

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2010
NORTHWEST GEORGIA REGION
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ROUNDTABLE
MEETING #1

Meeting held at Calhoun Community Center,
100 Peters Street, Calhoun, Georgia, commencing on
December 1, 2010, at 10:05 a.m., before Christy
L. Freyberg, Certified Court Reporter, Registered
Professional Reporter and Notary Public within
Georgia.

COURT REPORTING OF NORTHWEST GEORGIA, LLC
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A P P E A R A N C E S

ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS:

Mr. Clarence Brown, Bartow County

Mr. Matt Santini, City of Cartersville

Mr. Keith Greene, Catoosa County

Mr. Jason R. Winters, Chattooga County

Ms. Jessica Eller, Town of Lyerly

Mr. Ted M. Rumley, Dade County

Mr. Bill Simonds, Fannin County

Ms. Donna Whitener, City of Blue Ridge

Mr. Eddie Lumsden, Floyd County

Mr. Wright W. Bagby, Jr., City of Rome

Mr. Mark E. Chastain, Gilmer County

Mr. Al Hoyle, City of Ellijay

Ms. Judy Bailey, Gordon County

Mr. George Calley, City of Calhoun

Mr. H. Allen Poole, Haralson County

Mr. William "Pete" Bridges, City of Tallapoosa

Mr. David Ridley, Murray County

Mr. David A. Austin, Paulding County

Mr. Boyd L. Austin, Jr., City of Dallas

Mr. Robert P. Jones, Pickens County

Mr. John W. Weaver, City of Jasper

Mr. Marshelle Thaxton, Polk County

(continued)

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 (continued)

3 ROUNDTABLE MEMBERS:

4 Mr. Curtis Lewis, City of Rockmart

5 Mr. W. Michael Babb, Whitfield County

6 Mr. Ken Gowin, City of Tunnel Hill

7
8 ALSO PRESENT:

9 Ms. Katie Dempsey, State of Georgia House of
10 Representatives, District 13

11 Mr. Todd Long, Governor's Office of Transportation
12 Planning

13 Mr. Morris Dillard, DW & Associates

14 Mr. William Steiner, Northwest Georgia Regional
15 Commission

16 Ms. Deborah Dewberry, MargLan Group

17 Ms. Marguerita Lance, MargLan Group

18 Mr. Norman W. Pope, Pickens County

19 Mr. Barnett Chitwood, NWGRC

20 Ms. Stephanie Carter, GDOT

21 Mr. Matthew Hicks, ACCG

22 Ms. Becky Taylor, GMA

23 Ms. Cindy Van Dyke, GDOT

24 Mr. John Bennett, City of Rome Manager

25 (continued)

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 (continued)

3 ALSO PRESENT:

4 Mr. Tim Kassa, GDOT

5 Mr. Ulysses Mitchell, GDOT

6 Mr. Bradley S. Kotrba, NWGRC

7 Mr. David Kenemer, NWGRC

8 Mr. Randall Dowling, Gordon County

9 Mr. Patrick Bradshaw, ARC

10 Mr. Patrick Clarey, Tallapoosa

11 Mr. Philip Eidson, Tallapoosa

12 Mr. Joseph Low, Pickens County

13 Mr. Ryan Mahoney, Georgia Chamber

14 Ms. Kaycee Mertz, GDOT

15 Mr. J. C. Sanford, Gilmer Chair Elect

16 Mr. Eddie Peterson, City of Calhoun

17 Mr. David Doss, State Transportation Board

18 Mr. Sam Freeman, Greater Rome Chamber of Commerce

19 Ms. Mary B. Hughes, Georgians for Passenger Rail

20 Ms. Sue Hill, Rome-Floyd County MPO

21 Mr. Donald Brown, Catoosa County

22 Mr. Kevin Poe, Floyd County

23 Mr. Sam Grove, City of Cartersville

24 Mr. Steve Bradley, Bartow County

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Matthew Fowler, GDOT

Mr. Kyle Mote, GDOT

Mr. DeWayne Comer, GDOT - Cartersville

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1 He said, "No, sir, I don't have a
2 Case. I have a John Deere."

3 "No, no, no. You still don't
4 understand what I'm asking you. Do you have
5 a grudge?"

6 "No, sir, don't have a grudge. I have
7 a carport. That's where I park the John
8 Deere."

9 "No, no, no." He said, "Do you beat
10 your wife up or does she beat you up?"

11 "Well," he said, "sometimes I'm up
12 before her to milk the cows, other times
13 she's up before me to feed the chickens."

14 Now the attorney is completely
15 frustrated and says, "Why do you want a
16 divorce?"

17 He says, "Oh, that's simple. My wife
18 says I can't communicate with her anymore."

19 So it's important that we communicate.

20 I'm going to go around the room real
21 quick and ask you all to introduce
22 yourselves, starting with this gentleman
23 right here.

24 MR. GEORGE CALLEY: I'm George Calley
25 from the City of Calhoun. I'm in for Jimmy

1 Palmer today.

2 MS. JUDY BAILEY: I'm Judy Bailey.
3 I'm from Gordon County, and I'm the incoming
4 chair January the 9th.

5 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: Eddie Lumsden,
6 chairman of Floyd County Commission.

7 MR. WRIGHT W. BAGBY, JR.: Wright
8 Bagby, mayor of Rome.

9 MS. KATIE DEMPSEY: Katie Dempsey,
10 Georgia House of Representatives,
11 representing Rome.

12 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Mark Chastain,
13 chairman of Gilmer County through the end of
14 this year, and J. C. Sanford, my successor,
15 is with me and he'll be here next year.

16 MS. DONNA WHITENER: Donna Whitener,
17 mayor of Blue Ridge.

18 MR. BILL SIMONDS: Bill Simonds,
19 chairman of Fannin County Commission.

20 MR. CLARENCE BROWN: Clarence Brown,
21 commissioner of Bartow County.

22 MR. MATT SANTINI: Matt Santini, mayor
23 of Cartersville.

24 MR. ROBERT JONES: Robert Jones,
25 commissioner of Pickens County.

1 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Boyd Austin,
2 mayor of Dallas.

3 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: David Austin,
4 chairman of Paulding County.

5 MR. H. ALLEN POOLE: Allen Poole. I'm
6 chairman of Haralson County.

7 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: Pete
8 Bridges, mayor of Tallapoosa.

9 MR. KEN GOWIN: Ken Gowin, mayor of
10 Tunnel Hill.

11 MR. AL HOYLE: Al Hoyle, mayor of
12 Ellijay.

13 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: John Weaver,
14 mayor of Jasper.

15 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: Curtis Lewis, mayor
16 of Rockmart.

