



TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT

*Your Penny, Your Progress*

## PRESSRELEASE

### For Immediate Release:

January 17, 2014

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### **Georgia DOT Breaks Ground on NW Eastman Bypass/State Route 87 Connector in Dodge County**

*Transportation Investment Act project to improve mobility*

**EASTMAN, Ga.** – State Transportation Board Chairman Jay Shaw led the official groundbreaking ceremony for the NW Eastman Bypass project yesterday. The Georgia Department of Transportation's Office of TIA awarded the \$6 million project on S.R. 87 Connector in Dodge County to Everett Dykes Grassing Company, Inc. based in Cochran, GA.

"In just the first year, we have seen what a positive thing the Transportation Investment Act is for communities like Eastman," State Transportation Board Chair Jay Shaw commented. "The extra transportation dollars generated are allowing us to put local contractors to work – we are building needed infrastructure and creating jobs. The Heart of Georgia Region is truly going to reap the benefits of a better transportation system, especially with the increased flow of freight we know is coming soon from the Ports."

Dodge County Commission Chair Dan McCranie and Citizen's Review Panel Chair Billy Trapnell both joined Chairman Shaw at the groundbreaking. McCranie shared in his remarks how the discretionary funds disbursed to local governments were especially welcome in this economy.

GDOT District Engineer Jimmy Smith noted the good working relationship between his staff and local contractor Everett Dykes, the low bidder for the \$6 million contract. The project, 2.25 miles of new four-lane construction connecting U.S. 341/S.R. 27 to U.S. 23/S.R. 87 just north of the city of Eastman is scheduled for completion in Fall 2015. The new bypass is designed to improve safety, efficiency and traffic flow in the area.

Construction details and lane closure schedules will be forthcoming before work begins.

*Forty-six counties and their respective cities comprise the three regional districts that approved the TIA referendum last July. Cumulatively, they are expected to self-generate approximately \$1.8 billion in new revenue dedicated to local transportation improvements. Georgia DOT will coordinate work for cities and counties on some smaller jobs, and also assist in the engineering and construction management of larger projects. All of the projects were selected by regional commission roundtables of local elected officials after much public input. Seventy-five percent of the revenues will be utilized for the construction of these roundtable pre-selected projects while the remaining 25 percent will be disbursed to the regions' governments each month on a predetermined formula basis for discretionary use on local transportation-related efforts.*

*Committed to full disclosure of its TIA-related activities, Georgia DOT maintains a webpage devoted to the program and featuring current updates on all project activities; it may be accessed by visiting: <http://www.ga-tia.com/>*