

**Senate Committee on Transportation
Members - 2017-2018**

Sen. Brandon Beach, Chairman

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Sen. Mike Dugan, Secretary

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Sen. Gloria Butler

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Sen. Bill Cowsert, Ex-Officio

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Sen. Frank Ginn

District 47
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Phone: (706) 680-4466

Sen. Bill Heath, Ex-Officio

District 31
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Phone: (770) 537-5234

Sen. Burt Jones

District 25
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Sen. David Lucas, Sr.

District 26
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Sen. Butch Miller, Ex-Officio

District 49
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Sen. P. K. Martin, IV

District 9
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Sen. Valencia Seay, Ex-Officio

District 34
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Phone: (770) 909-9912

Sen. Lindsey Tippins

District 37
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Sen. Ben Watson

District 1
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Phone: (912) 527-5100

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
January 24, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Tuesday, January 24, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Bill Cowser (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Burt Jones (25th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) made a motion to adopt the 2017 Rules as presented to the Committee. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (8-0). A copy of the Rules is attached.

Chairman Beach (21st) encouraged members to attend the I-75 express lane ribbon cutting.

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

2017 SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION RULES

- (1) All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5-1].
- (2) The quorum for the Transportation Committee shall be six (6) members.
- (3) A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or legislator whom he or she designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
- (4) The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon order of the Chairman.
- (5) The Chairman shall determine which bills, amendments, and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which measures are considered.
- (6) The Chairman shall have sole authority to refer bills and resolutions to Subcommittees for study. Such Subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee. All actions of any Subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
- (7) These Rules may be amended or waived upon motion made and subsequently approved by a majority of the members of the Committee present at the meeting.
- (8) The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these Rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
- (9) The recording of the minutes of the Committee and the Subcommittee shall comply with Senate Rule [2-1.7(d)].
- (10) The Rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee Rules.
- (11) Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
- (12) Senate Transportation Committee has adopted Rules for road naming/dedication Ch. 3, Pg. 7, Rule (3-4.01).

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
January 31, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Tuesday January 31, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st) Chairman
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman (Arrived late)
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st) Ex-Officio
Sen. Burt Jones (25th) (Arrived late)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th) (Arrived late)
Sen. P. K. Martin (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th) Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary, and Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) and Sen. Jones (25th) arrived at 3:07 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) and Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

Presenters:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

The Commissioner talked about key projects such as the I-75 reversible hot lanes. He also discussed the high level of funding and the ability to do more projects and the all new Master Hero units.

NOTE: Sen. Lucas (26th) arrived at 3:27 p.m.

Keith Parker, General Manager & Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)

Mr. Parker outlined fiscal details, such as MARTA's ability to operate at a surplus and refinancing of loans to save taxpayers over 40 million dollars. He also talked about planned improvements, such as new rail cars, along with the strengths of MARTA, including the ability to get from the airport to downtown in 16 minutes.

SB 6 (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st, LC 39 1480) Georgia Regional Transit Council; definitions; membership; powers; duties; create

Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the bill. He addressed the goals of the bill, which include synchronizing public transit across jurisdictional lines by creating a widely inclusive board of representatives for the Georgia Regional Transit Council.

HEARING ONLY

A guest speaker spoke in favor of the bill:
Mr. Tom Bauer, Georgia Transit Authority

Presenter:

Christopher Tomlinson, Executive Director, State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) and Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA)

Mr. Tomlinson talked about a variety of upgrades coming to their systems, such as expanded Wi-Fi access. They have also worked on streamlining routes and building new parking lots for park-and-ride commute options.

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
February 2, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Thursday February 2, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Burt Jones (25th)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

SB 6 (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st, LC 39 1480) Georgia Regional Transit Council; definitions; membership; powers; duties; create

Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the bill. He outlined added members and language to clarify that counties were not required to participate.

Sen. Heath (31st) motioned to amend the bill to add a Paulding County representative to the board. Sen. Dugan (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

Sen. Ginn (47th) motioned **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

SB 6 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 39 1509S

SB 89 (Sen. David Shafer, 48th, LC 43 0508ER) Transportation Department Officers; railways and railroad facilities and equipment; provide for state investment

Sen. Shafer (48th) presented the bill. He outlined the need for more train routes in conjunction with the deepening of Savannah's port and subsequent increases in traffic.

A guest speaker spoke in favor of the bill:

Mr. Mark Middleton, Georgia Railroad Association

Sen. Ginn (47th) motioned **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dugan (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (9-0).