17 MR. MARSHELLE THAXTON: Marshelle
18 Thaxton, chairman of Polk County Commission.

19 MS. JESSICA ELLER: Jessica Eller,
20 mayor of Lyerly.

21 MR. JASON R. WINTERS: Jason Winters,
22 commissioner of Chattooga County.

23 MR. DAVID RIDLEY: David Ridley,
24 Murray County.

25 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: Mike Babb,

1 chairman of Whitfield County Commission.

2 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: Ted Rumley,
3 chairman of Dade County Commission.

4 MR. KEITH GREENE: Keith Greene,
5 chairman of Catoosa County.

6 MR. TIM KASSA: Tim Kassa, Georgia DOT
7 planning.

8 MR. JOHN BENNETT: John Bennett, city
9 manager in Rome.

10 MS. CINDY VAN DYKE: I'm Cindy Van
11 Dyke with Georgia DOT in the office of
12 planning.

13 MS. BECKY TAYLOR: Becky Taylor with
14 the Georgia Municipal Association.

15 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: Matt Hicks with
16 ACCG.

17 MS. STEPHANIE CARTER: Stephanie
18 Carter, GDOT commissioner's office.

19 MR. BARNETT CHITWOOD: Barnett
20 Chitwood. I'm with the RC.

21 MR. NORMAN POPE: Norman Pope, Pickens
22 County.

23 MR. JOSEPH LOW: Joey Low, Pickens
24 County.

25 MR. PHILIP EIDSON: Philip Eidson,

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city manager of Tallapoosa.

MR. PATRICK CLAREY: Patrick Clarey,
Tallapoosa.

MR. PATRICK BRADSHAW: Patrick
Bradshaw, ARC.

MR. RANDALL DOWLING: Randall Dowling,
Gordon County administrator.

MR. DAVID KENEMER: David Kenemer, RC.

MR. BRADLEY S. KOTRBA: Brad Kotrba,
Regional Commission.

MR. ULYSSES MITCHELL: Ulysses
Mitchell, Georgia DOT.

MR. SAM GROVE: Sam Grove, city
manager of Cartersville.

MR. STEVE BRADLEY: Steve Bradley,
Bartow County administrator.

MR. MATTHEW FOWLER: Matthew Fowler,
Georgia DOT, office of planning.

MR. KYLE MOTE: Kyle Mote, GDOT
planning.

MR. DeWAYNE COMER: DeWayne Comer,
Georgia Department of Transportation.

MS. KAYCEE MERTZ: Kaycee Mertz, GDOT
Planning.

MR. EDDIE PETERSON: Eddie Peterson,

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administrator of Calhoun.

MR. DAVID DOSS: David Doss, State
Transportation Board.

MR. SAM FREEMAN: Sam Freeman, Greater
Rome Chamber of Commerce.

MR. J. C. SANFORD: J. C. Sanford,
chairman-elect of Gilmer County.

MR. DONALD BROWN: Donald Brown,
Catoosa County.

MR. KEVIN POE: Kevin Poe, Floyd
County manager.

MR. WILLIAM STEINER: Young lady over
here?

MS. DEBORAH DEWBERRY: Deborah
Dewberry. I'm with MargLan Group.

MR. WILLIAM STEINER: And you are the
court reporter, but we want your name.

THE COURT REPORTER: Christy Freyberg.

MR. WILLIAM STEINER: Well, without
further adieu, I'm going to introduce the man
in charge, Mr. Todd Long, director of the
Governor's Office of Transportation Planning.

MR. TODD LONG: All right. Well, good
morning, everyone. I'm glad to be here
today. You guys are the first of the

1 roundtables. What an exciting privilege that
2 is. We have 12 coming up in the latter part
3 of December and then January so you guys
4 are -- we're getting on the bleeding edge
5 here, right, so things we do wrong here today
6 we'll correct in the next one. This will be
7 in yours.

8 So let me go over quickly the agenda
9 today. Like I said, we're going to go over
10 the bill again because there's a lot of new
11 faces that maybe haven't heard. Several of
12 you in here probably could give the
13 presentation on the bill, but we're going to
14 let me do that today, not you. Then we're
15 going to have -- go over some guidelines.
16 We're going to go over election of chairman
17 and then election of executive committee.
18 Then ultimately while we're here today the
19 adoption and approval of the criteria
20 themselves. Then we'll talk about next
21 steps.

22 All right. Just a reminder. Now, how
23 many in here quickly by raising your hand
24 were in here last time I came in this room
25 about a month ago?

1 Okay. So there are several hands that
2 didn't raise.

3 (Telephone interruption.)

4 MR. TODD LONG: Good thing we can play
5 music here.

6 MS. JUDY BAILEY: I'm sorry.

7 MR. TODD LONG: It's all right. Now,
8 just as a reminder, this bill that passed the
9 General Assembly this last year does create a
10 special tax district. You will be a tax
11 district. In fact, y'all are the -- what's
12 the northwest Georgia tax district? It has a
13 number. What region are y'all? Do you know?
14 Bill? Every region has --

15 MR. WILLIAM STEINER: One.

16 MR. TODD LONG: You're Region 1. All
17 right. How about that? That's why you're
18 first; right? This is good. And this is a
19 ten-year tax of one percent above and beyond
20 the other taxes you may have in your county
21 or city, and the bill does raise the cap to
22 allow that to be above and beyond without
23 going over the maximum. The money raised in
24 the region does stay in the district, which
25 is very important. Not a dime of this money

1 goes to Atlanta and not a dime of Atlanta
2 money goes to you guys so that's pretty
3 important. And the money also is not subject
4 to congressional balancing. Most of this
5 district is in David Doss's district,
6 Congressional District 11, but not all of it.
7 I think some of you, you've got a good bit in
8 Congressional District 9 up in the north side
9 and possibly even some other districts on the
10 south end, so -- but the money is not subject
11 to balancing. It is purely the money raised
12 in the district stays there. Individual
13 counties cannot opt out. As we go through
14 this, there is a component we're going to
15 describe, the local money and then the
16 regional money. The regional money you've
17 got to quit thinking about county boundaries.
18 It's more along the lines of what is the
19 region boundary and look at it from what's
20 going to benefit the entire region.

21 The criteria, obviously that's why
22 you're here today in an official capacity.
23 This is not a dry run, we're not pretending
24 now; you actually get to decide ultimately on
25 the criteria for the projects that will be

1 determined. I just make the recommendations.
2 I've given you recommended criteria.
3 Ultimately you have to take it and run with
4 it.

