

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2010  
(GEORGIA D.O.T. HOUSE BILL 277 IMPLEMENTATION)

COASTAL REGION

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE #1

RICHMOND HILL QUALITY INN

RICHMOND HILL, GEORGIA

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**TOM CRITES & ASSOCIATES INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

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## 1 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE COMMITTEE:

2

3 Chairman Jimmy Burnsed, Bryan County Commission

4 Mayor Harold Fowler, City of Richmond Hill

5 Chairman Garrett Nevil, Bulloch County Commission

6 Mayor Joe Brannen, City of Statesboro

7 Chairman David Rainer, Camden County Commission

8 Mayor Kenneth Smith, City of Kingsland

9 Chairman Pete Liakakis, Chatham County Commission

10 Mayor Mike Lamb, City of Pooler

11 Chairman Dusty Zeigler, Effingham County Commission

12 Mayor Ken Lee, City of Rincon

13 Chairman Tom Sublett, Glynn County Commission

14 Mayor Bryan Thompson, City of Brunswick

15 Chairman John McIver, Liberty County Commission

16 Sonny Timmerman, City of Flemington (Proxy)

17 William Miller, City of Ludowici (Proxy)

18 Chair Kelly Spratt, McIntosh County Commission

19 Mayor John Cox, City of Darien

20 Chairman Will Boyd, Screven County Commission

21 Mayor Margaret Evans, City of Sylvania

22 - - -

23

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1           DAN CODY: We're going to go ahead and get  
2 started. We're going to introduce ourselves  
3 for those that don't know us. My name's Dan  
4 Cody. I'm the Chairman of the Regional  
5 Commission. Our role is to help facilitate  
6 this. I'm a private sector representative from  
7 Glynn County.

8           Do you want to introduce yourself?

9           THE REPORTER: I'm Marie Bauer. I'm a  
10 court reporter with Tom Crites & Associates.

11          DAN CODY: Be careful what you say.  
12 Allen?

13          ALLEN BURNS: I'm Allen Burns, executive  
14 director.

15          MIKE PHILLIPS: Mike Phillips, city  
16 manager in Rincon.

17          ALAN OURS: Alan Ours, Glynn County  
18 Administrator.

19          RICHARD STRICKLAND: Richard Strickland,  
20 commissioner, Glynn County.

21          REGGIE LOPER: Reggie Loper, Effingham  
22 County Commission.

23          WALLY ORREL: Wally Orrel, McIntosh County  
24 Chamber and Development Group.

25          WOODY WOODSIDE: Woody Woodside, Glynn

1 County Commission.

2 TRIP TOLLISON: Trip Tollison, with the  
3 Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

4 TOM RATCLIFFE: Tom Ratcliffe, state  
5 nonpublic member of the RCE.

6 MIKE MELTON: Mike Melton, City of  
7 Richmond Hill.

8 BRYAN THOMPSON: Bryan Thompson, Mayor of  
9 Brunswick.

10 WILL BOYD: Will Boyd, Screven County  
11 Commission.

12 TOM SUBLETT: Tom Sublett, Glynn County  
13 Commission.

14 JIMMY BURNSED: Jimmy Burnsed, Bryan  
15 County Commission.

16 JOE BRANNEN: Joe Brannen, Mayor of  
17 Statesboro.

18 GARRETT NEVIL: Garrett Nevil, Bulloch  
19 County Chairman.

20 DAVID RAINER: David Rainer, Chairman of  
21 the Camden County Board of Commissioners.

22 MARGARET EVANS: Margaret Evans, Mayor of  
23 Sylvania.

24 HAROLD FOWLER: Harold Fowler, Mayor of  
25 Richmond Hill.

1           PETE LIAKAKIS: Pete Liakakis, Chairman of  
2 Chatham County Commission.

3           KEN LEE: Ken Lee, Mayor of the City of  
4 Rincon.

5           DUSTY ZEIGLER: Dusty Zeigler, Effingham  
6 County Board of Commissioners.

7           JOHN MCIVER: John McIver, Commissioner of  
8 Liberty County.

9           SONNY TIMMERMAN: Sonny Timmerman, proxy  
10 for Mayor Sandy Martin, City of Flemington.

11          KEN SMITH: Ken Smith, Mayor of Kingsland.

12          TERESA BRENNER: Teresa Brenner.

13          VALERIE LEIGHTON: Valerie Leighton.

14          ALICE RICHHART: Alice Richhart, Glynn  
15 County.

16          TODD BOSWORTH: Todd Bosworth, DOT.

17          GWEN MUNGIN: Gwen Mungin, City Manager,  
18 City of Kingsland.

19          JEAN BOYLES: Jean Boyles, Kings Bay  
20 Industrial Development Board.

21          GRADY SMITH: Grady Smith with Jacobs  
22 Engineering.

23          CINDY VANDYKE: Cindy VanDyke with Georgia  
24 DOT.

25          TIM KASSA: Tim Kassa, Georgia DOT

1 planning.

2 GLENN DURRENCE: Glenn Durrence, Thomas &  
3 Hutton.

4 BENJY THOMPSON: Benjy Thompson with the  
5 Development Authority of Bulloch County and  
6 Statesboro Chamber.

7 TOM COUCH: Tom Couch, Bulloch County  
8 Manager.

9 COLLETTA HARPER: Colletta Harper,  
10 administrative services.

11 BARBARA HURST: Barbara Hurst,  
12 transportation director.

13 DAN CODY: Is that everybody?

14 INGA KENNEDY: Inga Kennedy, with PEQ.  
15 I'll be facilitating and helping you go through  
16 some of your exercises today.

17 WADE CARROLL: Wade Carroll, Jacobs  
18 Engineering.

19 DAN CODY: With that, I would like to  
20 introduce Todd Long. He is with the DOT and  
21 will start out facilitating this meeting, and I  
22 have done my job.

23 TODD LONG: Thanks a lot. Appreciate it.  
24 Thank you very much for being here today. I  
25 really appreciate it. We got the roundtablers

1 over here and the nonroundtablers, right.

2 Well, good.

3 Last time I was in this room, I stood at  
4 this podium. It was in April of 2002. And Tom  
5 Radcliffe, you might have been here. I cried  
6 because of my dad's retirement, and said I  
7 wouldn't cry, but I was reading this big long  
8 liturgy of all the things he did, and it was in  
9 this room right here that we did that.

10 Were you here that -- I think you were  
11 here that night.

12 But it's my pleasure to be here. I'm from  
13 Liberty County, so this is my home neck of the  
14 woods. A lot of you guys know me, and it's my  
15 pleasure to be here.

16 We have a great opportunity today to kind  
17 of get us kickstarted in this process of HB277.  
18 I really appreciate your willingness to go a  
19 little bit early.

20 We did have to drive here today. We were  
21 going to all jump in a plane and cram in one of  
22 our state planes and fly, but the pilots were  
23 too chicken to get to the airport, and I figure  
24 if they're too chicken to get to the airport, I  
25 may not want to fly with them, right, and so we

1 got up this morning, and we braved the ice.

2 And really, I didn't have too much trouble  
3 getting out, but I know Cindy VanDyke back  
4 here, she was on I-20 this morning, and it was  
5 a solid sheet of ice really from Six Flags into  
6 285, and it's still a mess in Atlanta. You  
7 know, once you get a little bit south of  
8 Atlanta, Jonesboro, it kind of clears out. But  
9 it's probably one of the bigger ice storms that  
10 I've ever seen in my life, and I hadn't been  
11 here that long, but it's pretty amazing.

12 School's still out. Kids are loving it.  
13 And my kids haven't -- they don't even know  
14 what school is, really, because they've been  
15 out of school since almost December -- the  
16 first, second week in December.

17 All right, today. Let's go over the  
18 agenda for today's meeting. We did the welcome  
19 introductions. We're going to go over a quick  
20 overview of the bill. I know that the Regional  
21 Commission here has done an outstanding job of  
22 making several presentations to you about the  
23 bill, the details of the bill, and in fact,  
24 we've had several staff down here, different  
25 MPO meetings. There's been lots of

1 opportunities to learn about the bill, but I'm  
2 going to kind of give a high-level overview and  
3 make sure everybody is on the same page, all  
4 right. Then we're going to talk about our  
5 guidelines of how we want to operate these  
6 meetings from this point forward, which I think  
7 are very important to us, and then we're going  
8 to elect a chairman of the overall committee.

9 And then ultimately, by law, the reason  
10 we're here today is twofold. We have -- do I  
11 need to move something to get off the screen  
12 here? What is that? It's just the chair, I  
13 think.

14 The court reporter today is very  
15 important, and the reason is I've got --  
16 according to the bill, the Director of Planning  
17 has to produce a report to the General Assembly  
18 about all of these meetings. Well, I figure  
19 the best report I could do would be to have a  
20 word-by-word transcript of the meetings, so  
21 we're going to be hanging out with these  
22 transcripts. So when you speak, speak loudly.

23 And as a favor to you, you want them to  
24 say their names.

25 THE REPORTER: Yes, please.

1           TODD LONG: She might know some of you,  
2 but she doesn't know all of you. And in fact,  
3 it might be helpful if somebody from the RC  
4 staff could sit here beside her -- it's always  
5 helpful -- and whisper in her ear when somebody  
6 speaks. She has to put the name of the person  
7 in front of what she writes, so that's why  
8 she's so important, so speak up.

9           By the bill, though, what I was saying is  
10 there's two things you have to do today. You  
11 have to elect an executive committee, and then  
12 you have to adopt criteria. Those are the two  
13 requirements under the bill outcomes of today's  
14 meeting. So we'll get through that. I think  
15 you'll find that this meeting will go very  
16 smoothly. All the prework that has been done  
17 will make it go smoothly, and I appreciate  
18 that.

19           This is our now ninth roundtable meeting  
20 around the state, so we've done a number of  
21 these, and we've done the Atlanta one and then  
22 we've done the non-Atlanta ones, and all of  
23 them have been a little bit different in how  
24 you elect your executive committee. Everyone's  
25 got their own twist, which is fine. The bill

1 allows a lot of flexibility for that.

2 So we'll close the meeting by kind of  
3 giving you the next steps of what the executive  
4 committee's going to be doing and the timeline  
5 for what you're going to do for submitting  
6 projects, which you will definitely want to  
7 listen in on that.

8 Quickly, this is your overview of the  
9 bill. Probably some of you have seen this  
10 slide before. The bill does create tax  
11 districts. Let's remember that. This is not a  
12 tax district for a county boundary; it's a  
13 district by Regional Commission boundaries.

14 So ultimately, the boundaries of the  
15 region, which your Coastal Georgia Region  
16 encompasses really from Screven County all the  
17 way down to Camden, those are your new  
18 boundaries. Yes, you're on the roundtable  
19 because you represent a jurisdiction, but your  
20 mind-set needs to be you're now representing  
21 the region. So Chairman Liakakis, you are  
22 representing the region instead of Chatham  
23 County, and so forth, and that mind-set helps  
24 you think clearly, I think, about what you're  
25 trying to accomplish here through this process.

1           Each district can levy a sales tax of one  
2           percent over a period of ten years. I'm just  
3           going to back up. There's a lot of  
4           conversation about how long the sales tax  
5           should be. Some are doing as little as three  
6           years, some are doing four, some are doing six  
7           and five. On transportation, we really want to  
8           get a longer-term bill, particularly on the big  
9           projects that last a long time that you're  
10          starting from scratch, we wanted to have a bill  
11          that lasted out ten years, so we did ask for  
12          that, and we did get it passed by the General  
13          Assembly.

14          Money raised in the district stays in the  
15          district. This is one of the more important  
16          aspects of the bill. Any time you talk to  
17          anybody from South Georgia, they're always  
18          afraid the money's going where? Atlanta. Any  
19          time we talk to a guy in Atlanta, where are  
20          they afraid their money's going? South  
21          Georgia. So there's always this dynamic.

22          The money raised in the Coastal Georgia  
23          Region stays in this Coastal Georgia Region.  
24          Nobody spends it anywhere else. Even the  
25          projects that we design, all that money's

1 coming from this pot, so it's no money being  
2 spent elsewhere in the state.