SB 89 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 43 0539ERS

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
February 16, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Thursday February 16, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman (Arrived late)
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary (Left early)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio (Arrived late)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Burt Jones (25th) (Left early)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

NOTE: Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio, Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

SR 204 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th, LC 39 1521) Kyle Gilbert Memorial Highway; Gwinnett County; dedicate

Sen. Miller (49th) spoke to the resolution. Kyle Gilbert was a military veteran who died of non-combat injuries. His family requested the road dedication.

HEARING ONLY

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) arrived at 3:12 p.m.

SB 183 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st, LC 39 1537ER) State Road and Tollway Authority; definition; powers of the authority; provide

Sen. Beach (21st) and Elmer Stancil of the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) presented the bill. Mr. Stancil stated the purpose of the agency bill to be an expansion of powers to match the authority of other agencies, including the right to take bonds. These bonds serve to allow for the creation of toll roads, and upon completing payments for the roads, the tolls go to upkeep.

HEARING ONLY

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:25 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Jones (25th) left at 3:26 p.m.

Presenters:

Mr. Scott Haggard, Manager of Government Affairs, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)

ARC is the metropolitan planning organization of Atlanta, whose existence is mandated by federal law. The area under ARC is determined by the U.S. Census. It looks at an ever-expanding 10-county region which has about 5 million people, with expansions projected as high as over 8 million people in the next 10 years. He commended the Committee for passing SB 6 and allowing for better coordination, which will enable ARC to improve its effectiveness and efficiency as it seeks to meet the needs of the changing and diverse population.

Rhonda Briggins, President, Georgia Transit Authority (GTA)

GTA is a nonprofit organization that advocates for transit in 120 counties in Georgia. They have an unfunded mandate that coordinates a variety of services. They serve 3 types of regions: Rural, Small Urban, and Large Urban.

NOTE: Sen. Dugan (30th) left at 3:38 p.m.

SR 227 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st, LC 113 0159) US Department of Transportation; initiate or support whatever federal legislative action, prevent loss of aviation fuel tax revenue use in Clayton County; recommend Georgia congressional delegation to intercede

Sen. Beach (21st) spoke to the resolution, outlining its need, specifically a recent change in interpretation by the FAA which will cause losses in revenue for many counties in Georgia.

HEARING ONLY

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

**JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE COMMITTEES ON
TRANSPORTATION
February 22, 2017**

The Senate Committee on Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation met jointly on Wednesday, February 22, 2017, at 3:45 p.m. in room 606 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Left early)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th) Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Arrived late, left early)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary, Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Burt Jones (25th), and Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the Senate Transportation Committee meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) arrived at 4:09 p.m.

Presenters:

Russell McMurry, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT)

The Commissioner began by outlining the purpose of the meeting as maintaining compliance to HB170 of the 2015-2016 year, which calls for a yearly presentation to the Senate and House Committees on Transportation on the topic of a ten-year plan. He further outlined the ways in which GDOT has become the most transparent it has ever been, including a complete list and map of all projects and mandatory local meetings on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). There was also coverage of projects concerning safety and expanded ability to transport goods through projects such as specially designated commercial truck lanes. Finally, he outlined the improved efficiency of such funds over the next 10 years, as our infrastructure becomes newer, which included a 7% growth in the creation of new highways over 10 years.

NOTE: Sen. Ginn (47th) left at 4:29 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left at 4:42 p.m.

Sen. Beach (21st) adjourned the Senate Transportation Committee meeting at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
February 23, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Thursday February 23, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio (Arrived late)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

SB 183 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st, LC 39 1537ER) State Road and Tollway Authority; definition; powers of the authority; provide

Sen. Beach (21st) and Elmer Stancil of the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) spoke on behalf of the bill and covered the changes.

Sen. Martin (9th) moved **Do Pass**. Sen. Dugan (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).

SB 183 DO PASS

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) arrived at 3:21 p.m.

SR 227 (Sen. Brandon Beach, 21st, LC 113 0159) US Department of Transportation; initiate or support whatever federal legislative action, prevent loss of aviation fuel tax revenue use in Clayton County; recommend Georgia congressional delegation to intercede

Sen. Beach (21st), John O'Neal and Dan Lee, representing Clayton County Schools, presented the resolution, along with Alex Sponsellor, Senior Attorney General, of the Georgia Attorney General's Office. The Clayton County Schools representatives spoke to the detrimental effect of the directive given by the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) that all aviation fuel tax must be used on aviation, and to the great loss of revenue that they would experience because of the amount of money they receive from aviation fuel taxes collected at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. The Attorney General's Office spoke to the questionable legality of the federal directive over state and

local tax collections, along with the precedence of allowing one industry to control all the taxes collected from themselves.