5 The roundtable also has that ultimate
6 responsibility. Another aspect of this
7 meeting will be discussion about the election
8 of the executive committee, and I'm sure that
9 we'll have a lot of fun deciding who's going
10 to be on there in a few minutes. Now, just
11 remember, the final decision is not the
12 executive committee. The final decision on
13 the project list will be this roundtable as a
14 whole body. The vote will be an election of
15 2012 -- I know that's a long way away, but
16 that's how the cycle runs. I think I told
17 you before, 2011 there is no statewide
18 election so that's why we're waiting until
19 2012. That's the first time there's another
20 statewide election. And the funds do not
21 start flowing really, according to the bill
22 and how it's structured, until the first
23 quarter of 2013.

24 All right. Just a reminder for those
25 who -- it's always good to hear it one more

1 time and understand. The money is really
2 divided into two different pots, a regional
3 pot and a local pot. The reason you're here
4 as a roundtable is more along the lines of
5 the regional pot, although you do affect
6 other aspects of the discretionary money, but
7 the regional pot is 75 percent of the money.
8 This will be funded -- the final list that
9 we've come up with for the roundtable, the
10 criteria, all that applies to the regional
11 pot. GDOT will ultimately be responsible for
12 delivering those projects. Obviously we're
13 going to work with the counties and cities
14 and have the ability to do so to help us
15 deliver those projects, like we do today
16 even, so that will work out. And northwest
17 Georgia in 2013 the money, according to the
18 state economist, raises about \$120 million in
19 that first year. That's a good bit of money.
20 75 percent of that money equates to about
21 90 million so the 90 million per year is kind
22 of what the roundtable will be voting on.

23 The rest of the money, the local
24 share, the bill calls it discretionary, but
25 we call it the local share, is divided among

1 all the cities and counties within the
2 region, not just represented on the
3 roundtable but within the region, and it is
4 based on the formula and that formula is
5 based on the number of center line lane miles
6 that you have in your county and city. The
7 lane miles do not include interstates or
8 state routes. It's talking about just the
9 county and city roads. So, for instance, if
10 you're in Whitfield County, Whitfield County
11 counts all the county roads and it also
12 includes county-maintained roads within the
13 city limits of, say, Dalton within this
14 mileage. Of course, Dalton gets the city
15 street mileage. So that mileage drives a lot
16 of the formula. You can see the formula is
17 one-fifth population and four-fifth center
18 line lane miles so that the local share is
19 driven a lot on the lane miles. And this is
20 the old route formula budget, by the way,
21 guys. And if there's a problem with the
22 miles that are filling up, a lot of you have
23 had your staff already go back and look at
24 how we determined those miles -- these are
25 based on reports that we have to do -- we

1 have some time to correct it if you think the
2 mileage is incorrect in our database because
3 ultimately the formula does not start
4 applying until the funds are distributed so
5 we've got really two years to get all that
6 corrected. A lot of cities said, oh, the
7 mileage is wrong, but when they started
8 looking into it further they weren't wrong
9 quite as much as they thought. You're also
10 the -- the money for the LMIG grant, the
11 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant
12 program, which is a separate program, that's
13 also based on the same data. It's a little
14 bit different formula. It's one-third
15 population, two-thirds lane miles, but it's
16 the same exact center line lane mile data and
17 population data so if you have a disagreement
18 about the data, it's very important for you
19 to look at it, and that's available on our
20 website if you want to look at that.

21 In 2013 that local share will turn out
22 to be about \$30 million for this region.
23 Now, here's the good part, I guess. The
24 definition of how you spend that money is
25 based on the definition of a transportation

1 project, and that is a very, very flexible
2 and open definition. It allows you as city
3 councils and county commissions to decide how
4 that money is spent, so sticking with our
5 Whitfield County example, the Whitfield
6 County Board of Commissioners will decide how
7 that money is spent. GDOT will not be
8 involved in that decision whatsoever. The
9 City of Dalton will not be involved in the
10 decision on how Whitfield County uses their
11 money so it's made up by the local boards and
12 local city councils how they decide to use
13 it.

14 Next slide.

15 Here's the definition. This is a
16 reminder. Look at this. It's pretty far
17 reaching. New and existing airports, bike
18 lanes, bridges, bus and rail mass transit,
19 freight systems, passenger rail, pedestrian,
20 roads, ports. There's not much left off that
21 list. A lot of you guys don't have a lot of
22 those categories of projects, but certainly
23 the definition of a project is very open for
24 both the regional pot and the local share
25 pot.

1 Next one.

2 All right. Now, the ultimate goal in
3 the project selection process for the
4 regional pot -- we're going to turn our
5 attention to that side -- is to get down to
6 this final constrained investment list by
7 October 15th, 2011. That's our ultimate end
8 game is to narrow it down to get to that
9 point.

10 Well, how do we start that process?
11 Well, the very first start of that process is
12 you've got to have criteria, right? That's
13 one reason we're here today. And that
14 criteria will be used to develop this
15 unconstrained, financially unconstrained
16 example investment list, and that list,
17 according to the bill, is developed by the
18 director of planning, but I'm going to tell
19 you here today, it's with a lot of input.
20 Now, we were talking about a little while ago
21 you've got all these jurisdictions, I'm sure
22 I'm going to hear from every one of you,
23 right, on ideas for projects to put on the
24 list? Also, there are three official MPOs, I
25 guess, up here, three or four. Paulding

1 County's not an MPO but you're part of
2 Atlanta's. You've got Dalton, Chattanooga
3 section and you've got Rome so those MPOs are
4 also going to give us project suggestions.
5 So we know it's coming our way. We also have
6 our project list that we have in our program
7 so we've got a lot of sources for projects.
8 When we develop this unconstrained list --
9 and that list will be developed by early
10 summer of this coming-up year, and then
11 ultimately that unconstrained list will be
12 given to the executive committee. The
13 executive committee, that five-member
14 committee that you're going to elect today,
15 will then cull that list down the best they
16 can, hold public hearings and ultimately
17 submit that going from unconstrained down to
18 a constrained, submit that constrained list
19 to the full roundtable, and then the
20 roundtable will ultimately have several
21 months to mull that over, to decide, pick,
22 choose, move things around how they want to,
23 and then ultimately by October 15th to have a
24 full vote of this roundtable to move forward
25 with either doing a sales tax on that list or

1 not doing a sales tax.

2 Next slide.

3 All right. Now, if a final project
4 list is not approved by the regional
5 roundtable, then the bill calls for that
6 there's a special district gridlock, and
7 that's -- it says declared by the director of
8 planning, but you guys will ultimately
9 declare that by not voting on the list,
10 right? If that happens, then the district
11 cannot call for a new vote for an additional
12 24 months. That's the way the bill is
13 structured. And the local government's share
14 of projects under the LMIG program, the Local
15 Maintenance Improvement Grant program, the
16 match is a higher match than if you move
17 forward with it, so at 50 percent.

