
TRANSPORTATION

The Challenge

Georgia is the third fastest-growing state in the nation, yet transportation funding per capita is next to last. As a result, today our traffic is third-worst in the country after Los Angeles, and companies say traffic is a major factor when they decide whether to bring their business here.

History of Chamber Leadership

The Chamber has been committed to this issue for a long time.

- **MATI transportation blueprint** – The 1998 Metropolitan Atlanta Transportation Initiative was a Metro Atlanta Chamber-sponsored assembly of state and local business leaders, elected officials, and community/civic leaders that first produced a “blueprint” for improving the transportation system in metro Atlanta.
- One major outcome of this blueprint was the Legislature’s creation of the **Georgia Regional Transportation Authority**. It was charged with planning and monitoring all forms of transportation in the Atlanta region, and providing accountability for meeting the long-term transportation needs of our region.
- The Chamber has completed numerous policy and research projects on such issues as **transit, transportation funding, commuter rail and best practices** of other regions. These projects have shaped our policy decisions and demonstrated employer and employee attitudes toward congestion and mobility.
- **In 2007**, the Chamber backed **regional transportation funding legislation** that would allow voters in any region in the state to raise funds for local transportation projects. It won far-reaching, bipartisan support from both Republicans and Democrats, and from rural and urban areas.
- **In 2008**, similar legislation passed overwhelmingly in the House by a vote of 134-34, and fell just three votes short of the required two-thirds majority in the Senate (35-18).
- **In 2009**, the Senate passed a regional transportation funding measure by a vote of 53-2, and the House passed a separate, centralized funding proposal by a vote of 149-18. These votes showed tremendous support in both chambers for transportation funding, but a conference committee was unable to reach a compromise between the two mechanisms.

2010 Call to Action

- Founded by the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the **Get Georgia Moving’s coalition** of 100+ organizations and partners across the state have pushed transportation to the top of the state’s agenda – with the Governor, Lt. Governor and Speaker of the House all working on transportation plans. This is one of the most diverse coalitions in Georgia’s history, bringing together local government leaders, business leaders, road builders, transit advocates, environmental groups and others.
 - We support a **regional, voter-approved sales tax** with defined projects and accountability measures.
- Any real solution must:
- generate **enough funding** to provide the congestion relief we need
 - be open to **all modes** of transportation
 - and have a meaningful impact on our quality-of-life and our **economic competitiveness**



David P. (Dave) Stockert
President & CEO
Post Properties

CHAMBER STAFF



Renay Blumenthal
Senior Vice President
Public Policy Division
404.586.8466 | rblumenthal@macoc.com



Chuck Meadows
Vice President
Transportation
404.586.8467 | cmeadows@macoc.com