Sen. Heath (31st) expressed concern about taking tax money from transportation and giving it to other areas and stated his belief that aviation taxes should rightfully return to aviation.

Sen. Martin (9th) further clarified by asking if the resolution was in response to a concern about E-SPLOST, which the Clayton County representatives did confirm.

Sen. Dugan (30th) stated that E-SPLOST money ought to go to education from any industry. In the eyes of E-SPLOST, aviation fuel and malls were equal; therefore all taxes collected under ESPLOST should go to education.

Sen. Dugan (30th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Seay seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-1). Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Dugan (30th), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Seay (34th) voted yea. Sen. Heath (31st) voted nay.

SR 227 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 113 0255S

Presenters:

**Mrs. Jill Hampton, Head of Public-Private Partnership and Turnkey Sales,
Mr. Charles-Andre Pronovost, Director of Structured Finance,
Mr. James Lindsay, Director of Business and Development Sales in the Central U.S.,
Bombardier Transportation**

The representatives made a presentation on P3 (Public-Private Partnerships) options for transit. They outlined benefits, such as more funding available for bigger projects, and disadvantages, such as higher financing costs. They showed successful projects their company had completed across the world in light rail and heavy rail, and offered projects that could be completed in Atlanta.

NOTE: Sen. Martin (9th) left at 3:35 p.m.

Presenters:

Mr. Keith Parker, CEO, and Mr. Robby Ashe, Chairman of the Board, of MARTA
They spoke at the request of Chairman Beach (21st), outlining what types of projects in Atlanta would be possible using P3s, and areas in which they would not enlist help because of the great financing that MARTA has access to.

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 4:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
February 28 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Tuesday, February 23, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman (Arrived late, left early)
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio (Arrived late, left early)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th) (Left early)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio (Left early)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th) (Arrived late)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th) (Left early)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Arrived late, left early)

NOTE: Sen. Burt Jones (25th) was absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Tippins (37th), and Sen. Watson (1st) arrived at 8:05 a.m.

SB 251 (Sen. Gloria Butler, 55th, LC 39 1537ER) Mass Transportation; levy of a retail sales and use tax by DeKalb County; public transportation of passengers for hire through Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority

Sen. Butler (55th) presented the bill, outlining the importance of expanding transit options in DeKalb County. She also invited Robby Ashe, MARTA Chairperson, and Dave Williams, Vice-President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, to speak to the bill.

Robby Ashe, Chairman of the Board of MARTA & Dave Williams, Vice-President of the Metro Atlanta Chamber

They spoke of the types of improvements that could be made if they could levy higher taxes. They spoke to the concerns of Sen. Dugan (30th) about whether or not there were project lists in mind, and explained that there are plans being made. They also spoke about the expectations of companies to have expanded transit options for their workers in order to attract business to DeKalb County.

A guest speaker spoke against the bill:

Sen. Fran Millar (40th) – He outlined a separate agreement made with DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond that passed in the Senate in SB 156, which limited tax increases,

but allowed for the collection of transportation taxes. He outlined why passing SB 251 would be in direct contradiction to the previous passage of SB 156. It would also allow for taxes to be raised more than 2% higher.

Sen. Seay (34th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion failed (5-3). Sen. Dugan (30th), Sen. Seay (34th), and Sen. Tippins (37th) voted yea. Sen. Cowsert (46th), Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Heath (31st), Sen. Martin (9th), and Sen. Watson (1st) voted nay.

SR 204 (Sen. Butch Miller, 49th, LC 39 1521) Kyle Gilbert Memorial Highway; Gwinnett County; dedicate

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 8:37

Sen. Beach (21st) presented the bill for Sen. Miller (49th), including additional road namings for Mr. Horace Julian Bond, Mr. Samuel L. and Mrs. LaTanya Jackson, the Berrong family, and Mr. Tyler Perry.

Sen. Gooch (51st) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dugan (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

SR 204 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 39 1637S

NOTE: Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) arrived at 8:39 a.m.