18 Guys, we get a lot of comments on this
19 part of the bill that it's very punitive and
20 that it's very -- they don't like it. Well,
21 guys, this is really not that big of an
22 issue. I think we had discussion about this
23 last time we were here and some people
24 pointed this out, but you're talking about a
25 lot of different cities and counties in this

1 country get -- cities and counties in the
2 state get money. We only put roughly
3 \$90 million statewide in that pot so the
4 amount of money cities and counties get under
5 LMIG is not that much money in the first
6 place. Most of you know this because you're
7 coming begging the commissioner for more
8 money in addition to what you're getting
9 under LMIG. If we allow -- and the folks at
10 ACCG and GMA are here. They're begging on
11 behalf of the cities and counties of the
12 state that we allow your engineering costs,
13 your prep work for resurfacing all to be
14 counted as soft match or toward that match
15 requirement. If that does happen, this match
16 requirement would not be hard to meet, I'm
17 here to tell you that. But we're still
18 debating that to see how it's going to fall
19 out.

20 Next slide.

21 Now, if the regional roundtable does
22 in fact basically pass and then it goes onto
23 the voters and the voters say yes, then the
24 collections can begin 80 days after that.
25 That's why the first quarter of 2013 comes

1 into play. And ultimately the match on these
2 projects is only ten percent. If the voters
3 reject it, the match is 30 percent. And you
4 cannot revisit it again -- when the voters
5 deny it or the roundtable even denies the
6 voters a chance to deny it, either case
7 you're looking at a situation where it's a
8 24-month period of wait from that time a vote
9 no.

10 Now, who delivers the projects? Well,
11 GDOT is, according to the bill, responsible
12 for delivering all of the projects. Now, it
13 doesn't mean we're going to deliver all the
14 projects, we're just responsible for
15 delivering them. There will be counties -- I
16 look at Bartow County as a great example.
17 Clarence, we've got a great relationship with
18 you guys and y'all have hired engineers for
19 years to do work on DOT projects. We'll
20 continue to do some kind of project framework
21 agreement with the counties that can do it,
22 but one of the things we're really thinking
23 about doing is we've got this new process
24 called a local project certification, in
25 other words, you have to be certified as a

1 local government that you can administer
2 projects. We've got training classes, et
3 cetera, and most of the counties in here that
4 have done projects in the past are now going
5 through that process today of getting
6 certified. We'll probably require the same
7 things. But there may be some, you know,
8 cities and counties that don't want any part
9 of that, right, because they don't have staff
10 to administer and they'll want us to do it,
11 and we'll continue to do that.

12 Now, ultimately as we decide who
13 delivers these projects, even transit
14 projects, we'll be working with the cities
15 and counties and MPOs, but at the end of the
16 day we're all going to be responsible because
17 you guys are government officials and we're
18 the state and the state's going to be held
19 responsible, but for sure the public is going
20 to hold us accountable for delivering.
21 That's for sure. Also there will be a
22 website to keep us up to date on how we're
23 delivering. Are we doing a good job of
24 getting it done? Now, there's also a
25 citizens review panel. If there's a yes vote

1 by the public and you have the list and you
2 start the process, the citizens review panel,
3 they'll be in charge of reviewing the
4 administration of the projects and making
5 sure everything is done in the right way, and
6 members of the panel must be from the region.
7 They are selected by the speaker and the
8 lieutenant governor. Speaker gets three
9 votes, lieutenant governor gets two. These
10 will be people that meet somewhat
11 periodically, and ultimately they've got to
12 produce a report that goes to the General
13 Assembly each year so an annual report.

14 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Is that panel
15 per each district?

16 MR. TODD LONG: Per each district. So
17 let's just say five districts in the state
18 out of 12 pass it, we'll have five citizen
19 review panels.

20 Now, anyway, if you do a great job,
21 just like a regular sales tax, at the end of
22 a ten-year period, what happens? You can
23 reinstitute or reinitiate the process. Now,
24 you still have to go through a roundtable
25 selection process and a public vote,

1 everything, but that can be started
2 ultimately the majority of the districts
3 committee says yes, we'll do it again and
4 then the district -- not the committee but
5 the county says yes, we do it again, then you
6 have to go to the General Assembly and
7 General Assembly will basically say yes or
8 no. Hey, listen, if it's working, I can
9 expect the General Assembly's probably going
10 to say let's move forward and do it again.

11 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Is that a
12 requirement for a referendum or it's by the
13 majority of the county government and the
14 actual General Assembly?

15 MR. TODD LONG: That's a great
16 question. You know, at the end of ten years,
17 I think the bill -- I think Matthew and folks
18 are looking at it right now. I think it says
19 that a majority of the counties, that's all
20 it says, so how you interpret that, is it all
21 the counties and cities, that's -- right.
22 That's a good question. So how many counties
23 are in this district? Fifteen. So in this
24 case if you've got eight counties say yes,
25 can you reinitiate the process? You know,

1 have you found it yet?

2 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: Uh-uh.

3 MR. TODD LONG: Okay. We may come
4 back to that. We'll put it on the wall and
5 come back. That's a good question.

6 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: That needs
7 to be clarified from the other districts too
8 to make sure if there's a referendum required
9 by the voters.

10 MR. TODD LONG: There will be a
11 referendum required, no doubt. It says
12 reinitiate the process and the process is the
13 referendum so the question I have is how is
14 that decided that you reinitiate it. Is it
15 just a majority of the counties? So . . .

16 Okay. Roundtable guidelines. I want
17 to introduce to you a gentleman here, Morris
18 Dillard. We decided when we started this
19 process since we had 12 of these in the state
20 that we would actually ask for some outside
21 help, a facilitator to help us with the
22 process of, you know, electing chairman,
23 executive committee, going through the
24 criteria, and we have been very fortunate.
25 DW & Associates, which is a firm that Morris

1 Dillard here actually started, and he and his
2 partner, Inga Kennedy, are going to split up
3 the 12. Morris is getting, I guess, six of
4 the 12 regions and Inga's doing six of them,
5 and Morris comes to us with a long history of
6 transportation. I worked with Morris back in
7 the Olympics. I was just a little engineer
8 and he was a big whig at ACOG getting the
9 Olympic transportation planning done, and
10 this guy was well respected. When he spoke,
11 people listened. And I've just learned to
12 really appreciate him and he's been a great
13 resource the last month or so getting us
14 kickstarted, and so I welcome to you Morris
15 Dillard to kind of run the rest of our
16 meeting here for us. Thanks, Morris.

17 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: The stick is
18 because I fell and broke my knee. That's the
19 purpose of the stick.

20 Before we move to discuss the
21 guidelines, let's see if there are any other
22 questions about the legislation. This guy's
23 got a big job, by the way. I don't envy him.
24 The state legislature has placed on his
25 shoulders one heck of a responsibility. So

1 let's see if there are any other questions or
2 issues about the legislation that he can
3 clear up.