3 The next line is almost as important. As  
4 you know, with our regular federal and  
5 state-made money, we have -- money has to be  
6 split among the 13 congressional districts  
7 across Georgia.

8 Now, this district right here, y'all  
9 got -- part of your district's in Congressional  
10 District 12, I guess the northern part, really,  
11 the north part of Chatham County, Bulloch, and  
12 Screven, and then the south part is in  
13 Congressional District 1, so there's always  
14 this pull and tug about how to balance the  
15 money across congressional district lines.  
16 Well, that doesn't apply here, okay. The money  
17 is spent in the region, stays in the region,  
18 not subject to congressional balancing.

19 This is not about individual counties. I  
20 mentioned that a minute ago. Now think  
21 regional boundaries. We're not here to talk  
22 about Liberty County. We're not here to talk  
23 about Screven County. We're here to talk about  
24 regional needs.

25 A recommended criteria is what got sent to

1           you guys back in December -- excuse me, in  
2           November. That criteria is a guidepost. I'll  
3           get into more of this later. I actually have a  
4           presentation on it. It's basically your  
5           compass on what direction you want to go, but I  
6           only recommend the criteria.

7           Ultimately, this body, the roundtable, you  
8           guys are the ones who have to adopt it, all  
9           right, and have to work by it and live by it,  
10          so it is very important that you understand  
11          that this bill is not about the Director of  
12          Planning; this bill is ultimately about local  
13          authority. The project selection process, the  
14          criteria, the projects you ultimately select,  
15          that is controlled by this roundtable.

16          ACCG and GMA fought very hard in the bill  
17          to make sure that local involvement was very  
18          much a cornerstone to this bill, and they  
19          accomplished that.

20          You've got two house members and a senate  
21          member that actually are on the executive  
22          committee in a nonvoting capacity. That's  
23          about as close as a General Assembly comes  
24          under this bill.

25          Now, your two house members on this

1 committee, who is that?

2 MARGARET EVANS: Ann Purcell and Jon  
3 Burns.

4 TODD LONG: That's right. And of course  
5 they could not be here because they're in  
6 budget hearings this week up in Atlanta.

7 And your senate member has not been named  
8 yet. I'll just give you some insight on that.  
9 Jeff Mullis, who is chair of the Senate  
10 Transportation Committee, that is his job to  
11 name the senate reps for all 12 Regional  
12 Commissions. He has not done so, because he  
13 was waiting for all the new senators to get  
14 named. He's got a couple of brand-new senators  
15 that he's going to put on these committees,  
16 and, of course, they weren't senators until I  
17 guess Monday, right, the new senators and house  
18 members, so we're expecting something any day  
19 now from him as far as a senate membership.

20 All right. The vote, let's talk about  
21 that. The vote right now is going to be in  
22 2012. It'll be in the summer of 2012.

23 According to staff at the Secretary of State's  
24 office, the vote is not till August. Now, I've  
25 seen some other literature out there that says

1 the vote's in July. Usually, the primary  
2 vote's in July, but we've been told by staff  
3 it's not till August of this year, but  
4 essentially, it's 2012. The funds, the way the  
5 bill is written, flow 80 days after the  
6 election, so you don't really see funds for  
7 this bill start flowing until the first part of  
8 2013, all right.

9 Now, look at this slide, and I want you to  
10 understand it carefully and make sure everybody  
11 in the room understands this, because this  
12 group right here is in control of the left side  
13 of the screen, not the right side.

14 The left side of the screen, we're here  
15 today to talk about the regional share of  
16 money. According to the bill, the money's  
17 split 75 percent regional, 25 percent local.

18 And folks, I know you're coming in late,  
19 and you're wondering am I late? You're not  
20 late. You're early. We started early.

21 Now, for the folks who just got here,  
22 would you raise your hand? I want to see who  
23 we're playing with here. Go ahead, just  
24 introduce yourself.

25 DAVE WILLS: Dave Wills, Association of

1 County Commissioners.

2 TRENT LONG: I'm Trent Long, from Trent  
3 Long Engineering.

4 MARK MOBLEY: Mark Mobley, EMC  
5 Engineering.

6 KIP GOODBREAD: Kip Goodbread, EMC  
7 Engineering.

8 MARK PICKERING: Mark Pickering, Thomas &  
9 Hutton Engineers.

10 TOM THOMPSON: I came in late, too, Tom  
11 Thompson, Chatham/Savannah Metropolitan  
12 Planning Commission.

13 MIKE LAMB: Mike Lamb, Pooler, Georgia.

14 TODD LONG: Mike, good to see you. I'm  
15 sorry. Go ahead.

16 DAVID CROWLEY: David Crowley, county  
17 administrator.

18 TODD LONG: Good to see you, David.

19 How many roundtable members are we now  
20 missing?

21 PETE LIAKAKIS: Well, some of these, it's  
22 just the -- from what I understand, it's just a  
23 chairman and a mayor from each county, and  
24 those are the only ones on the roundtable. Is  
25 that right?

1           TODD LONG: That's right. There's 20 of  
2 you, but how many are missing?

3           DAN CODY: There are 15 here, and there  
4 are two that are here that I don't know where  
5 they are. I've been out hunting them.

6           TODD LONG: I know we got a couple of  
7 people sitting in for mayors, and we'll have a  
8 discussion about that in a minute about how  
9 y'all want that to flow as far as proxies go.  
10 Like Sonny's sitting in for Mayor Martin from  
11 Flemington. So we've got two at large here in  
12 the building somewhere, right?

13          DAN CODY: There are two from McIntosh  
14 that thought it was at 1:00 o'clock. I called  
15 them, and they're on their way.

16          TODD LONG: Well, we're just doing some  
17 preliminary stuff anyway, so we're good. Get  
18 this out of the way.

19          But let's go over this. 75 percent of the  
20 money is subject to the roundtable, 25 percent  
21 of the money is not subject to the roundtable.  
22 So let's talk about this right side of the page  
23 right quick, because a lot of folks are very  
24 interested in the discretionary money. We get  
25 lots of comments about it, and probably more

1           comments about the right side than we do the  
2           left side.

3           But that money, which is 25 percent of the  
4           proceeds, is divided up by a formula. And if  
5           you know anything about how DOT does business  
6           in the past, we had the old LARP program, which  
7           is the old resurfacing program, and they  
8           decided since not many people usually  
9           complained about the LARP formula, the General  
10          Assembly decided to use that as a basis for how  
11          they distributed discretionary money.

12          In fact, it came as a surprise to some, I  
13          think, what that formula even was. For years,  
14          y'all probably accepted the LARP formula and  
15          never even questioned what the formula was, but  
16          the formula was based on one-fifth population  
17          and four-fifth lane miles, and that population  
18          is based on the latest U.S. Census. The lane  
19          miles was based on centerline lane miles,  
20          not -- so in other words, if you've got a  
21          four-lane road, that still counts as one lane  
22          mile, one-mile stretch of it, paved and  
23          unpaved. That's an add-on they added.

24          So, for instance, Bulloch County, who has  
25          a lot of dirt roads, those dirt roads count

1 just like a paved road. So that formula is  
2 laid out. It's called the LARP formula. If  
3 you know anything about our LARP program now --  
4 we got rid of the LARP program. We combined  
5 LARP and state aid together and called it LMIG.  
6 So the only thing now that's considered LARP is  
7 this discretionary under this bill. But this  
8 can be used for projects, and we'll define what  
9 a project is in a second, and it is decided on  
10 by the individual counties and cities.

11 Now, only ten cities are represented on  
12 the roundtable, right, but you've probably got  
13 25 or 30 other cities in the region, correct?  
14 How many cities?

15 PETE LIAKAKIS: 35 total.

16 TODD LONG: It's 35 total. So each one of  
17 those city councils, each county commission,  
18 those are the entities that decide how that  
19 discretionary money is spent. GDOT does not  
20 decide how that discretionary money -- it's  
21 different from the LMIG program, guys. The  
22 local governments decide exactly how it's going  
23 to be spent and where it's going to be spent,  
24 as long as it meets the definition of a  
25 transportation project, which I'm going to show

1 up here in a second.

2 On the regional side, this is 75 percent  
3 of the money, that's basically the list that  
4 you're going to end up developing to put before  
5 the voters. So obviously, you have a big  
6 responsibility in this area. In 2013, just  
7 looking at 13 numbers, Coastal Georgia raises  
8 about \$131 million, 75-percent share of that is  
9 \$98 million, and the 25-percent share is  
10 \$32 million. That's just one year.

11 Now, a lot of folks have asked us where  
12 are we getting these numbers from. The  
13 projections of revenue from a sales tax were  
14 given to us basically by our state economist.  
15 I didn't know we had a state economist, but  
16 there is an official state economist that does  
17 all the projections for the General Assembly  
18 and everybody else, and they actually are  
19 housed at the Georgia State Business School,  
20 Andrew Young Business School, and it's a guy  
21 named Ken Heaghey. He gave us a first cut at  
22 it last summer. He's planning on doing a more  
23 detailed analysis this spring that'll give us  
24 exact revenue projections, but based on the  
25 projections he gave us so far, your district

1 raises a lot of money.

2 I look around the state, and we  
3 obviously -- we want to see all 12 regions pass  
4 it. That's our goal. But you really want to  
5 target the regions that generate a good bit of  
6 revenue: Atlanta, Northeast Georgia, Georgia  
7 Mountains, Northwest Georgia, and then you skip  
8 down, Coastal Georgia raises a lot. In fact,  
9 you may be in second place in the state. Is  
10 that not right?

11 DAN CODY: I think we are.

12 TODD LONG: Second place as far as  
13 revenue. Atlanta generates about half the  
14 revenue of the entire -- it's about \$1.5  
15 billion a year for the whole state, and Atlanta  
16 is about 700 to 730, so it's about half, and  
17 then you guys are second. So I think it's very  
18 critical that you guys really put a lot of  
19 emphasis on this opportunity we have.

20 Next slide. This is important, the  
21 project definition. I could not give this  
22 definition enough times. I want you to  
23 understand this definition is very wide open in  
24 regards to transportation. It gives you a lot  
25 of flexibility from a standpoint of what kind

1 of capital projects that you can build. But  
2 what's different about this definition and your  
3 typical SPLOST programs that you have in your  
4 counties is the middle part of this paragraph,  
5 where it says, "And all activities and  
6 structures useful and incident to providing,  
7 operating, and maintaining the same."

8 That definition opens it up -- remember,  
9 this is for both the regional share and the  
10 discretionary for doing maintenance and  
11 operations of your roadways. That's pretty  
12 big, because you can't do that on a SPLOST  
13 program for you build a parks and recs, you  
14 build a library. I live in a county that  
15 builds -- that did a lot of libraries, and now  
16 they can't open the libraries because they  
17 can't afford to operate them, right. You  
18 haven't had that problem down here, have you?  
19 But you're probably close. So this is pretty  
20 important.

21 So we're excited about the definition.  
22 Obviously, there will be audits, so make  
23 sure -- you know, we can't have some rogue city  
24 or county out there spending the transportation  
25 money building jails. Those kind of things

1 would be prohibited, and obviously, you'd be  
2 watched carefully from that regard. But it's a  
3 great opportunity on the discretionary side to  
4 do a lot of different things on a local level.

5 Next slide. This is why we're here today.  
6 I want to kind of bring y'all down from a  
7 high-level point down to why we're here and  
8 kind of explaining the process of where the  
9 roundtable fits into the process, so now we're  
10 speaking on the left side of the page, the  
11 regional share.

12 The process starts essentially this winter  
13 with a big, unconstrained list of projects.  
14 The unconstrained list of projects will be  
15 developed using the criteria that you adopt  
16 later today, all right. This unconstrained  
17 list, financially unconstrained, will be big,  
18 and that's sort of where the Director of  
19 Planning comes in, but I don't do it alone. I  
20 take suggestions. In fact, the bill says that  
21 I could take suggestion from local  
22 jurisdictions and MPOs.

