

Mission: In order to maintain and increase growth, minimize unemployment, and ensure a positive outlook for the future of the state, Georgia must continue its strong leadership on multi – modal transportation infrastructure development. All transportation developments must allow Georgia to continue enjoying the benefits of increasing economic development while maintaining the state’s commitment to environmental awareness, employment growth, and safety.

GTA Supports continued strategic investment in Georgia’s infrastructure network to achieve the following aspirational goals:

1. **Raise transportation investment per capita to above the national average.**
2. **Remove metro Atlanta from its perennial ranking among the nation’s top 10 most congested urban areas.**
3. **Elevate the Port of Savannah to the number one container port on the east coast.**
4. **Elevate Hartsfield-Jackson to a Top 5 air cargo hub in the United States while maintaining the airport’s ranking as the number 1 passenger service hub in the United States.**
5. **Attain a Top 5 listing in all national rankings of transportation logistics factors related to economic development through roads, bridges, transit, transit oriented development, freight rail, general aviation and cargo airports,**

State Investment – Strategic investment of State funding into Georgia’s transportation network will result in economic growth and greater quality of life. **GTA Supports:**

- Encouraging the state’s continued commitment to wise fiscal management through best practices like asset management and the integration of technology in infrastructure development.
- Continuing the state’s general treasury commitment to transportation through transferring GDOT’s debt service to the state general treasury and continuing to include road, bridge, freight rail, and transit projects in the state’s annual bond package.
- Exempting expenditures for publicly funded transportation infrastructure projects from sales and use taxation.
- Exempting capital infrastructure expenditures at all commercial and/or cargo service airports from sales and use taxation.
- Reforming the current system of sales and use taxes on railroad diesel fuel used in locomotives.
- Collaborating with Georgia’s universities and high tech industries to encourage and create more initiatives around technology in transportation, especially in areas such as tolling and managed lanes.
- Reversing Georgia’s rapidly increasing rate of highway fatalities through policies that encourage metric-driven evaluation of safety programs to ensure they are operating at maximum effectiveness, commitment to performance standards in any new initiative or system, and increased cooperation between all related safety agencies in Georgia through breaking down silos and joint planning initiatives.

Federal Investment – GTA supports a long-term funding system that allows Georgia to balance state and local funding mechanisms with those which are obligations of the federal government. **GTA Supports:**

- Encouraging Georgia’s Congressional delegation to adequately fund a robust federal highway program.
- Eliminating red tape and costly regulations that lessen the impact of already limited federal funding.

Local Investment – GTA supports the methods of local governments to adequately fund transportation and infrastructure projects that will result in prosperous communities. **GTA Supports**

Further enhancing and improving Georgia’s transportation SPLOST mechanisms to encourage local investment in high value capital projects of regional significance.

Cargo, Freight & Logistics – GTA Supports efforts to expand Georgia’s capacity to transport freight through Georgia as well as to end-market users in the State. **GTA Supports:**

- Building upon Georgia’s commitment to multi-modal development by providing the Georgia Department of Transportation with the funding need to transition Georgia’s Freight Rail Plan into a Freight Rail Program.
- Completing the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project, and working with the Georgia Ports Authority to plan and fund an adequate system of inland ports.
- Encourage Georgia’s focus on logistics development, congestion relief, and employment sustainability through continued delivery of high value projects like the I-285 / GA – 400 interchange, I-75 / I-16 interchange, and the Georgia Xpress Lanes projects on I-75 and I – 85.
- Continue Georgia’s commitment to identification and development of freight corridors.
- Modernize and streamline Georgia’s system of levying and collecting taxes on jet fuel into conformity with best practices from other states, protecting HJAI’s competitive position in the global economy as the busiest airport in the world.

Public Transportation & Transit – GTA supports strategic efforts to continue to develop Georgia’s network of public transportation and transit systems statewide. **GTA Supports:**

- Allowing local governments to make strategic investments in their transit systems through both short and long term funding options that provide flexibility and support the greatest leverage of bonds and matching funds.
- Providing state investment in local transit systems to increase mobility, reduce congestion, and promote economic development.