4 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: I can clarify --

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay.

6 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: -- that question
7 about reimposition. The way it reads is it
8 requires a local act by the General Assembly
9 so it requires a majority of the legislators
10 in the region to approve it and the majority
11 of the counties in the region to pass a
12 resolution so it requires two things to be
13 reimposed or offered again.

14 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: So if a majority
15 of the counties say let's do it again, then
16 it's treated as a local bill, I guess, in the
17 legislature. That's what you're saying,
18 Matt?

19 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: It's actually
20 three things. It's also an election by the
21 voters.

22 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Right.

23 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: But local act,
24 chartered resolution by the counties, and
25 vote.

1 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir?

2 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: Just to get
3 clarification, I've been trying to make sure
4 I understood this ever since this law came
5 out. When the election comes, is it based
6 on -- there's a 500,000-people vote. Is it a
7 majority of the voters or is it broken down
8 by county and majority of the counties?

9 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: It's majority of
10 the voters in the region.

11 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: So it's like a
12 congressional election. It's not like an
13 electoral college of counties?

14 MR. TODD LONG: That's right. Morris,
15 let me pause a second. For our court
16 reporter, when you speak it would be very
17 helpful to say who you are just so she can
18 have it for the record and can put your name
19 in front of your thing. And just so you
20 know, one reason we have a court reporter
21 here is not just to help me, but actually,
22 according to the bill, I've got to give a
23 report to the General Assembly about each
24 roundtable meeting. That's one of the
25 requirements in the bill so this is going to

1 be the report so she needs your name.

2 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Mark Chastain.
3 Do you think the General Assembly will read
4 your report?

5 MR. TODD LONG: Why don't you ask one
6 of the General Assembly members next to you?

7 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Well, I know
8 Katie will.

9 MS. KATIE DEMPSEY: Some.

10 MR. TODD LONG: No comment.

11 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Are there any
12 other questions about the legislation? Well,
13 let's look in your binders inside the little
14 slot, there is a one-page document called
15 recommended guidelines. It sets out the
16 recommended criteria back on November 9.
17 That's the document we want to look at at
18 this point and see how you feel about the
19 recommendations. These recommendations
20 obviously are subject to change. I don't
21 think I'll read them. We've got the
22 highlights on the board for you. We will
23 follow Robert's Rules of Order. The law does
24 not require the election of a chairman of the
25 roundtable we're talking about, but we think

1 it may be a good idea. It will help keep the
2 meetings moving and under control. There
3 probably will be a lot of meetings that the
4 roundtable will have on its own that GDOT is
5 not invited or where facilitators are not
6 needed. We think there is ample reason for
7 you to elect a leader.

8 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Is there a
9 requirement -- this is Boyd Austin -- for the
10 number of public hearings down in this
11 process when it says that the executive
12 committee will hold public hearings, is there
13 a requirement on the number of public
14 hearings, Todd?

15 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: The legislation
16 requires the executive committee to hold a
17 minimum of two public meetings within the
18 region prior to submitting the recommended
19 draft investment list to the roundtable for
20 final action. So it's a minimum of two.

21 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Thank you.

22 MR. TODD LONG: You know, this region
23 could do more than that. But I'll be honest,
24 let me give you some insight. In fact, in
25 Atlanta they actually had a public comment

1 period on the criteria. ARC decided to do
2 that on their own. Other regions plan on
3 having more than one or more than two as they
4 go along. They plan to have just
5 sequentially -- and you can decide as you go
6 along. You don't have to decide the strategy
7 today about the public meetings because the
8 bill just says you have to have a minimum of
9 two.

10 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: The
11 recommendation is that in order to vote you
12 should be physically present. You may want
13 to discuss that. Proxies should be here in
14 case you should -- should be permitted in
15 case you for some reason cannot come. I
16 can't imagine what that would be, but it's
17 possible.

18 MS. KATIE DEMPSEY: Fall and break
19 your knee.

20 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That's right.
21 But the recommendation is that they not be
22 permitted to vote. And the suggestion is
23 that all meetings be open to the public. How
24 about some feedback? You like them all, you
25 like none of them?

1 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: I'm Ted Rumley
2 from Dade County, but on the proxy vote I
3 think that needs to be looked at, but I don't
4 know how it could be changed because, you
5 know, we've got a mayor in our -- that should
6 be here that will never attend the meetings.
7 He travels. And we have only one city in our
8 county, and I think that at our last regional
9 commission meeting we had a couple of mayors,
10 maybe three, that are unable to be here
11 because of health reasons. Like Keith here,
12 he's got one that we had the death of Ronnie
13 Cobb a few months ago and he's filling in for
14 him until the next election, but the mayor is
15 not really in good health that they have him
16 appointed. He can do his job with the city,
17 but as far as traveling, so I just -- I don't
18 know that we can -- how that would be
19 changed, I mean, because that's legislature.
20 That's written in stone.

21 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Oh, no. These
22 guidelines are being recommended by Todd.
23 These are suggested by Todd, not from the
24 legislature.

25 MS. JUDY BAILEY: I'm Judy Bailey from

1 Gordon County, and I agree. I think that if
2 you have one vote and you have a proxy then
3 that person should be able to vote for that
4 mayor or commissioner who is not present.

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. I saw
6 another hand here.

7 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Mark Chastain
8 from Gilmer County. I was thinking that the
9 legislation did not allow proxy voting, but
10 if --

11 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: That's what I
12 thought. That's the reason I said that.
13 Because it was explained to us at one
14 meeting -- I don't know which meeting it was,
15 but --

16 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I support that,
17 as well, because any member of the roundtable
18 is duly elected by the majority of their
19 constituents and should have the discretion
20 to appoint someone to represent the
21 constituents if they're not able to, but I
22 don't know if the legislation offers us that.

23 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. How do the
24 rest of you feel about that?

25 MR. MATT SANTINI: Matt Santini, mayor

1 of Cartersville. I think if we put special
2 stipulations on that for the event of a
3 health incident or family emergency or -- I
4 think we put some guidelines to allow that
5 proxy, I think that will be absolutely fine.
6 I think if there is anything in the
7 legislation it might be to keep people from
8 just appointing a designee and not
9 participating in this process. If it is in
10 that legislation, that may be what it's for,
11 but I do think it's important that the people
12 who are duly elected as was mentioned that
13 they are the ones that are here at the table
14 and not just able to pass this roundtable off
15 to a designee and not show up. I think there
16 needs to be some rules or guidelines for what
17 would allow a proxy to be submitted.

18 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. So the
19 suggestion on the table is that proxies be
20 allowed to vote with conditions and in
21 specific situations.