SB 219 (Sen. Steve Gooch, 51st, LC 39 1490ER) Motor Vehicles; definitions; operation of motor vehicles with automated driving systems on certain public roads; provide

Sen. Gooch (51st) presented the bill. It is a “conservative introduction” to autonomous vehicles. He then invited several representatives of major organizations to speak in favor of the bill.

NOTE: Sen. Cowsert (46th) left at 8:43 a.m.

Guest Speakers spoke in favor of the bill:

Harry Lightsey, Executive Director of Cyber/Connected Cars, General Motors

Eric Henning, Regional Director of State Government Relations SE, General Motors

Lewis Massey, Representative of Uber

Nick Juliano, Public Affairs Manager of the Southeast, Uber

Chris Carpenters, Public Affairs and Government Relations, Waymo- A division of Google

Bill Clark, Director of Political Affairs, Georgia Trial Lawyer Association

Sen. Gooch (51st) made a motion to amend the bill. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Dugan (30th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (10-0).

SB 219 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 39 1642ERS

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st), Sen. Martin (9th), Sen. Watson (1st), Sen. Ginn (47th) and Sen. Heath (31st) left at 9:08 a.m.

Sen. Lucas (26th) made a motion for reconsideration of SB 251. Without a second, the motion failed.

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
March 7, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman (Arrived late)
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Left early)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Bill Cowser (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Frank Ginn (47th), Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Burt Jones (25th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Sen. Dugan (30th) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Beach (21st) arrived at 3:08 p.m.

HB 150 (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd, LC 39 1576S) State Road and Tollway Authority; failure to pay tolls; place hold on motor vehicle registration

Rep. Powell (32nd) and Elmer Stancil of the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) presented the bill. They advocated for the importance of expanding collections powers to SRTA because of the volume of violations and high amount of money owed by some citizens - some as high as \$20,000.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) questioned the ways in which people violate the toll lanes to get clarity on how fees could get so high.

Sen. Martin (9th) moved **Do Pass**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Dugan (30th) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 150 DO PASS

HB 160 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 39 1527S) Mass transportation; create Georgia Commission on Transit Governance and Funding, provisions

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented the bill. He outlined its purpose to be primarily a study commission on mass transit in metro areas, with appointed voting members from the House, Senate, and by the Governor's appointment, as well as one MARTA representative. All others would be non-voting. The Commission would ultimately report back to the General Assembly in December 2018.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) questioned whether or not the commission could be expanded to include rural transit. Rep. Tanner replied that a separate bill would be more appropriate for a statewide plan.

HEARING ONLY

HB 481 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 29 7489S) Aviation; unmanned aircraft systems; provide for preemption

Rep. Tanner (9th) presented the bill. It is primarily to align Georgia code with FAA rulings that have been released. The bill also defines a drone for the first time in Georgia code.

Sen. Beach (21st) asked whether or not the bill was vetoed last year. Rep. Tanner (9th) confirmed it was because of the Governor's concerns, which have since been alleviated by the FAA rulings. This year the Governor supports the bill.

Sen. Dugan (30th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Beach (21st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 481 DO PASS

NOTE: Senator Tippins (37th) left at 3:29 p.m.

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
March 9, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Thursday March 9, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 307 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th) (Arrived late)
Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio (Arrived late)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio (Arrived late)
Sen. Burt Jones (25th) (Left early)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th) (Left early)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman, Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), and Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th) were absent.

Sen. Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Butler (55th), Sen. Cowsert (46th), and Sen. Heath (31st), arrived at 3:06 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Tippins (37th) left at 3:06 p.m.

HB 328 (LC 39 1605S) Rep. Sam Watson (172nd) Act to amend Title 32 and Chapter 6 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to highways and uniform rules of the road, respectively, so as to provide for the maximum length and load of vehicles; to provide for methods for determining load limits for vehicles utilizing idle reduction technology...

NOTE: Sen. Jones (25th) left at 3:12 p.m.

Rep. Watson (172nd) and Josh Waller, Director of Government Affairs at the Georgia Department of Transportation presented the bill and called it a “clean up bill” concerning weight increases of trucks and flex lanes.

Sen. Dugan (30th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (7-0). Sen. Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 328 DO PASS

HB 472 (Rep. Bubber Epps, 144th, LC 39 1560) Motor vehicles and traffic; following requirements for vehicles in a procession when speed is coordinated automatically; provide exception

Rep. Epps (144th) and Frank Morris of UPS presented the bill. It will allow for truck platooning, provided that appropriate technologies are in place so trucks could follow closely together. The bill also clarified that trailers attached to abandoned vehicles could be treated the same as the vehicles when collected from the roadside.

