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**Georgia DOT Adopts Comprehensive “Complete Streets” Policy**

ATLANTA – At its September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the State Transportation Board, the governing body of Georgia’s DOT, unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the agency’s newly unveiled “Complete Streets” design policy. The “Complete Streets” concept affirms the importance of streets and roads that safely provide access and accommodation for the elderly, children, pedestrians, people who ride bicycles, and transit users. The National Complete Streets Coalition notes that “instituting a complete streets policy ensures that transportation planners and engineers consistently design and operate the entire roadway with all users in mind.”

Stefanie Seskin, Deputy Director of the National Complete Streets Coalition, applauds “the Georgia Department of Transportation for adopting a Complete Streets policy that will ensure improved safety and access for all, whether traveling by car, foot, bicycle, or public transportation. By committing to Complete Streets, the Department is showing its dedication to reducing ... preventable deaths and to offering residents and visitors safe and convenient choices in transportation.”

The Complete Streets design policy has been in development for several months. GDOT Chief Engineer Gerald Ross coordinated the policy task force, working with stakeholder groups like Georgia Bikes to address specific components of the policy. “Each year the Department is involved in planning and designing thousands of street and roadway projects,” says Ross. “Employing the Complete Streets methods of evaluation,” he adds, “we can ensure that wherever possible, designs properly integrate and balance the needs of all citizens accessing the network by any mode of transportation.”

By proactively enlisting the expertise and input of a variety of transportation interest groups for the adopted policy, GDOT is displaying a continued commitment to improving sustainable, sensible, and economical transportation options for Georgia. Top officials from GDOT will formally present the policy to bicycle advocates, elected officials, and transportation planners during the October 20<sup>th</sup> “Georgia-Irina Bike Summit” in Augusta.

Georgia Bikes Executive Director Brent Buice is extremely pleased with both the policy and the inclusive process by which it was developed. “With this forward-thinking, sensible policy,” he says, “GDOT is affirming its unequivocal support for a balanced transportation system that safely facilitates travel by car, via transit, on foot, and by bicycle. We encourage anyone interested in learning more about the policy and what it means for Georgia’s communities to attend the Georgia-Irina Bike Summit on October 20th in Augusta.”

For more about creating bicycle friendly conditions in Georgia, visit [GeorgiaBikes.org](http://GeorgiaBikes.org). For information on the Georgia-Irina Bike Summit, visit [GeorgiaBikeSummit.org](http://GeorgiaBikeSummit.org).

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