23 You actually have three MPOs in your RC,  
24 and you've got all these local governments, so  
25 we can take suggestions, and then we take this

1 unconstrained list and sort through that,  
2 working with the executive committee, which  
3 you'll elect a little bit later in this  
4 meeting. The executive committee will develop  
5 what they call a constrained list, working with  
6 the Director of Planning. That constrained  
7 list will match up with the money that you  
8 have.

9 So let's just say over a ten-year period  
10 in your regional pot of money, you've got --  
11 you've actually got more than this, but a  
12 billion dollars. The unconstrained list may be  
13 \$2 billion, right, and you've got to constrain  
14 it down to a billion. And then ultimately at  
15 the end of the day, by October 15th of this  
16 fall, the roundtable has to convene together,  
17 and they have to adopt the list.

18 Now, the roundtable can adopt the list  
19 from the executive committee as is, or they can  
20 make amendments and changes.

21 Come on in. This is the McIntosh County  
22 folks.

23 DAN CODY: End of the table down there.  
24 You're on the roundtable.

25 TODD LONG: Everybody was in here but a

1 couple people, so we decided to get some of the  
2 preliminary stuff out of the way. You haven't  
3 missed a vote, except that you're chairman.  
4 I'm just kidding. So you're good.

5 Now are we down to -- are we good?

6 DAN CODY: We're good. The three that  
7 we're missing, we know why they're missing.

8 TODD LONG: Excellent, excellent. Hey,  
9 Joe.

10 Well, we're just going through the bill  
11 and kind of an overview of the bill, so  
12 hopefully you're kind of up to speed on that.  
13 And by the way, this presentation is in your  
14 books somewhere, so you've got it.

15 So the ultimate goal is for this  
16 roundtable to reconvene and approve a list by  
17 October 15th. Now, what's important is  
18 October 15th comes, is you've got to decide --  
19 this body will decide something very important.  
20 Either you go forward with this process or you  
21 don't. So if you decide and vote down the list  
22 and you say, "We're stopping the process, we  
23 don't think this is good, we don't want to  
24 present it to the voters" -- we hope this  
25 doesn't happen, but it may -- next slide --

1           then what it's called is gridlock, and the  
2           process at that point in time stops, and we go  
3           no further, all right. There's no vote by the  
4           public, the process is stopped, and it's  
5           stopped by the roundtable.

6                     Now, I guess your behavior during this  
7           process and the actions that this body takes  
8           does affect another program we have. The way  
9           the bill is written, the LMIG Program, the  
10          Local Maintenance Improvement Grant Program,  
11          which is the former state aid and LARP which  
12          they combined together, and most of y'all know  
13          that we combined those together, the match  
14          requirement on that program, which is a  
15          statewide program, is affected. So the match  
16          requirement is 50 percent if this group -- for  
17          everybody -- now, the match requirement for  
18          every jurisdiction, all 35 cities and ten  
19          counties, will now be 50 percent from that  
20          point forward on the LMIG program if this body  
21          decides to create a gridlock, all right.

22                     Now, next slide. If this body does  
23          approve a project list, then the match  
24          requirement is a little bit different. It  
25          depends on then whether the voters vote for it

1 or not.

2 So let's assume that this body passes a  
3 list, and we present it to the voters in the  
4 summer of 2012, and the voters say yes, then  
5 the match requirement from that point forward  
6 is only ten percent. If the voters say no, the  
7 match requirement is 30 percent.

8 The intent there is even if you vote yes  
9 to get it past the first mark, we know that no  
10 bill will pass the public unless it has pretty  
11 active support from local leaders, and that's  
12 the carrot and stick that the General Assembly  
13 put in the bill.

14 Now, I want to say something right quick.  
15 A lot of people have been very, very concerned  
16 about this match requirement in the bill, and  
17 ACCG and GMA have been talking to us about it,  
18 and it is certainly a carrot and stick, but  
19 just remember, statewide, we only have about 90  
20 to \$100 million budgeted for this program. And  
21 some of y'all know that your share of this pot  
22 of money is not very much in the first place,  
23 so a 50-percent match versus 30-percent match  
24 versus ten-percent match is not a big dollar  
25 amount for some of these smaller jurisdictions.

1           In particular, we're working with ACCG and  
2           GMA on whether soft match, in other words,  
3           engineering work you may do on a project that  
4           you pay for yourself, does that count towards  
5           the match. If some of those come into play,  
6           it's not quite as big a deal as you think, but  
7           it is a carrot and stick trying to get you guys  
8           to cooperate and work with the process.

9           I have to explain this part of the bill  
10          probably more than anything else, but it  
11          obviously was important to the General Assembly  
12          that everybody get on board and push this  
13          forward.

14          And just to let you know, LARP, for years,  
15          has no match, right. Basically, there's a  
16          dollar amount, and that's it. State aid,  
17          however, if you ever build a connector road or  
18          industrial park road, who did the engineering  
19          on those? The county or city. Who bought the  
20          right-of-way? County or city. How much of the  
21          construction did the county or city pay for?  
22          Typically about 50 percent.

23                 JIMMY BURNSED: 50 to 60 percent.

24                 TODD LONG: Probably your investment  
25          before on state aid projects was probably 75 to

1           85 percent match, I would say. So this is  
2           actually better from that regard on your state  
3           aid projects, but certainly not better on the  
4           LARP side.

5           So anyway, I feel comfortable that this  
6           group will get past the October 15th date. I  
7           think y'all can produce a list that's  
8           acceptable, so I'm excited about that.

9           Just quickly, a lot of questions about  
10          this. Who's responsible for project delivery?  
11          Well, ultimately, some body has to be  
12          responsible. In the bill, GDOT is responsible  
13          for making sure that the projects get  
14          delivered. However, we know that we can't do  
15          it alone. The counties that can, that have the  
16          ability to work with us, that are certified to  
17          be able to administer projects, we will work  
18          with them.

19          And for instance, I know Chatham County  
20          and Glynn County, y'all have done projects with  
21          us in the past, and we'll continue to enter  
22          project framework agreements for that to  
23          happen. Some other counties, like Effingham, I  
24          think you guys are trying to get certified now.  
25          Maybe Effingham is certified. Is that right,

1 Ken? Is Effingham certified yet?

2 KEN LEE: Close, not yet.

3 TODD LONG: Okay, close. But you're going  
4 through that process, and we'll probably use  
5 that same process in the future, but we'll need  
6 help, and ultimately, there will be a Web site  
7 published.

8 Next slide. Now, this is something we get  
9 asked about, the public involvement process  
10 through this whole ordeal. Well, according to  
11 the bill, before the vote for the public, there  
12 has to be two public meetings of the public,  
13 and the Executive Committee, technically, the  
14 way the bill's written, calls those. Those  
15 will be called this summer, and those will give  
16 you, as a roundtable, a lot of feedback on what  
17 projects are good and what projects aren't,  
18 maybe, as far as what you put on the ultimate  
19 final list. And you may want to have more than  
20 just the two. At a minimum, two are required.

21 Now, after the vote by this group, there  
22 may be other opportunities for public  
23 involvement to get people educated about the  
24 bill, but that's not written as a requirement,  
25 but the campaign may necessitate you do some of

1           that to get the word out so people will vote in  
2           the way you want them to vote.

3           And ultimately, after the vote is taken by  
4           the public, and the public says yes, there is  
5           then a Citizens Review Panel -- this doesn't  
6           happen until there's a yes vote by the  
7           public -- and that Citizens Review Panel is  
8           actually appointed by the three positions by  
9           the speaker and two by the lieutenant governor.  
10          These are citizens that live in the region that  
11          will be named to this Citizens Review Panel,  
12          and ultimately, they have to produce a report  
13          every year. Basically, they're a third-party  
14          entity, making sure you're spending the money  
15          as you say you're supposed to be spending the  
16          money, a check and balance.

17          And then if you do a good job, and there  
18          continue to be needs in the region, you can  
19          reinitiate the entire process again.  
20          Obviously, the General Assembly has to say yes,  
21          you can, but this body will get together and  
22          decide, hey, do we want to do this again or  
23          not. If the answer's yes, you can go through  
24          this whole process like we're doing here today  
25          again and create a list, etcetera.

1           All right. Now, that's a quick overview  
2           of the bill, and you guys, like I said before,  
3           some of you guys are experts on it, but I will  
4           say this: Every time I read the bill, I learn  
5           something new. There are little twists and  
6           turns in it all the time.

7           The bill's not a perfect bill. Nobody's  
8           ever said it was. Any time you make a bill  
9           like that, you got lots of puts and takes from  
10          different angles, and it doesn't turn out  
11          exactly like everybody wants, but we have a  
12          bill that I've looked at it enough now and  
13          talked to enough people that I really feel like  
14          we can take it together and make it work.

15          Now, is it perfect? Is it going to solve  
16          all our problems? No. But yes, it's something  
17          we can work with and get past and ultimately  
18          get revenue for the region.

19          Now, I'm going to back up and see if there  
20          are any questions about the bill itself.

21          JOHN MCIVER: I have a question, Mr. Long.

22          TODD LONG: Yes, Chairman.

23          JOHN MCIVER: On the gridlock, as you  
24          called it, what is the description of gridlock?  
25          Is it a vote where the roundtable can't come to

1 a conclusion on the project list? Is it now a  
2 vote around that roundtable vote?

3 TODD LONG: That's right. The way the  
4 bill is written, a majority of the roundtable  
5 has to pass an affirmative on the list. So in  
6 other words, if y'all get to a final point  
7 where you're negotiating what's on the final  
8 list, there could be amendments, projects taken  
9 off and put on, but when it finally comes down  
10 to say this is the list of projects, you do a  
11 yes/no vote. In this case, ten votes is all  
12 you have, in other words, it's not a majority,  
13 then that would be considered gridlock, ten  
14 votes or less.

15 That's a good question, though.

16 So when you're adding and changing your  
17 projects out, you've got to make sure -- we've  
18 got to be following that pretty closely that  
19 this is not the final or that we had to make  
20 sure the final vote is where we're at.

21 Yes?

22 SONNY TIMMERMAN: Todd, as the roundtable  
23 considers addition or deletion of projects,  
24 they have to come from the unconstrained list.  
25 Is that correct?

1           TODD LONG: Yeah. That's a good point,  
2           Sonny. The way the bill is written, we've  
3           developed this unconstrained list. It is the  
4           big bucket of projects. And then at that  
5           point, once that bucket is established, that's  
6           the bucket you work out of.

7           So in other words, if you get in here in  
8           October, and the chairman from Liberty County  
9           says, "I don't like the projects you have on  
10          here, I want to add a different project," he  
11          can't go pull a project out of the blue that's  
12          not on that unconstrained list. He's got to  
13          pull something from the unconstrained bucket.  
14          Good point.

15          You guys understand the bill? That's  
16          great.

17          We have questions from the audience.  
18          That's fine. Listen, when we get to our  
19          guidelines on the meeting in a moment, we'll  
20          talk about whether the chairman desires to  
21          recognize people from the crowd or not. I have  
22          no problem doing it now, if nobody objects to  
23          it, because I know him, so I think he's not  
24          going to sideswipe me here.

25          AUDIENCE MEMBER: I didn't know we

1           couldn't ask questions. I will postpone.  
2           Thank you.

3           TODD LONG: It'll be up to the committee  
4           and the round chairman how they decide to deal  
5           with the public, because ultimately, y'all may  
6           decide to have a public comment period at the  
7           beginning of every meeting, because y'all are  
8           an official body that's forming for this  
9           purpose and spelled out in the law.

10           So we're going to go over guidelines of  
11           how we run -- chairman? I'm sorry.

12           PETE LIAKAKIS: If in the ten counties we  
13           don't get it passed, say like we don't get it  
14           passed in our county or some of the other  
15           counties don't, and we come to that situation  
16           on that, that's when we run into that 24-month  
17           deal?

18           TODD LONG: Yeah. If the voters reject  
19           it -- excuse me, wait. If you, as a  
20           roundtable, create gridlock, you can restart  
21           the process 24 months later. All right. So  
22           let's think about that. Say y'all got ten  
23           votes, right, it was a gridlock, and there was  
24           a lot of consternation, gosh, other regions are  
25           passing it, and you feel like you're getting

1 left in the dust because everybody else is  
2 moving forward and you're not, you've got to  
3 wait 24 months before you can reconstitute a  
4 vote.

