



**For Immediate Release:**  
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## ***TIA Boosts Local Project*** **Officials Launch Construction of Altamaha River Bridge Replacement Project**

**BAXLEY, Ga.** – State Transportation Board Chairman Don Grantham led state and local leaders Friday in breaking ground on a major Transportation Investment Act project to benefit the citizens of Southeast Georgia – replacing the Joseph Simmons Alexander Sr. Memorial Bridge over the Altamaha River on US Highway 1.

The \$25.9 million, 2.5-mile Altamaha River Bridge replacement project is located 10 miles north of Baxley at the Appling /Toombs County line. The TIA program contributed close to \$5 million to this project.

The TIA referendum was passed by Georgia voters in the regions of Central Savannah River Area, Heart of Georgia - Altamaha and River Valley. The regions implement a one percent regional sales tax over a 10-year period to fund transportation improvements.

Several officials in attendance emphasized the importance of TIA and its local impact.

“I live in one of the three regions that passed TIA, so I can tell you first-hand what a difference this program is making in our communities. Other places don't have transportation projects starting now, but we do - we have \$270 million extra dollars already. That is money we are putting to work improving our regions,” stated Grantham.

“There are many more projects in the area that we are going to see moving forward because of TIA, and that would not be the case if we did not have the program,” said Sen. Tommy Williams. “I still think a TIA type approach is one of the best ways to keep our infrastructure strong,” Williams noted.

“Living in this area, I wondered if I would ever see this bridge replaced. Now, because of the courage the citizens in the Heart of Georgia region showed by passing TIA, I am here today celebrating with you in getting this bridge replaced,” commented Rep. Greg Morris.

The Altamaha bridge replacement will be built east of and parallel with the current bridge that was built in 1948. It will include the construction of three new bridges; Altamaha River, Overflow and Williams Creek. Work is scheduled to be completed in fall of 2018. Scott Bridge Company Inc., of Opelika, Ala., is the prime contractor.

*The State Transportation Board determines policy for and exercises general governance of Georgia's Department of Transportation. The Board's 14 members, representing each of the state's congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district. For more information on the Board or Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](#) ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)) and [Twitter](#) (<http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans>).*