22 MR. WRIGHT W. BAGBY, JR.: I would say
23 that we're all -- I hope we're all pretty
24 decent people in here and we're going to
25 appoint good proxies. I don't think we need

1 to have conditions. I just think we have to
2 have -- need to have a proxy allowed.

3 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: But each
4 jurisdiction could set their own conditions.

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir?

6 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: Mike Babb. I'm
7 supportive of having proxies. As members of
8 Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, we
9 send proxies all the time to vote on other
10 million dollar projects so I see no reason
11 why this should be any different. We send
12 people normally that we have confidence in to
13 do the right things.

14 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: How do you do it
15 in the commission?

16 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: We just have to
17 identify who we're sending as our proxy
18 and --

19 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: And they have to
20 be an elected official, though.

21 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: I was going
22 to say, it needs to be an elected official.

23 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. So the
24 proposal on the table is that proxies if they
25 are elected officials are permitted and would

1 be permitted to vote at meetings of the
2 roundtable.

3 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: Of that governing
4 body. Like the city council, you know, I
5 don't think it would be right for him to send
6 another commissioner, but as far as if he's
7 got five members of -- that mayor and five
8 members of -- like me or my five or four
9 commissioners, you know, that's kind of the
10 way it is with the regional commission. I
11 feel good about the way ours was set up as a
12 regional commission. I feel good about
13 adopting that policy however it's written.
14 Don't have it with me, but it would be a real
15 good guideline to go by.

16 MR. TODD LONG: Let me comment on the
17 bill itself. I'm not trying to sway your
18 opinion or not, but the bill is silent on
19 proxy. It does not mention proxy and we
20 don't have a legal interpretation of this,
21 but because of the silence we have
22 interpreted that as you're not allowed to
23 have a proxy. If they intended you to have a
24 proxy, there would have been allowance in the
25 law to allow proxies. It doesn't give you --

1 it doesn't say you can't but it doesn't say
2 you can so I think you are going down a
3 slippery slope if you take this proxy to a
4 degree -- now, I'll just give you some
5 insight. Proxy participation has been fine.
6 I think that's no problem. But actual votes,
7 I'm not sure that -- there could be a legal
8 challenge there. If you have an actual vote
9 on your city council, a proxy is not allowed
10 to vote. If you have an actual vote on your
11 county commission vote, a proxy can't vote.
12 That's true, right? So how is this any
13 different unless the bill allows it? Now,
14 these guys are scrambling behind you back
15 here. Have we got any input from our friends
16 at GMA or ACCG on that matter?

17 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: While we're back
18 here waiting on it -- David Austin -- I feel
19 like you've got to be a part of that
20 discussion to be in a position to vote so if
21 you're missing and you don't hear the
22 discussion, I'm not sure why you'd want the
23 vote to count if you weren't part of that
24 discussion or listening to the discussion.

25 MR. H. ALLEN POOLE: Allen Poole from

1 Haralson County. Why don't we leave it to
2 the members on the roundtable if they're here
3 to vote we vote and accept the majority. If
4 not, you're going to send a proxy for
5 somebody that may not even have a clue what's
6 going on. Just leave it to the majority of
7 the voting members on the roundtable.

8 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: So you don't
9 favor letting proxies vote?

10 MR. H. ALLEN POOLE: We're trying to
11 re-create the suggestion that's already
12 handed down so let's just move on with what
13 we've got and address it and whoever's here
14 to vote, vote.

15 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Well, you want to
16 vote on the question of whether or not
17 proxies should be permitted to vote? Let's
18 see what --

19 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Don't we need a
20 representative here first or --

21 MR. TODD LONG: We've tried not to
22 bring legal counsel to the meeting and just
23 because we didn't want to have -- honestly,
24 the law is the law, and to get a real legal
25 ruling on this probably requires a lot of

1 lawyers spending a lot of time thinking and
2 thinking.

3 MS. CINDY VAN DYKE: What it actually
4 says is at the final regional transportation
5 roundtable the draft shall be considered for
6 approval by a majority vote of the
7 representatives present at the roundtable.

8 MR. TODD LONG: So it's silent on
9 proxies. Technically a proxy is not present
10 at the roundtable.

11 MS. CINDY VAN DYKE: It does say
12 representative, but what's the definition of
13 representative?

14 MR. TODD LONG: But you are the
15 representatives of the roundtable.

16 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: And the
17 representatives of the roundtable are
18 designated in the law.

19 MR. TODD LONG: Right.

20 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Why does it say
21 representative and not roundtable member?

22 MR. TODD LONG: Just a reminder I'm
23 getting. The court reporter's going crazy
24 over here. You've got to have names, right?
25 Let's have names.

1 MR. MATTHEW HICKS: And I'm Matt Hicks
2 with ACCG. The legislation -- and in some
3 period it is silent, but it says -- the
4 legislation does read, "The regional
5 transportation roundtable shall consist of
6 two representatives from each county,
7 including the chairperson, sole commissioner,
8 mayor, the chief executive officer of the
9 county, governing authority and one mayor
10 selected by the mayors of the county," so if
11 you're looking for a definition of what a
12 representative is, that might be pointed to,
13 but, again, I'm not legal counsel so I can't
14 say definitively.

15 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That would be my
16 sense is that the law defines the roundtable
17 and it does not include proxies. Okay.
18 Let's see how we want to resolve this. Is
19 there any further discussion?

20 MR. MATT SANTINI: I'd just like to
21 reiterate -- Matt Santini with
22 Cartersville -- that I think we've heard a
23 couple of times around the table that either
24 because of illness or because of job
25 commitments, you know, a number of mayors are

1 part-time positions that I think you're
2 taking away an opportunity for representation
3 if there's not some form of proxy. We also
4 have some sole commissioners who if illness
5 or got to be away for some emergency, I do
6 think that common sense would dictate there's
7 got to be some form of stipulation that would
8 allow the proxy even if that proxy is passed
9 on to somebody else who's at this roundtable.

10 MR. TODD LONG: But I can't think of a
11 single board that allows proxies to vote.
12 Just going through your regional commission
13 board that meets in this room, right, how
14 often do y'all meet, quarterly or whatever?
15 Do y'all allow proxies? The answer is no.
16 Proxies can come and participate, and that's
17 a discussion point of this group is how you
18 participate and you allow participation. One
19 regional commission says the proxies can only
20 speak if they have a prepared written
21 statement. Now, you may decide to do it
22 differently, but having them to vote, I think
23 you're going down a slippery slope. That's
24 just my personal nonlegal opinion.

25 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: And

1 technically you have -- Boyd Austin from
2 Dallas -- you have this meeting and one other
3 required meeting of the roundtable.

4 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That's right.

