



Georgia Department of Transportation News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 2007

State Transportation Board Names Gena Abraham New DOT Commissioner

Abraham to be first woman Commissioner of the Georgia DOT

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ATLANTA – The State Transportation Board met today and named Gena Lester Abraham, PhD. as DOT Commissioner effective December 1, 2007. Abraham will become DOT's 14th Commissioner and first woman ever to hold the state's top transportation post overseeing 5,800 employees statewide and over \$2 billion annual agency budget.

“There were several great candidates and it was a tough decision but Gena's experience and management discipline are extraordinary. The Department faces many challenges and I know Gena has the ability to face them head on. I have every confidence that she will be able to shape a bright future for transportation in this state,” said State Transportation Board Chairman Mike Evans.

Dr. Abraham was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue in February 2006 as State Property Officer and has served as the Executive Secretary and the Director of the Construction Division of the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission (GSFIC) since June 2003. Previously, she was an Assistant Professor of Construction Engineering and Management in the Civil Engineering Department at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Abraham has also served as Chief Engineer for the Georgia Building Authority. Prior to coming to state government she managed construction across the U.S. for LaSalle Partners. Dr. Abraham serves on several boards including: Chair of the Georgia Land Conservation Council, Secretary Treasurer of the Sapelo Island Heritage Authority, MARTA Board, State Board of Equalization and the Capital Asset Management Advisory Council.

She holds a bachelor's degree and doctorate in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Abraham has one son.

Current DOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl announced his retirement September 5, 2007, capping a 40 year career with the Department. His effective leadership of Georgia DOT garnered consistent recognition for Georgia's roadways as among the best-maintained in the nation. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the National Partnership for Transportation Quality (NPHQ) and a host of other industry associations have recognized Georgia DOT for its use of innovative techniques and quality-driven programs and processes. Linnenkohl also made strides in strengthening the Department's internal policies and processes in key performance areas, including roadway safety and traffic congestion. For example, in spite of rising right of way and construction equipment costs nationwide, his implementation of a Department-wide strategic plan improved on-time and on-budget project delivery while boosting the morale of the 5,800 employees of Georgia DOT, exemplifying the limitless possibilities of hard work and promotion through the ranks.

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its

citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our website (www.dot.state.ga.us).

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Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioners 1963 – present *

Jim L. Gillis, Sr.

Soperton, Ga.
April 16, 1963 – Nov. 19, 1970

Thomas B. (Bert) Lance

Atlanta, Ga.
Dec. 3, 1970 – Feb. 28, 1973

Downing Musgrove

Homerville, Ga.
March 1, 1973 – April 14, 1975

Thomas D. Moreland

Tucker, Ga.
April 15, 1975 – April 30, 1987

Hal Rives

Tucker, Ga.
May 1, 1987 – Oct. 31, 1991

Wayne Shackelford

Gwinnett County, Ga.
Nov. 1, 1991 – May 31, 2000

J. Tom Coleman, Jr.

Savannah, Ga.
June 1, 2000 – Aug. 31, 2003

Harold E. Linnenkohl

Hiram, Ga.
Sept. 10, 2003 – Nov. 30, 2007

DOT Facts

*From 1916 to 1943, the State Highway Dept. of Georgia (the DOT's original name) was run by the State Highway Engineer. State Highway Directors were in charge from 1943-1950 before they were abolished and replaced as the Highway Dept. Board Chairmen. Those early State Highway Directors were:

Ryburn G. Clay (Atlanta)

April 21, 1943 – Oct. 5, 1945

George T. McDonald (Atlanta)

Oct. 5, 1945 – Jan. 18, 1947

W.R. Neel (Darien, Ga.)

Jan. 18, 1947 – March 20, 1947

June 4, 1948 – Sept. 13, 1948

John C. Beasley (Glennville, Ga.)

March 20, 1947 – June 4, 1948

Sept. 13, 1948 – Nov. 16, 1948

Jim L. Gillis, Sr. (Soperton)

Nov. 17, 1948 – Feb. 2, 1950

* The State Highway Directors were re-formed in 1963, starting with Gillis. They were named Dept. of Transportation Commissioners by Governor Jimmy Carter in 1972. The first person to ever enter the office as GDOT Commissioner was Downing Musgrove (1973-1975).