5 PETE LIAKAKIS: So not to have all those  
6 penalties, that means that all of us on the  
7 roundtable and the others that are in our  
8 cities and counties, we have to work really  
9 hard to make sure we get this one-percent  
10 transportation tax passed, or we're just going  
11 to be in penalty mode, to whatever degree it  
12 might be.

13 And some might not know it, but I guess  
14 maybe everybody knows that we cannot use any  
15 county or city money to promote this one-cent  
16 sales tax, but we can speak out for it, and so  
17 that's why we've got to work really hard  
18 together and come up -- and it might be a  
19 suggestion that we come up with a good plan to  
20 show the citizens how advantageous it is and  
21 how -- and that might depend on how successful  
22 it's going to be, because if we don't work  
23 together and put a plan together on that and it  
24 fails in a number of cities and counties, then  
25 we're going to have that big problem that we've

1           got, and so that's why if we could come  
2           together and put a plan what we'll do in each  
3           city and county so that we can -- so it'll be  
4           successful.

5           TODD LONG: Well, the campaign efforts --  
6           obviously, he's right. I can't campaign in my  
7           position, but there is a pretty big group on a  
8           statewide basis -- remember, the vote for this  
9           region's going to be the same as the vote for  
10          all the other regions.

11          Atlanta has made a huge effort. They're  
12          meeting every month, their campaign folks.  
13          They've got about 12 different groups that are  
14          really pushing through on the campaign. But  
15          outside of Atlanta, the Georgia Chamber and  
16          others, ACCG and GMA, are going to be working  
17          hand in hand to kind of create a kind of a  
18          cohesive statewide approach, but in every  
19          region, there are going to need to be  
20          champions, and that activity really hasn't  
21          started to really, in my opinion, gel yet.  
22          We're going to need champions and campaign  
23          efforts in every region.

24          Theoretically, the campaign is not going  
25          to start until after October of this year, but

1 I think that group probably does need to start  
2 getting together pretty quickly, and so  
3 every -- all the chambers -- you know, there  
4 are other chambers here that -- y'all have been  
5 talking amongst yourselves, and obviously,  
6 there needs to be kind of a coordinated effort  
7 among the 12 chambers that are here in this  
8 region. I'm assuming there are 12. There  
9 might be more, may have a couple of them, side  
10 chambers. But there's a great opportunity to  
11 pull together as a region to campaign on this  
12 effort. Good point.

13 KEN SMITH: In the event this does pass,  
14 this money collected that would go to the state  
15 and comes back to the region, is that the way  
16 it is? Okay. Once it goes to the state, how  
17 long it's held, I don't know. How long -- do  
18 you know a period, time period, that it will be  
19 held? If it's held in a time period, what  
20 happens to the interest from that money that's  
21 held there, I mean, how it benefits from that?

22 TODD LONG: All good questions. Some of  
23 y'all know that your sales tax now, local sales  
24 tax, goes and gets collected, and there's  
25 actually an administration fee, right. Well,

1           this bill actually spells out clearly that  
2           there is no administration fee. That answers  
3           one of your concerns, I think.

4           The other concern is what is the payback  
5           back on the money. Now, the discretionary  
6           money that's split up, it's not spelled out how  
7           often, but we think that working through the  
8           Department of Revenue, there will be a kickback  
9           back to the cities and counties on a real  
10          frequent basis. Whether it's monthly or  
11          quarterly, I can't answer that question.  
12          That's the money coming back to the cities and  
13          counties by formula.

14          The roundtable money, the regional money,  
15          will ultimately be held by an organization  
16          called GSIFC, Georgia State Investment and  
17          Finance Commission, all right. And what  
18          they'll do, they'll hold that money, and as  
19          phases of work are needed, GDOT will request  
20          those funds from them to fund that phase of the  
21          project, whether it's engineering,  
22          right-of-way, or construction, all right. Are  
23          you following me? So on the discretionary  
24          money side, that will be coming back to the  
25          counties and cities on a real rapid-fire basis.

1           And I'll ask the ACCG. That's your  
2 understanding, too, isn't it, David?

3           DAVE WILLIS: Yes.

4           TODD LONG: But the regional money will be  
5 sitting in an account that GSIFC, it's known  
6 as, those are the same guys who build your  
7 small technical schools. You might be familiar  
8 with them. When we sell bonds, GO bonds for  
9 road projects, it goes through GSIFC, so  
10 they're our bonding arm of the executive branch  
11 of government. But they will just hold the  
12 money, and as money's needed for a phase,  
13 they'll release it.

14           Now, if there's interest, that's a  
15 question that I don't think has been answered  
16 yet in the bill.

17           PETE LIAKAKIS: And that's really  
18 important, because instead of them, either one  
19 of those agencies, Department of Revenue or the  
20 other agency, is that interest rate can go  
21 really, really high, in the millions of  
22 dollars, you know, it could get into that  
23 money, and we need to make sure, Todd, that  
24 that money's coming in to every county along  
25 with -- added into the regular money that's

1 going to be disbursed.

2 TODD LONG: Well, the money that's  
3 certainly on the regional side, we will make a  
4 very strong effort that any interest earned  
5 should go back to our program, okay. I can  
6 assure you of that.

7 KEN SMITH: That could be a valid selling  
8 point for getting this project off the ground.  
9 The taxpayer citizens know that, and they may  
10 be more prone to accept something like that,  
11 but if they think that, yeah, it's going to be  
12 kept, given up to the state up in the Big Apple  
13 somewhere, then they're going to be sort of  
14 finicky about that, so just passing that on,  
15 you know.

16 TODD LONG: That's a good point, but I  
17 know that discretionary money, the way it's  
18 written, it's got to come right back. It's  
19 collected and has to go back.

20 But the roundtable -- the regional money  
21 needs to stay somewhere because you need it for  
22 a phase. You may have to collect a little bit  
23 to have enough money to phase construction.  
24 You know what I'm saying? You can't just --  
25 there's nobody to release it to, so it's got to

1           be collecting -- it's going to collect some  
2           interest. And great. I'm glad it is  
3           collecting interest, and hopefully, we'll be  
4           able to use that, so very important.

5           Any other questions about the bill?

6           Okay. What I'd like to do now is talk  
7           about how these meetings should be run, your  
8           roundtable meetings, your executive committee  
9           meetings, and we've asked -- actually, I've got  
10          12 of these around the state, and Inga Kennedy  
11          has been helping us with about half of them,  
12          and she's going to come up here and help us  
13          facilitate through this process.

14          Inga Kennedy's got a small firm in the  
15          Atlanta area, but she has been doing work all  
16          over the state and has been in transportation  
17          for years and years and years and is going to  
18          help us facilitate this process right quick.

19          INGA KENNEDY: Okay, Todd. Thank you.  
20          Thank you so much. Good afternoon to everyone.

21          And before we get started, we did begin a  
22          little early, and we jumped ahead of some  
23          administrative things that we needed to do.  
24          Now, there's always admin things to do, so  
25          we're going to jump back to our admin just a

1           little bit before we get to our roundtable  
2           guidelines.

3           A couple of things, please. I'm going to  
4           pass around two sign-in sheets, one for those  
5           of you who are nonmembers and visitors for us  
6           or with us, and the other one I'm going to pass  
7           around to the roundtable, if you will check  
8           your names off, please. If you will sign in  
9           here, so we'll have a very good record of  
10          attendance today.

11          And James, I'm going to use you as a  
12          person who's going to collect everything.  
13          James, hold up your hand. If those of you who  
14          are signing in here will give that sign-in  
15          ultimate sheet to James Davis.

16          And then I'm going to ask our roundtable  
17          members just to check your name off as  
18          attendants here today, just the roundtable  
19          members. If any information has changed  
20          over -- Colletta, let's see. When was the last  
21          time you communicated with them, a little --  
22          maybe a week or so ago.

23          COLLETTA HARPER: Just last week.

24          INGA KENNEDY: I assume nothing's changed  
25          in a week's time, so if you'll just check your

1 name off for attendance, that would be great.

2 All of you should have also received the  
3 roundtable members notebook. It contains some  
4 of the detail information that Todd discussed  
5 today, as well as a list of other roundtable  
6 members, a list of scheduling of meetings, and  
7 general information. Please remember, as you  
8 move through the year, to bring that notebook  
9 back with you. Also, you can always refer to  
10 the information that's in it, in case there's  
11 some confusion that comes up along the way.  
12 But that's your notebook, your reference  
13 notebook for this process, and we will go from  
14 there.

15 Now, for those of you who are visiting,  
16 there aren't notebooks for you, but there are  
17 hand-outs. James, I think you passed out a  
18 couple of things, the presentation for today.  
19 There is a public comment form, so if anyone  
20 wants to provide written comments, and we'll  
21 talk about other methods of providing comment  
22 during our roundtable meetings, but if you'd  
23 like to provide written comment, there is a  
24 form to do so, and James will take that from  
25 you at the end of the meeting as well. And in

1 addition, there is an agenda, so you can follow  
2 along with what we're doing today. Those are  
3 the handouts for the public, and I'm assuming  
4 everyone has received copies of everything.

5 So roundtable members, you should have  
6 notebooks. Everyone else should have those  
7 three handouts: The presentation, comment  
8 form, and agenda for today.

9 The third thing is just a reminder for our  
10 roundtable members, we do have a court reporter  
11 who is capturing our discussion. It's very,  
12 very important that you speak up, so she can  
13 hear you, and if you will state your name  
14 before you start making your comment, that  
15 would be helpful, although she has some  
16 assistance there, but it always helps to state  
17 your name before you make a comment.

18 And those are the administrative things.  
19 We'll go into the discussion of the roundtable  
20 guidelines that will talk about how you conduct  
21 your meetings over the next several months.

22 These are recommended guidelines in terms  
23 of a meeting format and how you conduct the  
24 meeting. I'm assuming that most of you conduct  
25 your normal county and municipal meetings using

1 the Robert's Rules of Order. That's typically  
2 the way most meetings are conducted.

3 The next thing is that we suggest or there  
4 is recommended that a chairperson be elected  
5 for the roundtable. We'll come back to that  
6 discussion.

7 There is also recommended that an  
8 executive committee be selected by a majority  
9 vote. We'll come back to that.

10 Also, all voting members must be  
11 physically present to vote. That's typically  
12 the way I assume you also conduct your  
13 regularly-scheduled meetings, and we suggest  
14 that you use that format as well.

15 However, is there anyone here who is a  
16 proxy, who is sitting in for someone? We have  
17 a sign-in sheet for you too. If you'll sign  
18 that in. That's very important, because that  
19 person is taking information back to the person  
20 that he or she is representing.

21 However, proxies may not be permitted to  
22 vote, and we can open that up for discussion,  
23 so a lot of -- some of the roundtables are  
24 allowing, of course, the proxies to participate  
25 in discussions, but not vote for that person

1           that they are representing.

2                   And then all meetings are open to the  
3 public. Obviously, we have far more members of  
4 the public here than the roundtable, and that's  
5 a real good thing, because it's important for  
6 the public to be aware and understand what's  
7 happening, but we do want to have a discussion  
8 about how you allow the public to participate.  
9 There will always be that comment form at all  
10 of your meetings. Some of the roundtables are  
11 allowing, say, a ten-minute opportunity on the  
12 front end of a meeting for the public to  
13 provide verbal comments, but we want to open  
14 that up to your decision and discussion, and so  
15 these are some of the guidelines that are  
16 recommended in terms of how these meetings  
17 should flow.

18                   Are there any discussions about any of  
19 these issues? I do want you to make sure that  
20 you're clear as you go through in terms of what  
21 you're doing and how you're doing it and that  
22 you're comfortable with the decisions that  
23 you're making and the formats that you're  
24 using. I think all voting members being  
25 present is one issue.

1           Yes, Ms. Harper.

2           COLLETTA HARPER: William Miller needs to  
3           sign the proxy sheet too. He's for Long  
4           County.

