



TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT

*Your Penny, Your Progress*

## PRESSRELEASE

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## Transportation Investment Act (TIA) is Driving Progress in the River Valley Region and across the State of Georgia

**COLUMBUS, Ga.** – As elected officials across the nation struggle to secure funding for critical transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvements, communities in three of Georgia’s regions are reaping the benefits of the Transportation Investment Act (TIA), which voters passed through a referendum in July 2012. Citizens of these regions, including the River Valley, Heart of Georgia Altamaha, and Central Savannah River Area regions, are funding 871 transportation projects through a one cent sales tax collected over 10 years. Georgia DOT is overseeing management of the budget, schedule, execution and delivery of all TIA projects, in collaboration with local and state agencies.

“The three regions that approved the Transportation Investment Act are starting to see the results of their investments,” said State TIA Administrator Mike Dover. “By voting to tax themselves and working together to identify and prioritize projects, citizens and public officials in these regions are addressing a variety of local transportation issues, from road and bridge repair to expansion and enhancement of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. These transportation system improvements will benefit residents and visitors in these regions for many years to come.”

Collections of this one cent sales tax began in January 2013 to fund projects in Band 1 (Jan. 2013 – Dec. 2015), which are scheduled to at least begin construction by the end of 2015. To date, more than \$328 million has been collected of the budgeted \$1.2 billion. This total includes \$108,231,350 collected of \$380,828,512 budgeted for 23 projects in the River Valley region.

So far eight projects are underway for Band 1 in the River Valley region. Four of these projects are currently under construction, while the other four are in the pre-construction (design or bidding) phase. These projects include a variety of roadway and bridge improvements, as well as two projects to expand pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure in South Columbus.



Groundbreaking for SR 1 / US 27 Widening

A groundbreaking ceremony was held on June 6, 2015 for the South Lumpkin Multi-Use Path in Southwest Columbus. This \$3.5 million project will make use of an abandoned rail corridor between South Lumpkin Park and Old Cusseta Road, transforming the space into a linear park. Once completed, this project will provide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity for a variety of destinations, including seven schools, parks, restaurants, and several shopping centers in the community.



**Local Residents and Public Officials Celebrate the South Lumpkin Multi-Use Path Groundbreaking**

Owen Ditchfield, a local resident and community leader shared some comments on the South Lumpkin Multi-Use Path during the groundbreaking ceremony. “This is a proud day for South Columbus... and more good things are yet to come,” Mr. Ditchfield said. He recalled many of the changes that have taken place in South Columbus over the last few decades, and shared his excitement for new developments in the area. He looks forward to having a multi-use path in the community, to provide an off-street facility where he and other cyclists can ride bikes.

In Randolph County, a \$31.7 million project is underway to widen State Route 1 / US 27 from Carnegie Vilulah Road to the Cuthbert Bypass. State Route 1, which passes by the Cuthbert-Randolph Airport, is a key corridor for freight and passenger movement between Florida and Columbus, Georgia. This project is expected to help spur economic growth and development in the region; reduce the frequency and severity of crashes provide a smoother riding surface, and provide efficiency improvements along a portion of the corridor.



**Construction along State Route 1 / US 27**

*Forty-six counties and their respective cities comprise the three regional districts that approved the TIA referendum in July 2012. Cumulatively, they are expected to self-generate approximately \$1.5 billion in new revenue dedicated to local transportation improvements. Georgia DOT is responsible for the management of the budget, schedule, execution and delivery of all Projects contained in the Approved Investment Lists, in collaboration with local and state agencies. All projects were selected by regional commission roundtables of local elected officials after much public input. Seventy-five percent of revenues collected 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. For more information on the Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov). Follow the Transportation Investment Act on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/transportationinvestmentact](http://www.facebook.com/transportationinvestmentact)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/TIAatGDOT>). Also visit [www.ga-tia.com](http://www.ga-tia.com) for the latest TIA updates.*

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