5 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Plus the
6 executive committee meeting so you're looking
7 at a commitment really of one additional
8 meeting, and the gravity and the importance
9 of the whole process should be one that would
10 command your attention, and maybe if a proxy
11 is sent in case of sickness or some kind of
12 providential interference they could voice an
13 opinion but that otherwise it just be the
14 ones that are here, I would suggest, would be
15 the ones that vote.

16 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Let's see
17 if we can get a consensus on the notion that
18 proxies are permitted, that they can
19 participate in the discussion but that they
20 can't vote. Let's see if there is a
21 consensus on that. Let's see if there's any
22 objection to that.

23 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I'm not trying
24 to be anal. Mark Chastain from Gilmer
25 County. If you look at the guidelines that

1 are put forth, the first recommendation is
2 that we follow Robert's Rule, which means we
3 need a moderator to actually chair and
4 conduct votes, and then the second item is a
5 chairman be elected so if we're going to
6 start voting on things like proxy decisions,
7 we may be a little bit ahead of the course.

8 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: So you want to
9 table that until we get a chairman? Is that
10 what you're suggesting?

11 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I think that we
12 should just to --

13 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Well, let's do
14 that. Let's go ahead and move on. That's
15 fine. Let's table the vote until we get a
16 chairman.

17 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Well, I
18 mean, it's just a general list. I don't know
19 that it's particular in order, but it's items
20 for discussion that before we get too far
21 just to kind of look over how we're going to
22 make this -- meld this thing together rather
23 than being so rigid on discussion items.

24 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: But I would think
25 that on this question we need to -- we need

1 to nail it because, you know --

2 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: If you're going
3 to have a documented vote in the court
4 reporter's --

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yeah. I think we
6 need to nail this. So let's stick a pin in
7 that one and move to the next item. The
8 question of open meetings, meetings open to
9 the public. For this particular meeting, we
10 handed out comment cards to members of the
11 public. That's kind of a standard procedure
12 if your meeting's open to the public. That
13 can be done at all of your meetings.
14 Question is how far do you want to go with
15 that. Any comments?

16 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I hate to be
17 leading the majority of all the comments, but
18 I believe the Georgia Open Meetings Act would
19 require this body to be governed by and
20 required to be public. How you hand out
21 comment cards is a preference.

22 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: So you're
23 suggesting that we allow people to speak?

24 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: To allow public
25 discussion.

1 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: To allow public
2 comment at the meetings?

3 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I think in a
4 refined way, yes. I don't think it should be
5 a free-for-all where members of the public
6 can commandeer the meetings, but --

7 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: My name
8 is Pete Bridges from Tallapoosa.

9 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir.

10 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: Mr. Long
11 has probably pretty well explained everything
12 about the project. If we're going to spend
13 an hour talking about the proxies, how long
14 are we going to spend on \$120 million when we
15 get it? I hate to -- I mean, this is crazy.

16 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Point well taken.
17 Point well taken. Any more comments on
18 public meetings?

19 MR. H. ALLEN POOLE: Allen Poole. I'd
20 like to make a statement. The timeframe --
21 in order to have the public discussion, I
22 think it needs to be a timeframe put on there
23 so that we don't just lag on and on and on so
24 I'd like for the roundtable to set some
25 criteria to end the discussion for the whole

1 public session.

2 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. And I
3 believe the guidelines suggest the period of
4 ten minutes allocated to public comment.
5 That's in the suggested guidelines that were
6 mailed out.

7 Okay. Any other comments? Yes, sir.

8 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: Mike Babb,
9 Whitfield County. You know, we're all for
10 the most part elected representatives here,
11 and our public has plenty of time to get back
12 to us at home to discuss what we're bringing
13 to this group here, and I think if we start
14 opening it up -- the more we open it up, the
15 longer it's going to take, and I think, you
16 know, they're more than welcome -- the
17 public's welcome to come and sit and listen
18 to everything that's going on because we're
19 going to do our business in the public, but
20 then to open it up for the public input at
21 that time for something that's this difficult
22 to do, I think I'd rather see them, "Hey,
23 Mike Babb, I'm from Whitfield County, and I
24 think you're an idiot for suggesting this,"
25 but let them tell me that outside the meeting

1 as opposed to in here and taking up everybody
2 else's time, so I would suggest it's open for
3 public observation but not for public
4 discussion.

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Any other
6 opinions?

7 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: And you
8 bring -- Boyd Austin, Dallas. You bring into
9 the account the fact that we will have public
10 hearings at some point down the road where
11 people have that opportunity and that
12 occasionally like on the metro water board or
13 GEFA or whatever if somebody has a technical
14 opinion or an advocacy group opinion they can
15 contact the chair in advance and ask for a
16 specified amount of time, present that or
17 present a white paper on it or whatever that
18 I think would be more than applicable, but
19 they will have public hearings that they can
20 stand up and voice their opinions for as long
21 as they want to on it.

22 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: I'm sensing that
23 the public should be allowed, of course, but
24 that there should not be time allocated for
25 public comment. That's kind of what I'm

1 sensing. Okay. Let's move on.

2 Let's move on now to the election of
3 the chairman so come back to the question of
4 the proxy.

5 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Mark Chastain,
6 Gilmer County. I just want to ask the
7 question. Are these -- have we just made
8 consensus opinions and established the policy
9 or are we going to vote on it and put it in
10 place? Because we're --

11 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: I would propose
12 that once we get the chairman we vote on the
13 guidelines as they have been amended.

14 Okay. Chairman. Do you have a
15 preferred way of doing this? Are we electing
16 a chairman right away or do we just invite
17 nominations from the floor? I think as you
18 registered or as your name was checked off
19 when you came in you were handed a ballot if
20 you are a member of the roundtable. Is there
21 a member of the roundtable here who did not
22 get a ballot? The ballot consists --

23 MR. CLARENCE BROWN: I didn't get one.

24 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Only members of
25 the roundtable should have a ballot.

1 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: He's a five-man
2 commission all in one.

3 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: And only members
4 of the roundtable, meaning only those who are
5 currently serving in elective office, either
6 chairman of the commission or the elected
7 mayor from a county, those are the people
8 eligible to vote.

9 Okay. I would suggest nominations
10 from the pool.

11 MR. DAVID RIDLEY: David Ridley,
12 Murray County. I make a nomination that Mike
13 Babb from Whitfield County be the chairman of
14 the board.

15 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Mike Babb
16 has been nominated.

17 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: Pete
18 Bridges, Tallapoosa. David Austin, Paulding
19 County.

20 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: David Austin from
21 Paulding has been nominated.

22 Any other nominations? I'm sorry.
23 Okay. Any other nominations? Okay. I'd
24 suggest that you --

25 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: Secret ballot?