5           INGA KENNEDY: Mr. Miller, can you come  
6           over? That would be helpful for us. Are you  
7           here for someone? Yes. Can you come over,  
8           please? No. Can you join us at the table? It  
9           would be helpful.

10          So are there any discussions about -- and  
11          we'll get to the election of a chair and an  
12          executive committee. I'm assuming that you all  
13          are in agreement with those two opportunities  
14          or those two processes. Are you in agreement  
15          with all voting members having to be physically  
16          present to vote? I think that's what you  
17          normally do in your meetings as well.

18          Proxies not being permitted to vote, any  
19          discussion on that issue?

20          And all meetings are open to the public,  
21          that's obvious, but do you have any preference  
22          or choices in terms of how you'd like or  
23          whether you'd like for the public to provide  
24          verbal comment during these meetings?

25          Any discussion?

1 All right. So everyone's clear with the  
2 guidelines through -- we'd like to have a vote  
3 of approval. May I have a motion to approve?

4 JIMMY BURNSSED: So moved.

5 PETE LIAKAKIS: Second.

6 JIMMY BURNSSED: Jimmy Burnsed made the  
7 motion.

8 KEN SMITH: We have a second, Mayor Ken  
9 Smith.

10 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. It's been moved and  
11 properly seconded that we accepted the  
12 guidelines. Is there any discussion relative  
13 to the guidelines?

14 BRYAN THOMPSON: I'm not clear if we've  
15 decided -- I don't think we have -- whether the  
16 public can comment.

17 INGA KENNEDY: Yeah, that's right. That's  
18 right.

19 BRYAN THOMPSON: I think we do need to do  
20 that. Some of the other regional meetings I've  
21 been at, they can comment at the front, they  
22 can comment at the back. Both is fine. Just  
23 in terms of being able to stay with the agenda  
24 that we'll have for each meeting, I would  
25 certainly not like to discourage public

1 comment, but would like to limit it to either  
2 the front of the meeting, the end of the  
3 meeting, or even both.

4 PETE LIAKAKIS: And then one of the other  
5 things, too, is the time element on it, because  
6 you get -- some people can take a long time,  
7 you know, go into a lot of things, and all of  
8 us have been in meetings where it's on a  
9 particular subject, and that individual is  
10 talking about things that are not pertaining to  
11 the issue.

12 KEN SMITH: And do we allow it to go tit  
13 for tat back and forth and allow the meeting to  
14 get out of sync.

15 INGA KENNEDY: And just as you've  
16 mentioned, some of the other roundtables have  
17 agreed to a ten-minute time frame total, not  
18 ten minutes apiece, a person, but ten-minute  
19 total time frame on the front end or the back  
20 end, and then let that be the limit of the  
21 verbal discussions, with the understanding that  
22 the comment forms are always filled.

23 GARRETT NEVIL: I make a motion that we  
24 follow the same with a public discussion  
25 allowed for ten minutes at the beginning of the

1 meeting, allowing two minutes per person to  
2 speak. If there are more than five persons to  
3 speak, they may submit their comments in  
4 writing.

5 MARGARET EVANS: I second that.

6 INGA KENNEDY: It's been moved and  
7 properly seconded that this group will approve  
8 a ten-minute total of public comment  
9 opportunity on the front end, with no more  
10 than -- with more than five persons. If there  
11 are more than five persons, then it moves to  
12 the public -- to the comment form. Is that  
13 correct? Do I have that correct?

14 GARRETT NEVIL: That's correct.

15 INGA KENNEDY: So we have two motions and  
16 a second motion. I think we -- let me go back.  
17 We didn't approve the first motion to accept  
18 the guidelines. We're changing the guidelines.  
19 We're going to amend the guidelines to add the  
20 ten-minute discussion on the front end and with  
21 more than five persons speaking, we'll move to  
22 the comment form.

23 GARRETT NEVIL: Do it in writing.

24 INGA KENNEDY: And do it in writing,  
25 that's right.

1 All in favor, a show of hands, please.

2 Those opposed?

3 It's been approved that we adopt the  
4 guidelines with an amendment that says that ten  
5 minutes prior to the official agenda, the  
6 public will be allowed to comment for ten  
7 minutes and then always have the comment form.

8 Okay, all right. So those are the  
9 guidelines. Any further discussion on that?

10 JIMMY BURNSED: Do those guidelines apply  
11 to the executive committee meetings as well?

12 INGA KENNEDY: Yes, they could. Now, when  
13 you elect your committee and chairperson, you  
14 can elect to and determine to change those, but  
15 yes, those are general guidelines.

16 Go ahead, Todd.

17 TODD LONG: Most everybody's applying to  
18 their executive committee as well. They  
19 consider the executive committee a  
20 subcommittee, just like you would any kind of  
21 thing in a county, so they push it down to that  
22 lower level.

23 INGA KENNEDY: Right, that's right. Of  
24 course with the executive committee being a  
25 smaller group of people, you definitely want

1           them to be physically present. You probably  
2           don't want proxies voting for the executive  
3           committee, and so on. So yes, they've applied  
4           them. But you can have that discussion when  
5           you get into your first executive committee.

6           Any further discussion on the guidelines?

7           MIKE LAMB: I have a question. I don't  
8           know if it's guidelines.

9           INGA KENNEDY: Yes, sir. Tell me your  
10          name.

11          MIKE LAMB: Mike Lamb.

12          INGA KENNEDY: Okay, Mike Lamb.

13          MIKE LAMB: And one is I know it's  
14          probably hard to do it, but we called it the  
15          roundtable, and we're not quite in the  
16          roundtable. My question, is there some way --  
17          and I don't know if this is the part where you  
18          do it at -- where we can sit where we see each  
19          other a little better?

20          INGA KENNEDY: Yes, yes.

21          MIKE LAMB: I got people behind me, you  
22          know, and things like that. I'm just asking  
23          that question. That may not be right here, but  
24          at some point when we meet where we could all  
25          see each other.

1           INGA KENNEDY: Absolutely, absolutely.  
2           We'll make sure that that happens. I think  
3           that's valid. I think it's a valid question,  
4           because I have to make sure that I get down  
5           here as well. It may not be round, but at  
6           least you want to be able to see each other. I  
7           agree with that.

8           Okay, all right. So then let's go to our  
9           next action item, and that's the election of a  
10          roundtable chairperson.

11          Wade, if you'll hit that for me, and I'll  
12          talk about what that person's responsibilities  
13          will be.

14          So then the chairperson is responsible for  
15          conducting the roundtable meetings and calling  
16          the meetings, if necessary, and just moving the  
17          process forward. Many of you are chairpersons  
18          anyway, so you know what a chairperson's roles  
19          and responsibilities are.

20          Before I call for nominations, we always  
21          like to ask if there is anyone who is not  
22          interested in being considered for that role or  
23          considered in that role. Is there anyone who  
24          is not interested in being considered for that  
25          role?

1           Well, that's good. In some of our own  
2 roundtables, a lot of people backed out, so  
3 that's real good. No, just kidding. That  
4 means we have good leaders, good leadership.

5           Yes, sir?

6           JIMMY BURNSED: Is that chairman a member  
7 of the executive committee as well?

8           INGA KENNEDY: That person is only the  
9 chair of the full roundtable. Now, you can  
10 make that determination when we get to that  
11 point to elect the executive committee and add  
12 the chairperson, but independent and separate  
13 from the executive committee, the chairperson  
14 is the chair of the roundtable.

15           So then do we have any nominations for  
16 roundtable chair?

17           JOHN MCIVER: I wish to nominate  
18 Commissioner Jimmy Burnsed.

19           HAROLD FOWLER: And I will second that.

20           INGA KENNEDY: Any other nominations? Any  
21 other nominations?

22           JOHN MCIVER: I move for a close of the  
23 nominations.

24           INGA KENNEDY: So we have one nomination,  
25 and then we have a motion to close the

1 nomination. Do I have a second?

2 DAVID RAINER: I second it.

3 INGA KENNEDY: All in favor of closing the  
4 motion for nominations for the chair, please  
5 raise your hands.

6 All opposed?

7 You know what, I'm going to do this  
8 because we're supposed to do this, but all in  
9 favor of Jimmy Burnsed being the chair of the  
10 regional roundtable, please raise your hands.

11 Those opposed?

12 Okay. It's been unanimously voted on that  
13 Jimmy Burnsed will be the chair of the regional  
14 roundtable.

15 And if you'll join me up here,  
16 chairperson, please. We're ready to put you to  
17 work now.

18 JIMMY BURNSED: Do I need my book?

19 INGA KENNEDY: No, you don't need your  
20 book. I'll help you this time. Come on up.

21 And let's give our person a hand.

22 (Applause.)

23 INGA KENNEDY: This person's role is very,  
24 very important, and we look forward to your  
25 cooperating with him in his role as

1 chairperson.

2 JIMMY BURNS: Let me say one thing.

3 INGA KENNEDY: Sure.

4 JIMMY BURNS: I accept your nomination  
5 and election on one condition, that we will not  
6 have gridlock.

7 GARRETT NEVIL: You got it.

8 INGA KENNEDY: All right. you heard that  
9 now. He put that before you. So good.  
10 Congratulations.

11 All right. So the next thing, the next  
12 action item, is the election of an executive  
13 committee.

14 And let's talk a little bit about what  
15 that executive committee's roles and  
16 responsibilities will be. As Todd mentioned to  
17 you earlier, the responsibility, you're  
18 responsible for developing a constrained draft  
19 investment list, in collaboration with the  
20 planning director, with Todd.

21 The executive committee must consist of  
22 five voting members from the roundtable, two  
23 state representatives. And Todd talked about  
24 those two state representatives early today,  
25 one, Jon Burns and Ann Purcell. They are not

1 with us today, but they will be a part of the  
2 executive committee with nonvoting powers, and  
3 then a senate representative who will also be a  
4 nonvoting member, to be determined at a later  
5 date.

6 You are also responsible for holding  
7 public meetings. That's the responsibility of  
8 the executive committee.

9 And again, I'm going to ask the same  
10 question before we ask -- before we call for  
11 nominations.

12 And Allen, I'm going to look at you and  
13 Colletta. I think there might have been some  
14 discussion on the front end about an executive  
15 committee.

16 But before we move there, let's ask again,  
17 is there anyone who wants to remove themselves  
18 for consideration for membership in the  
19 executive committee?

20 Okay, all right. No hands.

21 So then is there a nomination process that  
22 has taken place? I'll ask the person who --

23 DAN CODY: Yes. There was an unofficial  
24 nominating committee appointed, and Chairman  
25 McIver will give that report.

1           INGA KENNEDY: Okay, all right.

2           JOHN MCIVER: I'm going to probably stand  
3 right here, if y'all will allow me to.

4           At the last CRC meeting, we had an  
5 unofficial meeting of the roundtable. At that  
6 meeting, we appointed a nominating committee  
7 which consisted of Commissioner Robert Walker,  
8 from Long County, and Howard Glenn, from Glynn  
9 County, along with myself, John McIver, from  
10 Liberty County. We met on December the 20th to  
11 consider the nomination to present back to this  
12 board today.

13           We are nominating these individuals in  
14 these capacities representing the three MPOs in  
15 our region, along with two other rural counties  
16 within the region, and Mr. Fowler.

17           So the committee makes this  
18 recommendation: We are recommending that we  
19 have Commissioner Chair Pete Liakakis from  
20 Chatham County, Chairman John McIver from  
21 Liberty County, Chairman Tom Sublett from Glynn  
22 County, Mayor Margaret Evans from the City of  
23 Sylvania, Mayor Ken Smith from the City of  
24 Kingsland. Those are the five.

25           INGA KENNEDY: The fourth one, say again.

1 JOHN MCIVER: Mayor Ken Smith.

2 INGA KENNEDY: Margaret --

3 JOHN MCIVER: Evans. From Kingsland,  
4 Georgia. Those are the nominations.

5 INGA KENNEDY: Say the last one. So you  
6 have five?

7 JOHN MCIVER: Five.

8 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. I want to make sure  
9 that we're capturing that.

