



For Immediate Release  
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**Get Georgia Moving  
Urges Lawmakers to ‘Cross the Finish Line’  
With Transportation Funding Bill  
In Final Week of 2009 Legislative Session**

ATLANTA – The Get Georgia Moving coalition – the largest and most diverse transportation coalition in Georgia’s history – stood together in the capitol today to urge the House and Senate to reach consensus on a transportation funding bill in the final week of the 2009 legislative session.

“This year we’ve seen great leadership from the Governor, the Senate and the House on transportation – and now we need to cross the finish line by passing a transportation funding bill that voters can support at the polls in 2010,” said Doug Hertz, CEO of United Distributors Inc., co-chair of the Metro Atlanta Chamber's transportation policy committee, and co-chair of the Get Georgia Moving coalition. “Atlanta has the second-worst traffic congestion in the country, and the state is next to last in funding levels for transportation. If we don't take action, we could lose over half a trillion dollars in economic benefit.”

The coalition represents more than 100 groups across Georgia, including business leaders, government leaders, transit advocates, road builders and environmentalists.

“We’ve seen a genuine commitment this year from our state’s elected leaders to do something about transportation – but the real test is what actually passes this week,” said Bill Linginfelter, area president for Georgia/South Carolina of Regions Bank, chair of the transportation policy committee for the Metro Atlanta and Georgia chambers, co-chair of the Get Georgia Moving Coalition, and 2010 chairman-elect of the Metro Atlanta Chamber. “The clock is counting down. We can’t wait any longer. The time to act is now.”

A McKinsey & Co. study commissioned recently by Governor Sonny Perdue found that Georgia could lose out on 320,000 new jobs and nearly \$600 billion in economic benefits unless it can generate up to \$160 billion for new transportation investments over the next 20 years.

In the final weeks of the legislative session, the coalition has launched a public awareness campaign, including Web site alerts and billboards in some of the most congested areas of metro Atlanta:

- I-285 @ South Cobb Drive, northbound
- I-75/85 on the Connector, north of Abernathy Boulevard across from Turner Field, southbound
- I-75 @ West Paces Ferry Road, northbound
- I-75 @ Delk Road, southbound
- I-85 @ Jimmy Carter Boulevard, northbound

This campaign comes on the heels of a recent poll showing that across the state, an overwhelming majority of voters in both parties want lawmakers to take immediate action on transportation -- and 74 percent want the right to vote on whether to raise their sales tax by a penny to fund transportation improvements.

Georgia is the third fastest-growing state in the nation -- but spends less per person on transportation infrastructure than 49 of the 50 states. The state is now billions of dollars short of the funds it needs to build the infrastructure required to support Georgia's booming population. In addition, metro Atlanta has become home to the second-worst traffic congestion and the worst commutes in the nation.

The Get Georgia Moving coalition supports a meaningful, voter-approved funding mechanism that will relieve traffic congestion, ensure air quality and promote economic development. To that end, the coalition also supports efforts to optimize current revenue sources, streamline project delivery, invest in transit and all other modes of transportation, and develop innovative funding programs.

**Participants in the coalition include:**

- AAA Auto Club South
- American Council of Engineering Companies
- Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development at Georgia Tech
- Central Atlanta Progress
- Citizens for Progressive Transit
- Civic League for Regional Atlanta
- Clean Air Campaign
- Community Improvement District Alliance
- Council for Quality Growth
- CSX
- C. W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc.
- Georgia Asphalt Pavement Association
- Georgia Association of Regional Development Centers
- Georgia Chamber of Commerce
- Georgia Concrete Pavement Association
- Georgia Conservancy
- Georgia Construction Aggregate Association
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- Georgia Economic Developers' Association
- Georgia Electric Membership Corporation
- Georgia Engineering Alliance

- Georgia Highway Contractors Association
- Georgia Municipal Association
- Georgia Policy and Budget Institute
- Georgia Power Company
- Georgia Railroad Association
- Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
- Georgia Transit Association
- Georgians for Better Transportation
- Georgians for the Brain Train
- Governor's Office of Highway Safety
- Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
- HNTB Corporation
- Livable Communities Coalition
- Metro Atlanta Chamber
- Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority
- Norfolk Southern
- Regional Business Coalition
- Sierra Club
- Transit Planning Board
- Zipcar

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