Sen. Ginn (47th) questioned whether or not the following vehicles would be autonomous and/or driverless. It was confirmed that the vehicles would have a driver.

Sen. Watson (1st) questioned whether the law stated how closely a vehicle could follow legally. Currently, all rulings on following too closely are at the discretion of officers. This would be the first bill to put in statutes a distance between vehicles.

Rep. Wendell Willard (51st) answered several questions about trailers to clarify the intent of the law. Since repossessed trailers often do not have tags or titles, there is no uniform policy across the state on how to deal with them. This would allow companies to take ownership of the trailers when picked up from the roadside.

Sen. Heath (31st) asked whether or not this portion of the bill passed the House. Rep. Willard (51st) confirmed that the original bill did not pass out of Rules, so the trailer language was added to the platooning language.

HEARING ONLY

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
March 14, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio (Left early)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)
Sen. Ben Watson (1st) (Arrived late)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary, Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, and Sen. Burt Jones (25th) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.

HB 506 (Rep. Tom Taylor, 79th, HB 506/CSFA) Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965; award certain contracts involving concessions; provide for vote by Board

Rep. Meagan Hanson (80th) and Rep. Taylor (79th) presented the bill. They outlined why a strict “highest bidder” system is not the best way to do business.

Sen. Martin (9th) questioned whether any other agency was currently working under a “highest bidder” system of contracting. No one could provide an example of another agency. He also questioned what kind of vendors MARTA was seeking. Rep. Taylor responded that they were looking for more than the highest bidder - also for the best value to the customer.

A guest speaker spoke in favor of the bill:

John Bayalis, MARTA Director of Government & Constituent Relations

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) made a motion **Do Pass**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Beach (21st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 506 DO PASS

HB 472 (Rep. Bubber Epps, 144th, LC 39 1560) Motor vehicles and traffic; following requirements for vehicles in a procession when speed is coordinated automatically; provide exception

Sen. Heath (31st) asked why language pertaining to abandoned vehicles and trailers on roadways was added to the original language pertaining to the platooning coordination of semi-trucks.

Sen. Heath (31st) moved to amend the bill by removing the language pertaining to abandoned vehicles or trailers on roadways. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Sen. Heath (31st) moved to have the preamble of the bill amended according to the first amendment. Sen. Martin (9th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6-0.

Sen. Heath (31st) moved **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Ginn (47th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Beach (21st) is the Senate sponsor.

HB 472 DO PASS BY SUSTITUTE LC 39 1683S

NOTE: Sen. Heath (30th) left at 3:33 p.m.

NOTE: Sen. Ben Watson (1st) arrived at 3:34 p.m.

GDOT 10-Year Plan

Russell McMurry, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation, spoke on the 10-Year Plan briefly, noting the previous presentation in the Joint Meeting on 2/22/17.

Sen. Lucas (26th) moved **Do Pass**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

GDOT 10 Year Plan DO PASS

HB 160 (Rep. Kevin Tanner, 9th, LC 39 1527S) Mass transportation; create Georgia Commission on Transit Governance and Funding, provisions

Sen. Beach (21st) presented the bill for Rep. Tanner (9th) and covered changes in language to make it reflect the language of SB 6.

Sen. Lucas, Sr. (26th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Sen. Gooch (51st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 160 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTION LC 39 1682S

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
March 21, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio
Sen. Butch Miller (49th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th), Ex-Officio
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

NOTE: Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman, Sen. Gloria Butler (55th), Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th), Sen. P. K. Martin, IV (9th), and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

HB 150 was recommitted to the Senate Transportation Committee.

HB 150 (Rep. Alan Powell, 32nd, LC 39 1576S) State Road and Tollway Authority; failure to pay tolls; place hold on motor vehicle registration

Rep. Powell (32nd) presented the bill with changes concerning the Department of Revenue (DOR) collecting setoff debt.

Sen. Heath (31st) expressed concern over asking the Department of Revenue to take responsibility for collecting money for State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) because it should not be a catch-all agency that takes on the responsibility of collecting money for other agencies.

Sen. Ginn (47th) questioned whether there was any other agency that is more appropriate than the Department of Revenue to collect money.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Seay (34th) seconded the motion. The motion passed (5-1). Sen. Ginn (47th), Sen. Seay (34th), Sen. Tippins (37th), Sen. Dugan (30th), and Sen. Miller (49th) voted yea. Sen. Heath (31st) voted nay. Sen. Dugan (30th) will be the Senate sponsor.