10 JOHN MCIVER: And those are our  
11 recommendations to the roundtable as nominees  
12 for the executive committee.

13 INGA KENNEDY: Okay. And Mr. Chairperson,  
14 I'm going to ask you to call for the vote at  
15 this time. Obviously, there has been some  
16 prediscussion regarding the executive committee  
17 makeup, and the nominating committee has  
18 brought to the table, to the roundtable, a list  
19 of nominees, and I'm going to ask you to lead  
20 that discussion.

21 HAROLD FOWLER: Could I ask a question  
22 first?

23 INGA KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

24 HAROLD FOWLER: You had mentioned about  
25 the chairman could also serve on this

1           committee. Is that correct? You said the  
2           chairman --

3           INGA KENNEDY: Yes. That's totally up to  
4           the roundtable who serves on the committee.

5           HAROLD FOWLER: Could I add that as part  
6           of your motion, or do you need that --

7           JIMMY BURNSED: I think it calls for five  
8           only.

9           HAROLD FOWLER: Could you have five plus a  
10          chairman, or is it --

11          TODD LONG: I can answer that. The bill  
12          does call for five members, and it depends on  
13          where you're at, the flavor of the day, but how  
14          the chairman -- overall chairman of the  
15          roundtable interacts with the executive  
16          committee has been subject for debate. They  
17          can come to the meetings anyway and  
18          participate, but not be a voting member, or  
19          several RCs have actually let their chairman of  
20          the overall roundtable serve as a nonvoting  
21          chairman of the executive committee as well.  
22          And you can do it 100 different ways. It  
23          really doesn't matter to me.

24          HAROLD FOWLER: Could I add that, then, as  
25          part of the nonvoting chairman? I'll make that

1 in the form of a motion.

2 JIMMY BURNSSED: I guess we need to take  
3 this motion first.

4 INGA KENNEDY: Yes.

5 JIMMY BURNSSED: So Mayor Fowler has  
6 requested that the chairman of the roundtable  
7 be a nonvoting member of the executive  
8 committee.

9 HAROLD FOWLER: Chairman, nonvoting  
10 chairman.

11 JIMMY BURNSSED: Nonvoting chairman, okay.  
12 One chairman's enough, isn't it?

13 KEN LEE: I second that.

14 JIMMY BURNSSED: We have a motion and a  
15 second.

16 Do we have any discussion?

17 INGA KENNEDY: Any further discussion on  
18 the makeup of the executive committee?

19 MIKE LAMB: I do have another question,  
20 and I don't know the regions and all. I just  
21 want to make sure I get a general idea, and I  
22 think we've done that in the mix, and we'd like  
23 to continue this, we don't have two people from  
24 the representing area on the committee, and I  
25 don't think we have that, do we?

1           INGA KENNEDY: Chairman McIver, I think  
2           that's what you discussed on the front end of  
3           providing your names is that you have looked at  
4           the regions respectively, at the MPOs.

5           JOHN MCIVER: Yes.

6           JIMMY BURNSD: We're ready to vote on  
7           Mayor Fowler's motion. All in favor of that,  
8           please signify by raising your right hand.

9           All right, thank you. Any opposed?

10          That motion carries.

11          Now, as far as the nominations to the  
12          executive committee.

13          INGA KENNEDY: Let's add your name as a  
14          nonvoting member, as a nonvoting chairman.

15          JIMMY BURNSD: Any further discussion?

16          JOHN MCIVER: Not on that. I would move  
17          to close this nomination.

18          JIMMY BURNSD: We have a motion to close  
19          the nomination. Do we have a second?

20          KEN SMITH: Second.

21          JIMMY BURNSD: The nominations are  
22          closed, and we have to vote on that motion.  
23          All in favor, please signify by raising your  
24          right hand.

25          Any opposed?



1 back and approve some criteria. Thank you so  
2 much.

3 TODD LONG: Very good. The criteria. Let  
4 me start off by saying the criteria, like I  
5 said before, is a lamp post, a compass, for  
6 this group to use, along with me, developing  
7 the unconstrained list in the very beginning,  
8 and then from that we can go through this  
9 constrained list.

10 But you've got to have a guide. If you  
11 are developing a sales tax list for your own  
12 county, you wouldn't go into it blind, right.  
13 If you're doing a sales tax in Chatham County,  
14 you know you got some projects for parks and  
15 recs, you're going to have some projects for --  
16 some jail projects, maybe, you may have some  
17 libraries mixed in there, some road projects.  
18 You come into it with a scheme, a thought  
19 process, behind how you're going to divide the  
20 money up. That's exactly what this criteria  
21 is. It gives you guys and it gives me guidance  
22 needed to kind of step forward through the  
23 process.

24 So as we develop the criteria, we had to  
25 use something as a base. So stepping back from

1           where we're at today on the top end, step back  
2           all the way to a couple, three years ago, when  
3           we developed IT3, which is a program really to  
4           lay out and say, listen, making a business case  
5           on why do we need to be here. The reason we're  
6           here today is because -- what reason? You say  
7           lack of funds. Well, actually, the reason  
8           we're here today is all about jobs. If you  
9           want to bring jobs to Georgia, if you want to  
10          create jobs, retain jobs in Georgia, you've got  
11          to make an investment in infrastructure.

12                 And notice I say infrastructure. You guys  
13          know it's not just about roads and bridges; it  
14          could be about parks and libraries too. That's  
15          what you do in your county. You're doing the  
16          same thing. You're doing it all for providing  
17          services and creating a situation where people  
18          want to come here and live.

19                 But in this case, we're here today for  
20          transportation. Lots of studies have been done  
21          all across the country. Georgia's no  
22          different. If you invest in transportation  
23          infrastructure, jobs will come.

24                 We hired a group called McKenzie & Company  
25          that does a lot of work for Fortune 500

1 companies all across the country, and they told  
2 us what we already knew, but they told us in a  
3 way that put it in a perspective that I really  
4 hadn't thought of before.

5 For every dollar you invest, there's going  
6 to be a rate of return, right. Well, if you  
7 invest at this level we're talking about on a  
8 statewide basis and take our regular money we  
9 have now, plus this money, you could be talking  
10 about, over a 20-year period, over 400,000  
11 additional jobs for the state. That's a lot of  
12 jobs.

13 And you're sitting right here in a  
14 beautiful spot right here in Coastal Georgia.  
15 You've got a great port. You've got two  
16 freeways right here in this coastal region, one  
17 going west and up to the north and one going  
18 north and south. You're in a prime position to  
19 really garner a lot of growth from the  
20 development that could come along this coast.

21 As you know, our funding mechanisms we  
22 have today haven't worked. The reason we're  
23 here talking about a regional sales tax is  
24 because what's worked in the past is not going  
25 to work in the future, and that's the gas tax.

1           You guys know that all of our infrastructure  
2           money for transportation right now essentially  
3           comes from three sources: It comes from a  
4           state gas tax, a federal gas tax, and from  
5           local money, right.

6           You guys know what you're putting towards  
7           transportation. Actually, when you combine all  
8           the local governments together, it's quite a  
9           bit of money to transportation.

10          But those three sources have served us  
11          well. We've been able to meet the needs in  
12          Georgia for the last 50, 60 years, but the last  
13          ten or 20, we really haven't made major  
14          investments in our infrastructure across this  
15          state. So we've got a great port, we've got a  
16          great airport in Atlanta, we've got a solid  
17          freeway system, but we just need to make an  
18          additional investment to get us over the hump.

19          Now, the gas tax, a great tax. There's  
20          nobody arguing. It's a great user tax, and  
21          whoever uses it the most pays the most, right,  
22          but the problem is the inequity of the gas tax  
23          in the coming years. What's going to happen is  
24          you guys are not buying Suburbans anymore;  
25          you're buying more fuel efficient cars.

1           I give this example at all the RCs I go  
2           to. And Trent and I have driven Silverados our  
3           whole life, and this spring, I bought my dad's  
4           Toyota. Well, I got 16 miles per gallon in  
5           April. Now I get 24 or better now, right. I  
6           drive the same amount of miles, but my personal  
7           contribution to transportation and  
8           infrastructure just went down 33 percent  
9           overnight.

10           And y'all can see that story being played  
11           out all over this country, and if you read the  
12           newspaper and read the stories out of  
13           Washington, the cafe standards they're talking  
14           about, which is fuel efficiency of the fleet,  
15           is going up and up and up.

16           And in fact, the fleet in America gets  
17           about 20 miles per gallon. Well, they're  
18           talking about by 2016, the new fleet gets  
19           35 miles per gallon, and some people are saying  
20           by 2020, we're going to be over 40 miles per  
21           gallon. If we don't drive more as a country,  
22           more miles, if we drive about the same amount  
23           of miles or even slightly going up, guess  
24           what's going to happen? Ten years from now, we  
25           may have less money for transportation than we

1           have today on the gas tax.

2           So a lot of folks say, well, raise the gas  
3 tax. Well, for whatever reason, raising the  
4 gas tax in this country has been sort of a  
5 dirty word, and nobody in Washington's  
6 clamoring to do that. You talk to the folks  
7 that are on the House and Senate groups that  
8 deal with the funding bills, nobody's talking  
9 about raising the gas tax. On the state side,  
10 they decided they didn't want to raise the gas  
11 tax. You really could go through a lot of  
12 blood, sweat, and tears raising the gas tax a  
13 nickel or a dime a gallon, and only to find out  
14 ten years later that nickel or dime is  
15 basically gone, due to inflation and due to gas  
16 mileage increases. So the sales tax was the  
17 way everybody decided to go.

18           So using this premise down here of the  
19 business case for transportation and  
20 infrastructure, we created Senate Bill 200,  
21 which actually created the position that I'm in  
22 today, and it laid out a lot of reporting from  
23 GDOT and some correction with the structure of  
24 how we're arranged, and then ultimately, the  
25 statewide strategic transportation plan was

1 developed out of Senate Bill 200 and passed  
2 this June. It's a high-level document that  
3 basically lays out goals and objectives, and  
4 ultimately we're here today developing criteria  
5 that's based on all this past that we've done  
6 the last two or three years.

7 Next slide. All right. So these are your  
8 goals and objectives. Any kind of sales tax,  
9 you better have some goals and objectives, and  
10 your basic goals are real simple. Like I said  
11 before, it's all about jobs, right, supporting  
12 economic growth and competitiveness; number  
13 two, safety's got to be up there real high on  
14 the list; three, you got to maximize the value  
15 of what you have in place today -- that may  
16 mean for you guys taking better care of what  
17 you have today, right; fourth, minimize the  
18 impact on the environment.

19 So those four tenets really are going to  
20 be the basis of how we make our decisions in  
21 regards to our regular federal aid program and  
22 which I recommend that this roundtable  
23 ultimately adopt is their tenets for investment  
24 in projects here regionally.

25 Outcomes. Guys, these outcomes would be

1 applicable to, I believe, any sales tax that  
2 you do. I bet you money, if you laid out your  
3 SPLOST program today, you went back and looked,  
4 you want to be able to achieve the best value for  
5 your taxpayers, that was a given, right, you  
6 want to be able to deliver your projects on time  
7 and on budget, and last, but not least, with  
8 the sales tax, you got to have public appeal  
9 and public acceptance of those projects, right,  
10 or guess what, because if it doesn't pass in  
11 summer of 2012, where are we? We're back to  
12 ground zero.

13 I always tell people this, and I'm quoting  
14 Representative Donna Shelton, who's on the  
15 transportation committee in the Georgia General  
16 Assembly. She says this all the time. She  
17 says House Bill 277 is Plan A. We don't have a  
18 Plan B, so there is no backdrop to go back to.  
19 You know what the backdrop is, the regular  
20 federal aid program and handing out projects on  
21 a real piecemeal, periodic basis that isn't  
22 satisfying anybody, so this is an opportunity  
23 to move forward from that.

24 Guiding principles. We're going to focus  
25 on delivery, your criteria shed. Projects need

1 to be from existing plans and studies.  
2 Investments need to be consistent with the  
3 statewide plan. And, of course, you got three  
4 MPOs. You're required by federal law -- and I  
5 see Sonny's in the audience, Tom and others.  
6 You guys have to create a plan for those areas,  
7 and these plans need to be consistent with the  
8 embodiment of those plans. And ultimately,  
9 we're going to talk about these different  
10 slides here in a minute for different funding  
11 type projects.

