

2012 Policy Statement

Transportation

Transportation Planning -- The Georgia Chamber of Commerce and its affiliate, the Georgia Transportation Alliance, support efforts to establish a statewide, multimodal transportation plan for Georgia. The plan should provide solutions to transportation challenges throughout Georgia and improve connections between the urban, suburban and rural areas of the state.

Transportation Funding -- The Chamber and the Alliance support the creation and implementation of innovative, sustainable funding mechanisms to meet long-term, strategic transportation needs in Georgia. Capital costs, operations and maintenance should all be eligible for funding through such mechanisms.

Specifically, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Transportation Alliance **support** a transportation plan and funding mechanisms that:

- contain recommendations founded upon reliable data and driven by outcomes and results;
- include innovative programs such as concessions, tolls and public-private initiatives -- for new capacity and/or conversion of existing managed lanes -- alongside new public financing options;
- include expanded mass transit and freight options as part of a multimodal approach;
- expand Georgia's ports -- including supporting the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project -- and boost Georgia's position as the preferred east coast gateway for incoming and outgoing products;
- expand domestic and international routes from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, along with the necessary infrastructure to support those routes;
- improve the ability of Georgia employees to get to and from work, and for Georgia employers to move the products of their work to domestic and international markets by road, rail, air and water;
- promote equitable treatment for business in terms of revenue raised and expenditures made, and keep Georgia economically competitive with other states and regions, as well as internationally; and
- ensure accountability through local input, measurable benchmarks, reporting and oversight.

The Chamber will remain selective in its involvement with the identification and promotion of individual transportation projects, including those associated with such transportation plan and/or funding mechanisms.