



TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT

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Work Starting on South Lumpkin Multi-use Path to Connect Communities in Southwest Columbus



COLUMBUS, Ga. – Georgia DOT’s TIA Office joined officials from Columbus at a groundbreaking ceremony for the South Lumpkin Multi-use Path on Friday, June 5. Many community and government leaders were on hand to help get this two-mile long paved path, which will connect neighborhoods with several schools and shopping centers in Southwest Columbus, started.

Funds generated by the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) are making the South Lumpkin Multi-use Path a reality for Columbus residents. Heath and Lineback Engineers, Inc. designed the South Lumpkin Multi-use Path. The path is being constructed along an abandoned rail line between South Lumpkin Park and Old Cusseta Road, as a linear greenway for cyclists and pedestrians. The new greenway is situated just north of Fort Benning, and future plans include a connection to the Chattahoochee Riverwalk and other multi-use paths in the area. Georgia DOT is collaborating with the City of Columbus and other local and state agencies to work toward completion of this project in 2016.

This multi-use path is a \$3.5 million project that voters approved through the TIA Referendum in July 2012. This project is designed to make it safer and easier for students to walk or bike to and from school, while also providing nearby residents with better access to restaurants, grocery stores, and places of employment. Creating viable alternatives to driving may help alleviate some traffic congestion and provides other social, environmental, and economic benefits.

Local resident, Owen Ditchfield, shared some comments on the South Lumpkin Multi-use Path during the ceremony, saying that “This is a proud day for South Columbus... and more good things are yet to come.” Mr. Ditchfield 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 a place for him and other cyclists in the area to ride bikes.

Many local residents and project supporters also participated in the groundbreaking ceremony, including Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson. In addition to hearing comments from several speakers, including Columbus Planning Director, Rick Jones, Columbus City Manager, Isaiah Hugley, and District 7 Councilor, Evelyn “Mimi” Woodson, attendees enjoyed a performance by the Columbus-based step team, Girls Inc.



The Transportation Investment Act (TIA) Referendum was passed by Georgia voters in the regions of Central Savannah River Area, Heart of Georgia Altamaha, and River Valley. In 2012, these three regions elected to implement a one percent regional sales tax over ten years to fund 871 regional transportation improvement projects. Georgia DOT is responsible for managing the budget, schedule, execution, and delivery of all projects contained in the Approved Investment Lists.

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/>

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. **DriveAlert ArriveAlive** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov. You may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadepthoftrans>).

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