12 We decided to divide the criteria up into  
13 basically program areas, like roadways,  
14 transit, etcetera. The reason we did that is  
15 because each one is a little bit different.  
16 You can't just have one blanket criteria for  
17 each project category, because they're all  
18 slightly different. We have some broad guiding  
19 principles, but each project area has its own  
20 specific literature on it.

21 Program areas. Well, this first one has  
22 caused a little bit of questions from people.  
23 We say projects need to be from existing plans.  
24 HB277 is not a planning effort, guys. It's a  
25 planning effort to choose projects, but it is

1 not an effort to go in there and plan and study  
2 projects to determine needs.

3 The theory is we've been doing a lot of  
4 planning over the years, right. We've got  
5 plans. Tom Thompson, you've got a vision plan,  
6 a constrained plan. You've got all these plans  
7 in place already. We talked about it on the  
8 phone this morning. But the problem is we have  
9 not been able to implement those plans because  
10 of funding. This is the funding side of it.

11 So the theory is most all counties and  
12 cities across the state have done some formal  
13 planning. In fact, the smaller counties are  
14 required to do planning, let's remember that,  
15 under the Comprehensive Planning Act, but  
16 you've done some planning. You've laid out --  
17 so projects need to be vetted through some set  
18 of planning rules before now, and that's the  
19 tenet of the first bullet.

20 The second bullet is just saying, hey,  
21 listen, when you're picking your projects,  
22 delivery is very important -- remember that,  
23 all right -- and putting orange barrels on the  
24 road is very important, any kind of sales tax,  
25 so construction should be emphasis. I'm not

1 saying you're not going to do right-of-way,  
2 you're not going to do engineering in this, but  
3 we have a lot of projects in the pipeline  
4 already. Picking projects that are already in  
5 that pipeline that are ready to go toward  
6 construction in the next five or six years  
7 ensures that we deliver projects that are on  
8 the list. If you're starting a project from  
9 scratch today, haven't done an ounce of work on  
10 it, it becomes somewhat in jeopardy that you  
11 can deliver that in a timely fashion.

12 Must demonstrate full funding for all  
13 phases of the project. There are going to be  
14 some big projects that we're going to not just  
15 fund with sales tax money only, all right. So  
16 let's just pretend for a second that 95 was  
17 still a four-lane road, two lanes each way. If  
18 that was one of the projects you wanted to  
19 widen, a big, gigantic project like that, you  
20 wouldn't just use it with some -- you would  
21 match that with federal money, right. So when  
22 you put a project on the list, if it's got  
23 other funds on it, all right, then you need to  
24 identify what those other funds are, so in  
25 other words, the project can be fully built.

1           In some of our bigger projects, we will be  
2           sharing the load. You may want to put some of  
3           your local sales tax money that you get from  
4           your SPLOST program on a regional sales tax  
5           project, just to make it go further.

6           JOHN MCIVER: Mr. Long?

7           TODD LONG: Yes.

8           JOHN MCIVER: Actually, the federal  
9           project, you can probably use that as a  
10          hypothetical, right? The federal interstate  
11          system, which we don't foresee regional tax  
12          being used on the federal.

13          TODD LONG: That will be totally up to  
14          this group. There will be very much, many  
15          interstate projects on a lot of the lists for  
16          the regional commissions around this state. I  
17          can assure you the top of the list in Atlanta  
18          are redoing some of the interchanges in  
19          Atlanta. I can assure you of that.

20          Now, this group will have to decide.  
21          Obviously, on your unconstrained list, there  
22          probably will be some interstate improvements  
23          at some interchanges, but interstate widening  
24          in general, probably not. But certainly, this  
25          money is geared up to be used for any course.

1           But let's think for a second. If I can't  
2           match a federal aid project on an interstate,  
3           because there's not enough -- a regular pot of  
4           money of state money, and this regional sales  
5           tax can kickstart it and get it done sooner,  
6           why not jump on that opportunity.

7           So don't dismiss putting it on projects  
8           that have federal aid on them. Forget  
9           interstates. You've got some road projects in  
10          this region that are so large. In fact, you've  
11          got one in Liberty County that is so expensive,  
12          why not use some federal money to help that  
13          project, all right. Just don't write them off  
14          yet.

15          Next page. Let's go through the  
16          categories right quick. Roadway capital,  
17          obviously, these are projects that you may  
18          think of, new roads, widenings, interchanges,  
19          interstate improvements, bridges, economic  
20          development corridors.

21          Just note the first bullet here, projects  
22          must serve employment centers or activity  
23          centers. The goal here -- remember, what was  
24          our first goal? Economic competitiveness. So  
25          you're trying to support jobs, right, so you're

1           trying to get people from not necessarily one  
2           region to another, but activity centers, at  
3           least, employment centers, trying to get people  
4           from one spot to another. That's the goal  
5           here. Keeps it kind of on a little bit higher  
6           level.

7                     Next slide. Roadway and bridge  
8           maintenance. You have to kind of weigh how you  
9           want to deal with this. You got your  
10          discretionary money, right, that you can use  
11          for maintenance. You've got your regular  
12          federal aid program which you can use for  
13          maintenance. You've got your local money that  
14          you can use for maintenance. You've got to  
15          decide how much maintenance-type activities you  
16          want to put on a list that ultimately goes  
17          before the voters.

18                    Now, we all know -- it doesn't take rocket  
19          science to know that you got to take care of  
20          what you have. And you can actually sell that  
21          to the public, but you also have to have a list  
22          that's very attractive for the voters to vote  
23          on, so it's going to be a balancing act on how  
24          much you put in there. So you see how -- I  
25          think we recommended zero to ten percent of

1           your money.

2           But even if on the regional side, instead  
3           of on your resurfacing, look at state routes,  
4           and not just state routes, but regional roads  
5           that connect activity centers, and we're not  
6           paving some dirt road in an unpopulated area of  
7           your county. That's not the goal here. The  
8           goal here is to do something more of regional  
9           significance on this maintenance money.

10          Bridge maintenance and repair, go back to  
11          that slide. Just to let you know, we actually  
12          have a lot of guidelines that can help you  
13          decide which ones get done first from a PACES  
14          rating standpoint and a bridge repair program.

15          Next slide. Safety and traffic  
16          operations. I always want to stress this. I'm  
17          not telling anybody in here that know this  
18          already, but you know that these projects  
19          actually help sell sales tax, intersection  
20          improvements, chokepoints that are out there  
21          that you can fix. Those are absolutely great  
22          projects. They have a lot of public appeal.

23          Next slide. Freight and logistics. This  
24          sort of overlaps a little bit with the roadway  
25          capital, but in your region, you certainly have

1 a lot of freight and logistics-type projects  
2 that may be something we want to push. You've  
3 got two of the best ports right here in Glynn  
4 County and Chatham County. You've got a lot of  
5 freight coming in and out of this region, and  
6 there may be things you want to do that just  
7 are purely freight and logistics that will fall  
8 under that category that aren't necessarily  
9 falling under the roadway capital criteria.

10 Next slide. Aviation is an eligible area.  
11 Some areas of the state, we got folks really  
12 jazzed up. They want to put aviation projects  
13 on their list. I'm not sure that's the case  
14 here. How many airports do we have in this  
15 region? Probably about eight or ten, don't we,  
16 I'd guess. But every airport -- you go to  
17 airport conventions, Airport Aviation  
18 Association, they are chockful of needs. They  
19 got lots of requests for money. And who are  
20 they hitting up for their money, typically?  
21 Counties and cities, right. So you know how  
22 that goes. But this can be used for runway,  
23 taxiway, aprons, navigational aids.

24 Next slide. Bike and pedestrian. In  
25 Atlanta, this is hot, but I want to tell you, a

1 lot of our urban cities, bike and pedestrian  
2 products are very popular, and maybe not so  
3 much in rural areas, but you can actually get  
4 some public appeal to your list by having some  
5 bike and pedestrian projects. Not a whole lot  
6 on this list, because remember, you can use  
7 your discretionary money for that, but  
8 certainly, if you've got corridors that are  
9 serving employment centers that you can add  
10 sidewalks and bike trails to, that would be  
11 very --

12 This is not for recreational activities,  
13 okay. This is more along the lines of  
14 servicing your corridors that serve into  
15 employment activity centers. So if you've got  
16 a big ball park, and you've got an area that's  
17 got jobs in it, this is a great linkage to link  
18 all these things together. But these could be  
19 a big seller for you. And particularly, I'm  
20 thinking of places like Brunswick and Savannah.  
21 This could be popular for you.

22 In fact, I'll tell you this, comments  
23 across this state on criteria, I got I don't  
24 know how many, 100 comments. The vast majority  
25 of my comments I got on the criteria were bike

1           and pedestrian. So they're very pen oriented,  
2           you know. They write letters and e-mails, as  
3           you know.

4           Next slide. Transit. Certainly, you've  
5           got several transit systems in these counties.  
6           Now, this is not just limited to like what you  
7           think of, CAT in Savannah. This is even in the  
8           counties that provide the van services and  
9           things like that. A lot of you have needs in  
10          those areas, and you may want to put money in  
11          those categories.

12          But we obviously give a little bit of lip  
13          service to this whole take care of what you  
14          have, make sure that you can run the systems  
15          you have in place today, before you start  
16          expanding. It's a big concern, particularly in  
17          the bigger cities, making sure you can maintain  
18          what you have before you expand.

19          Next slide. These are investment  
20          allocation target ranges. Now, don't get hung  
21          up on the fact that there's an exact number,  
22          because these are -- like I said, these are  
23          guiding principles to work from. But if you go  
24          over -- if you're 71 percent of roadway  
25          capital, it's not the end of the world, guys,

1 but these are your guidelines to work in. And  
2 we gave broad ranges in all the different  
3 areas, as you can see. So obviously, if you  
4 try to make this add up to 100, guys, you math  
5 majors, it's not going to add up to 100. So in  
6 other words, if you give 70 percent to capital,  
7 and you give 30 percent to safety, you're done,  
8 right. You don't have any other categories.

9 So you've got -- this is just a guide for  
10 you to use in making sure you're a little bit  
11 more multimodal in thought process and that  
12 you're thinking outside of just widening roads  
13 all the time, although we did put a large chunk  
14 of the money on widening road.

15 Next slide. That's my little thumbnail of  
16 the criteria. And at this time, I'd like Inga  
17 to kind of facilitate any discussion you guys  
18 may want to have.

19 And my last comment to you is that this is  
20 your criteria. Ultimately, you're going to  
21 adopt it. I'm finished. I made a  
22 recommendation. I've got to live with whatever  
23 you adopt. Did I make sense?

24 INGA KENNEDY: Any comments relative to  
25 the criteria? Does everyone understand the

1 criteria?

2 Any questions? Comments?

3 Then I'm going to ask our chairperson to  
4 call for a motion.

5 JIMMY BURNSED: We are approving the  
6 criteria?

7 INGA KENNEDY: You're approving the  
8 criteria as presented by Todd.

9 JIMMY BURNSED: Do we have a motion to  
10 approve that criteria?

11 PETE LIAKAKIS: So moved.

12 DAVID RAINER: Second.

13 JIMMY BURNSED: Any discussion?

14 Everybody's satisfied. All in favor,  
15 please raise your right hand.

16 Any opposed?

17 Motion carries.

18 INGA KENNEDY: Then we're done. We'll  
19 talk about next steps, and then we'll wrap up  
20 our meeting.

21 TODD LONG: Great. Thank you very much.  
22 Good.

23 Next steps. So you've elected the  
24 chairman, you've done your roundtable members,  
25 you've approved your criteria, so you're

1           officially done with your official meeting as  
2           far as what you had to get tasked to do. This  
3           is great.

4           The timeline. The unconstrained  
5           investment list, from basically now till April,  
6           we're going to be developing that unconstrained  
7           list, which means if you have a project  
8           suggestion that meets the criteria you adopted,  
9           then you need to send that in.

