Weekend for Rivers:
Avoiding the Impacts of Transportation Projects and Engaging with Georgia DOT

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Transportation Projects

• Why care?
• Why now?
• What can we do?
Impacts
Direct Effects

- Fill
- Stormwater discharge
- Disrupt habitat
- Buffer loss
Indirect Effects

- Pollution from roads
- Growth and development
Funding for Roads

- Combination of federal, state, and local
- Georgia DOT controls state funding and most federal funding
  - Interstates and state routes
- Local roads are primarily funded with local funds
HB 170

• Enacted in 2015
• Increased per gallon tax on gasoline, decreased sales tax
• Assessed fees on electric vehicles, heavy vehicles, and hotel/motels
• Approximately $1 billion per year in new funding for Georgia Department of Transportation
  • 50% increase in budget
Capital Maintenance Investment

- 2012: $234M
- 2013: $265M
- 2014: $135M
- 2015: $118M
- 2016: $461M
- 2017: $442M
- 2018: $400M
- 2019: $400M

Before TFA: $234M, $265M, $135M, $118M
After TFA: $461M, $442M, $400M, $400M
Bridge Investment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Before TFA</th>
<th>After TFA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>$122M</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>$149M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>$202M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$131M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$247M</td>
<td>$331M</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$292M</td>
<td>$313M</td>
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- Orange: $100M in Bonds
Priorities

• Law provide guidance on how funds are to be used
  • Statutory priorities
  • Required plans

• Current Priorities:
  • Maintenance
  • Bridge replacement
  • Freight corridors
  • State routes
  • Metro Atlanta mobility
Influencing the Projects

1. Engage early
2. Know the transportation plans
   • What plan is it in and why
3. Understand their motivations and constraints
   • Project purpose
   • Right of way
   • Timing
   • Project scope and scope of review
   • Bureaucracy and institutional inertia
4. Public engagement
Key Things to Focus on

1. Size and scale of the project
2. Project design
3. Construction and post-construction practices
4. Recreational opportunities
Size and Scale of the Project

• Does the project it need to be that large?
• Is the “need” based on current or future conditions?
• More lanes is not the solution to every problem
Design of the Project

• Road Design Standards
  • Road classification
  • More flexibility

• Speed

• Green infrastructure

• Get the engineers to solve the problem

• Google for examples
Construction and Post-Construction Practices

- MS4 Permit
  - Green infrastructure – infiltration
- Best construction practices in sensitive areas
- Timing
Recreational Opportunities

“While you are out there...”

- Planning
- Construction
- Pre construction
- Reserve right of way
- Informal access
- Funding
What If You Still Can’t Agree?

- Federal statutes
- NEPA
- Clean Water Act Section 404
- Historic Preservation
- Endangered Species
- Section 4(f) of DOT Act
- State stream buffer variance
De-federalization

- Federal trigger for protection of federal statutes
- The “Florida Model”
- Scope of the review
  - NEPA
  - Wetlands
  - ESA
  - Historic Preservation
Help Me Identify Bad Projects!
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