with the letters "GDOT" in yellow with a black outline overlaid on it. The logo is positioned above a thick blue horizontal bar that spans the width of the slide.

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# Completed Study: Central Georgia Corridor Study

- Investigated east-west movement of goods from S.E. Georgia/Ports of Savannah and Brunswick on:
  - Interstate 16 (Congressionally-designated High Priority Corridor Six)
  - U.S. 280
- Trucks carry 70% of freight, followed by rail.
- Commodities:
  - Warehouse/distribution (containers & higher-value consumer goods)
  - Forest materials/lumber
  - Kaolin/clay
  - Cement and agricultural products
- Identified operational improvements and the four-laning of SR 280.



# Latin America Trade & Transportation Study

- “Alliance Region” of 15 Southern/Southeastern states, including Puerto Rico, and FHWA.
- 86% of Latin American imports and 71% of exports occur/enter through Alliance Region.
- Study identified Latin American trade opportunities and evaluated needed infrastructure investments.

# Interstate System Plan Study

- Evaluated Interstate conditions and operations; Identified needs; Determined improvements; and Recommended projects.
- By 2035, Georgia Interstate travel will increase 129% and commercial vehicle travel to increase 185%.
- Interstate commercial truck traffic growing **twice** the rate of auto traffic.

# Statewide Transportation Plan

- Assessed the current and future (year 2035) performance of all major transportation modes.
- All traffic is growing at 2% annually.
- Truck traffic is growing 50% faster than general vehicular traffic.

# Georgia State Freight Plan

- Trucking is the dominant freight mode
  - 72% (based on tonnage)
  - 82% (based on value)
- Through 2035, freight moved in Georgia will grow
  - + 3.1% per year (based on tonnage)
  - + 3.5% per year (based on value)
- 30% of truck trips have neither an origin or destination within Georgia.

# Completed/Ongoing Studies:

- High Occupancy Toll/Truck Only Toll (HOT/TOT)
- Interstate 285 Strategic Implementation Plan
  - Develop computer model to simulate I-285 operations and identify alternatives that improve congestion
- Freight Rail Plan updated in 2001
  - Interim update currently underway

# Forthcoming Study: Georgia Truck-Only Lanes Study

- Identify feasible locations for truck-only lanes.
- Track origin and destination of truck travel.
- Improve traffic congestion and safety.
- 18 month study begins February 2006.

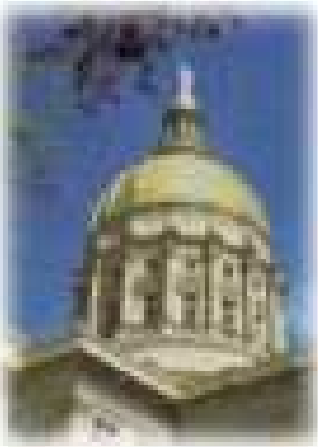


# Programs and Strategies



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# Programs and Strategies: GRIP (Governor's Road Improvement Program)



- Provide four-lane connectivity to Interstates
- Ensure 98% of state is within 20 miles of a four-lane road
- Connect 95% of Georgia cities (with a population of 2,500 or more) to Interstates
- Enhance commodity movement
- Provide growth opportunities
- Improve safety
- 3,314 mile network

# Programs and Strategies: Other Examples...

- Truck-only lanes on Interstate 75
  - Improve safety
  - Relieve congestion
  - Improve air quality
- New Interstate Feasibility Studies
  - Interstate 3: Savannah, GA to Knoxville, TN
  - Interstate 14: Natchez, MS to Augusta, GA

# Programs and Strategies: Ports



- GDOT dredging assistance at Ports of Savannah & Brunswick
- Partner in the 1999 Savannah Intermodal Freight Study
- GDOT grade-separation projects at the Ports of Savannah & Brunswick
- Savannah area Interstate Needs Analysis and Prioritization Plan
- Savannah sub-area Truck Movement Study

# Programs and Strategies: Rail

- Port of Brunswick rail spur improvement
  - GDOT working with Norfolk Southern RR, CSX RR, and Golden Isles Terminal RR on a new connector track benefiting the Port.
- Coordination with CSX RR for numerous, major siding extensions on their Chicago-Jacksonville, FL line
- GDOT invested \$27M in acquisition/rehab of rail line segments
  - GDOT currently owns 10 rail segments
- GDOT operates a State Rail Freight Assistance Program
  - secures rail lines/preserves rail freight service to 78 rural businesses
  - result is 700,000 fewer truck loads annually on rural roads



# Questions?

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