HB 150 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE LC 39 1694S

HR 25 (Rep. Jason Spencer, 180th, LC 39 1641S) Senior Airman Tre Francesco Porfirio Memorial Intersection; Camden County; dedicate

Sen. Beach (21st) presented the road dedication resolution. It included dedications for Officer Kevin Jordan, Mr. Ben Barron Ross, the Brown and Mauldin families, Pfc. Roland E. Rush, Mr. Alex Cooley and Mr. Peter Conlon, Corporal Dennis "Denny" R. Wallin, Claude Edgar and Bertha Catlin Johnson, John Andrew Smoltz, Mr. Charles Kastner, Mr. Jeffrey Marshall Foxworthy, and Deputy John Hall Rowe, Jr.

Sen. Ginn (47th) made a motion **Do Pass by Substitute**. Sen. Tippins (37th) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Senator Beach (21st) will be the Senate sponsor.

HR 25 DO PASS BY SUSTITUTE LC 39 1692S

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 3:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

CASEY CABLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 21, 2017

Mr. David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
353 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear David:

In accordance with the Senate Rules, the Senate Committee on Assignments hereby appoints Senator Rutch Miller to serve as Ex-Officio for the Senate Transportation Committee meeting on March 21, 2017. This appointment shall expire upon adjournment of the committee meeting.

Sincerely,


Lt. Governor Casey Cable
President of the Senate

CC:tes

Co:
Senate Committee Chairman
Fiscal Office
Appointee

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
August 3, 2017

The Senate Committee on Transportation met on Thursday, August 3, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in room 310 of the Coverdell Legislative Office Building.

SENATORS PRESENT:

Sen. Brandon Beach (21st), Chairman
Sen. Steve Gooch (51st), Vice-Chairman
Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary
Sen. Gloria Butler (55th)
Sen. Frank Ginn (47th)
Sen. David Lucas, Sr. (26th)
Sen. Valencia Seay (34th)
Sen. Lindsey Tippins (37th)

NOTE: Sen. Bill Cowsert (46th), Ex-Officio, Sen. Bill Heath (31st), Ex-Officio, Sen. Burt Jones (25th), Sen. P. K. Martin (9th) and Sen. Ben Watson (1st) were absent.

Chairman Beach (21st) called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Presenters:

Bill Halter (Principal), Kyle Reis (Associate Principal), and Krista Dumkrieger (Associate) – Cooper Carry

Mr. Halter showed a video of a three-dimensional rendering of a Multi-Modal Transit Terminal location that would possibly be placed in The Gulch in Atlanta, Georgia. After the video, Mr. Halter, Mr. Reis, and Ms. Dumkrieger presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the idea of the Multi-Modal Transit Terminal- where it began and how the idea would be executed. The terminal would include retail spaces, restaurants and green space. The construction of the terminal would not affect existing transit options but would enhance the availability and accessibility of each transit option available to Atlanta. Some obstacles for the construction of this terminal are gaining access to the existing rail lines that are currently owned by CSX and Norfolk Southern and the various ownerships of “The Gulch”.

NOTE: Sen. Gooch (51st) arrived at 10:21 a.m.

NOTE: Sen. Dugan (30th) left at 10:55 a.m.

Chairman Beach (21st) adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/ s / Sen. Mike Dugan (30th), Secretary

/ s / Samantha Nix, Recording Secretary

March 23, 2017

Mr. David Cook
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: Senate Transportation Committee – 2017 Session

Dear Secretary Cook:

The Senate Transportation Committee respectfully submits the following Senate bills, Senate resolutions, House bills, and House resolutions left in the Senate Transportation committee after the 2017 General Assembly session:

SB27 SB54 SB218 SB251 SB259 SB261 SB266

The following Senate Resolutions are left in the Senate Transportation committee but were absorbed and passed as SR 204:

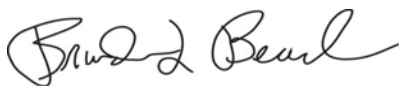
SR240 SR243 SR298 SR299

The following Senate Resolutions are left in the Senate Transportation committee but were absorbed and passed as HR 25:

SR134 SR 274 SR276 SR313 SR314 SR331 SR355 SR383 SR390 SR426 SR450

Thank you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brandon Beach".

Senator Brandon Beach
Chairman Senate Transportation

Samantha Nix
Legislative Assistant Senate Transportation