10          Now, the plan is we're going to be sending  
11          out a blast, and we're going to make use of --  
12          we've got everybody's e-mails. We'll make use  
13          of people like ACCG and GMA to help us with  
14          that, but every local jurisdiction in the MPO  
15          will have an opportunity. If they want to  
16          submit a suggested project, they can. And  
17          we'll put in there it's got to meet the  
18          criteria, and make sure we also have a form,  
19          and make sure we gather the right information  
20          for the project, and it'll have all the  
21          required information.

22          And we're hoping to have that -- we're  
23          hoping -- I think we finish our last roundtable  
24          next Thursday. Is that right, Cindy and Tim?  
25          So after next Thursday, we're going to send

1           this out statewide. We want to wait and kind  
2           of explain this process to everybody before we  
3           sent it to everybody, but be thinking of your  
4           projects.

5           And I know some counties have already been  
6           calling me. They've been talking about their  
7           list. They've been meeting and discussing  
8           about what they want to be considered. And  
9           from that list, we will do basically what we  
10          call a rating. It's more or less we've got to  
11          determine the public benefits of the project.

12          The bill says that when the Director of  
13          Planning submits his unconstrained list back to  
14          the executive committee, the project has to  
15          have public benefit associated with it. Well,  
16          that's basically what are the benefits of the  
17          project, what is the rating of the project, and  
18          we'll determine whether -- how that  
19          unconstrained list looks.

20          Now, that's going to happen in the May  
21          time frame. So theoretically, the next action  
22          by anybody on this committee will be the  
23          executive committee coming together this summer  
24          to start debating and driving that  
25          unconstrained down to constrained.

1           Now, I say that because there are -- with  
2           some hesitancy, because there are some  
3           roundtables that are wanting to meet on almost  
4           a regular basis to talk about transportation  
5           issues, and a lot of it's because it's the  
6           first time regions have gotten together and  
7           talked about transportation issues. I'm not  
8           saying that hasn't happened here, because y'all  
9           may have been talking about transportation  
10          issues all along, but a lot of times, regions  
11          haven't really worked together on  
12          transportation, and they see this as a new  
13          synergy that they haven't had before. So y'all  
14          are welcome to have meetings in between if  
15          you'd like.

16                 The official voting capacity of this group  
17                 won't come together until we call formal  
18                 roundtable meetings later in the summer after  
19                 the executive committee have done their work.

20                 So be on the lookout for this notice about  
21                 project selections, and ultimately, look for a  
22                 meeting notice about the executive committee  
23                 this summer, and we'll call that meeting, and  
24                 we'll be working with the RC staff.

25                 And I just want to let you know, the bill

1 did not call out any responsibility by the RC  
2 staffs around the country -- around the state,  
3 excuse me. And we got with them at the very  
4 beginning and had a meeting with all the  
5 executive directors of RCs across the state,  
6 and we determined a number of different roles  
7 that they could help us with. And without  
8 fail, all 12 RCs have really stepped to the  
9 plate to work with us, because remember, the RC  
10 staff -- who are they really -- it's almost the  
11 same body as we have here today. So they're  
12 working in concert with us, and we've asked  
13 them to help us with the mayor selection  
14 process, with facilitating meeting locations.

15 So Mike, your comment about the meeting  
16 location, go back to the RC, right. I'm just  
17 kidding.

18 But meeting locations ultimately help us  
19 with the public meetings. And we're probably  
20 going to also allow on this -- when we send  
21 this blast out about project selections, we're  
22 going to ask you to send your project  
23 nominations in to the RC staff. RC staff's not  
24 going to be doing any evaluation. They're just  
25 going to make sure your I's are dotted and T's

1           are crossed, and then they'll forward them all  
2           up to us, so I can help you out with that  
3           process as well, and particularly helpful in  
4           some of the smaller counties that don't have a  
5           staff already in place through MPO, or  
6           etcetera, and then ultimately helping us  
7           through the process. And when campaign time  
8           comes, we expect the RC staff to be involved in  
9           that too. So they've been helpful all across  
10          the state. I've had nothing but good things to  
11          say about them, and we appreciate it.

12                 We have, of course, helpers on our end.  
13          If you have any questions or concerns about  
14          anything, feel free to call me, or we got Cindy  
15          Van Dyke back here, and we got Tim Kassa. And  
16          Tim works this area, Coastal Georgia, and we  
17          can certainly answer any questions you may  
18          have.

19                 With that, I'll ask are there any  
20          follow-up questions or closing questions you  
21          may have for me?

22                 JOHN MCIVER: I have one. It's not with  
23          regards directly to this, but if we are able to  
24          get this to the referendum for a vote -- and  
25          this has crossed my mind. I don't know how

1 other people feel about it right now. I'm  
2 supporting this. We presently have a one-cent  
3 sales tax that we are collecting, and some of  
4 that was put on the referendum for road  
5 improvement in our local counties, and when we  
6 go back to the voters for another referendum  
7 for transportation in regard to the criteria  
8 listed we're going to propose to them, then  
9 they'll be looking at two cents being  
10 collected.

11 So have y'all thought about how we present  
12 this to the voters? Because they presently  
13 have the tax being collected, and some would  
14 have to go back probably for this to put it  
15 back on the referendum again, and they use  
16 SPLOST for road improvements, so how do we  
17 craft this?

18 TODD LONG: Chairman McIver has got a  
19 great point. He's talking about having two  
20 sales taxes essentially close in time together.  
21 In fact, there are a number of counties across  
22 this state that have sales tax I think  
23 March 15th coming up, I know particularly some  
24 around us. But it's probably the biggest issue  
25 with the bill and how you do it.

1           Now, remember, the other plans and thought  
2 processes were to do a gas tax increase. You'd  
3 probably have the same arguments. You're going  
4 to raise our gas tax, and still we're having to  
5 pay a sales tax. It's a tax, and we've got to  
6 be able to sell that it is an investment, that  
7 you're going to get something in return.

8           Now, how do you sell the two pennies?  
9 Well, that is a marketing thought process. How  
10 do you do that? Because it's not just two  
11 pennies, remember, because you got a  
12 four-percent state tax, you may have an  
13 education tax, you may have a local sales tax.  
14 I don't even know what your tax is in Liberty  
15 County. Is it seven percent now?

16           JOHN MCIVER: Yes.

17           TODD LONG: It's already seven percent.  
18 You've got three of them going, right? So this  
19 is the fourth. This is actually a fifth.

20           It's the same argument you had when they  
21 first allowed education taxes, how are we going  
22 to have SPLOST compete with education lost. So  
23 it's the same argument. I don't know what you  
24 used in Liberty County, but you did it, right?  
25 You got seven percent. And the folks -- I'm

1 dealing with folks who have eight percent now  
2 and going to go to nine. They're really  
3 worried about it.

4 Your question, though, on the campaign  
5 side, I think that there are people already  
6 thinking through that thought process, and I'm  
7 not going to be in charge of the campaign, but  
8 it is absolutely vital that we say this is the  
9 list of projects, and these are the benefits  
10 that you're getting from them.

11 I will give you the good news.  
12 November 2nd of 2010, there was an election in  
13 this country, and a lot of conservatives came  
14 to the ballot box. There were a lot of  
15 referendums on the ballots across this country  
16 for transportation. Folks don't realize that.  
17 There were a lot of -- all across this country,  
18 there were ballots from everything from transit  
19 to extra pennies for roadways, for local  
20 governments, etcetera.

21 Well, the percentage of referendums for  
22 transportation that passed in November of 2010  
23 was higher than it was two years ago, the last  
24 time they did a general election. That gives  
25 me a lot of hope. So in a bad economic year,

1           when there are lots of conservatives at the  
2           polls, we still actually did better than we did  
3           two years ago, in good economic times.

4           It just tells me that if you sell it, and  
5           you do it in a way that really demonstrates the  
6           value to the public, the people will pay for  
7           it.

8           Now, you've got to think through this.  
9           Other states are watching us closely. In fact,  
10          Cindy is going to Washington DC for a research  
11          board conference, and they'll be lining up to  
12          talk to people like her, because other states  
13          are dying. They have the same problem Georgia  
14          has. Their gas tax is becoming less and less  
15          valuable, and they have no way out, so they're  
16          watching us.

17          Kansas did it, and Kansas did it on  
18          maintenance projects. Maintenance was like one  
19          of the number one things people were worried  
20          about in Kansas, because all the snow and ice  
21          they got, their freeways are falling apart, so  
22          they sold a sales tax on maintenance alone,  
23          almost. Now, they had capital in there as  
24          well. But my point is it can be done if you do  
25          it aggressively.

1           Now, there are some counties out there  
2           that didn't pass the referendum. Down in  
3           Florida, Hillsborough County -- I think it was  
4           Hillsborough. They rejected it, right, Tom?  
5           Wasn't it Hillsborough? But I'm not sure how  
6           it was marketed, so we got to do a good job of  
7           getting it out there.

8           JOHN MCIVER: Thank you.

9           JIMMY BURNSD: Thank you, Todd.

10          I understand that the rest of you folks  
11          have some comment sheets that you need -- if  
12          you have some comments you want to turn in as  
13          you leave, we'll accept those sheets. And we  
14          certainly appreciate everybody coming.

15          I will ask this group's support, and we  
16          will get a good job done. I know I've got  
17          Allen's support, and I assume Todd will help  
18          us, too, because even though he went over  
19          everything today, there's still a lot of  
20          learning to do with this thing.

21          And I think the key thing that was brought  
22          up today is the issue of jobs, infrastructure,  
23          and the regionalism of our region.

24          We just did a regional land use plan, the  
25          Coastal Comp Plan, which was the first effort

1 to try and bring the region together. Now,  
2 this is going to be an effort that's going to  
3 tell us whether we've done it or not, whether  
4 we can get this sales tax passed, and I think  
5 we can.

6 In Bryan County, we do have seven cents.  
7 Our SPLOST and our ESPLOST has always passed by  
8 at least two-thirds to one-third. Now, this  
9 one might be a little bit tougher, but I  
10 believe, as Todd said, that if we get the right  
11 kind of construction projects before the folks,  
12 then it will work, and they will pass it. But  
13 thinking on a regional basis is important.

14 Now, I've done that ever since I've been  
15 in Bryan County. We have a lot of people from  
16 Liberty County that pass through our county to  
17 get to Pete's county, and, of course, on the  
18 north end, from Bulloch County, they go into  
19 Savannah to work as well.

20 And I was four years mayor of Garden City  
21 and then came to Richmond Hill 21 years ago to  
22 start a community bank, and I got in trouble  
23 whenever I started talking about Richmond Hill  
24 as being Southside Savannah, but Richmond Hill  
25 is Southside Savannah, any way you look at it,

1           because about 65 percent of the people go to  
2           Savannah every day.

3           '     So we are a region, and we've got to think  
4           regionally, and I think we can get these  
5           projects identified, get them out there and  
6           publicized, and I think we can get this thing  
7           passed.

8                     Any other questions or comments?

9                     And I assure you we will be meeting before  
10           the summer. We'll be probably meeting at least  
11           on a monthly basis to make sure that we pull  
12           together the projects that Todd needs.

13                    Anyone, anything else?

14                    I'm willing to accept a motion to adjourn.

15                    HAROLD FOWLER: So moved.

16                    KEN SMITH: Second.

17                    JIMMY BURNSD: All right. We are  
18           adjourned.

19                    INGA KENNEDY: And we want to thank the  
20           Coastal Regional Commission staff for letting  
21           us piggy-back on their meetings.

22                                    (Meeting adjourned at  
23                                    2:20 p.m.)

24                                    - - -

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C E R T I F I C A T E

G E O R G I A:

CHATHAM COUNTY:

I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript was taken down, as stated in the caption, and the questions and answers thereto were reduced to typewriting under my direction; that the foregoing pages 1 through 98 represent a true and correct transcript of the evidence given upon said hearing, and I further certify that I am not of kin or counsel to the parties in the case; am not in the regular employ of counsel for any of said parties; nor am I in anywise interested in the result of said case.

This the 18th day of January 2011.

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MARIE H. BAUER, Certified Court Reporter, B-1233, Registered Professional Reporter, and Certified Realtime Reporter.

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