1 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: -- I guess vote
2 on Mike Babb and David Austin.

3 If I hadn't fallen and broken my knee,
4 I could dance while the ballots are being
5 counted.

6 I understand we have in the house two
7 brothers, one of whom is chairman of
8 commission and one of whom is mayor of the
9 principal city in the county.

10 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Younger and
11 smarter is the mayor.

12 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Younger and
13 smarter is the mayor. Okay. Okay.

14 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: I'm skinny. You
15 know, I'm the skinny brother so --

16 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: By about two
17 pounds.

18 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Which one wields
19 the most power?

20 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: (raising
21 hand) I'm Fidel. This is Raoul.

22 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Can I have my
23 ballot back? I'm just kidding.

24 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Or I used to
25 tell people he's my Billy Carter.

1 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. So we have
2 a conclusion. Mr. Austin is the chair of the
3 roundtable.

4 Mr. Chairman, we need to address the
5 question of the proxy.

6 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: I think the law
7 is clear, and Clarence made a -- David
8 Austin. Clarence made a great comment that
9 nobody heard, but we need a forum, if there's
10 a forum present then those that are present
11 vote and, you know, if you're in favor of
12 that raise your hand.

13 It carries.

14 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Now,
15 Mr. Chairman, I would ask that the guidelines
16 as amended be adopted.

17 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Is that a
18 motion?

19 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: (Nods head
20 affirmatively.)

21 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: So moved.

22 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: Second.

23 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Take a vote.

24 All in favor say aye.

25 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: All right. Done.

1 Thank you.

2 Moving to the next item is the
3 election of the executive committee. This
4 slide describes the function of the executive
5 committee. The law says that five members
6 from this body shall be elected to an
7 executive committee and those five will be
8 joined by three elected officials, two
9 appointed by the chairman of the House
10 Transportation Committee and one appointed by
11 the chairman of the Senate Transportation
12 Committee. Now, I believe we have the House
13 appointees here today; yes? We have one. We
14 have one of them. The three legislators,
15 according to the law, while they serve on the
16 executive committee, they are nonvoting
17 members of the executive committee. Big
18 responsibility the executive committee has.
19 It has to take this huge list that the
20 planning director will assemble, getting
21 input from variety of sources and present to
22 them as an unconstrained list, meaning that
23 all of the projects will have merit but all
24 of them cannot be funded. That's what
25 unconstrained means. All of the projects

1 have merit. He's not going to just put
2 anything on the unconstrained list. So the
3 executive committee is going to be dealing
4 with a long list of projects that have merit
5 but all of them can't be funded because there
6 will not be enough money so it's a big
7 responsibility. It's a big responsibility.
8 I would ask if there's anybody here who does
9 not want to serve on the executive
10 committee -- okay. Good. Good. Great.
11 That's great. That's great.

12 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: Curtis Lewis,
13 Rockmart. I have a real problem, and I know
14 that may be set up with legislation, but
15 we've got 15 counties and we reduce this to a
16 five-member decision-making body, it seems
17 like it is an awful lot in the room that's
18 not really going to have a good voice.

19 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: If I could --

20 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: You want to
21 comment on that?

22 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: I want to make a
23 comment. Mike Babb, Whitfield County. My
24 comment would only be you've got a very good
25 point and I think that all of us in making

1 recommendations for the executive committee
2 ought to keep in mind and understand that it
3 is a big area and that Haralson, Dade and
4 Fannin County want to make sure that they
5 have someone looking after their interests so
6 I would just hope that we'd all keep in mind
7 geographic equity as we make recommendations
8 or as we decide to vote on the five
9 committee.

10 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Well said.

11 Yes, sir?

12 MR. MATT SANTINI: Matt Santini,
13 Cartersville. In light of that, I did a
14 little bit of homework as I've handed out
15 just to a couple of people in consideration,
16 but if we're going to have a five-member
17 committee, I've done just kind of a rough
18 breakdown of the five different areas that
19 would each represent roughly about 20 percent
20 of the population that's in those areas. If
21 you'll indulge me for just a second, I tried
22 to keep them as contiguous as possible, but
23 if Floyd, Chattooga and Walker were to match
24 up, that would be 22.3 percent of the
25 population; Paulding and Haralson would

1 represent 19.6; Bartow, Polk and Pickens
2 would be 19.1; Whitfield, Dade, Catoosa would
3 represent 20 percent; and then Gordon,
4 Murray, Gilmer, Fannin represents 17.3; which
5 it isn't perfect but what it does do is it
6 does kind of break it down to where there
7 would be equal population representation, and
8 if these roundtable members would consider
9 maybe just getting together in those groups
10 of counties or if there needs to be some
11 adjusting to it and then they pick the
12 representative from those areas, I think
13 that's at least a launching point that you
14 could either agree with or not.

15 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Boyd Austin
16 from Dallas. That's not a bad idea, either.
17 The point is, Curtis, is that the executive
18 committee will actually help facilitate the
19 flow of work but it will not be exclusive. I
20 would imagine that the executive committee
21 would want the roundtable members to be
22 involved and engaged in the process, but that
23 executive committee should kind of push the
24 process along through the schedule it sets so
25 it doesn't necessarily exclude anybody, it

1 just would be like setting up a subcommittee
2 on your counsel or your county commission to
3 address a specific area so I don't see it as
4 an exclusive organization.

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That point's well
6 taken, and I would go back to something Todd
7 said is that the final decision on the
8 project list is made by this body, not by the
9 executive committee.

10 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: But they have that
11 choice to actually what is presented to them.
12 Now, was it their choice if you had 20
13 projects in different parts of our region and
14 is it not their duty -- the way I understood
15 it and read that they can cull three projects
16 if they feel the need and only present the
17 existing projects. Is that right? Or could
18 it be up to them? Because the fair thing to
19 do would be to actually take it back to the
20 roundtable and talk about all of them, you
21 know, but the five-man board, the actual
22 executive committee, if I'm understanding
23 this right --

24 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Well, it
25 does do that. The executive committee holds

1 public hearings and they submit it to the
2 roundtable by August 15th, and the roundtable
3 has that opportunity and it's ultimately the
4 entire roundtable that makes a decision on to
5 call for the referendum or not based on that
6 project list so if you get back in here and
7 the project list isn't satisfactory to a
8 majority, it can be amended or whatever to
9 get it to the point they feel comfortable
10 calling it or let it die.

11 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That is correct.
12 The roundtable does not have to accept the
13 recommendation of the executive committee.
14 The roundtable may amend the recommendation
15 of the executive committee.

16 Am I right, Todd?

17 MR. TODD LONG: That's exactly right.
18 The intent of this is kind of like a church
19 committee. You're trying to decide something
20 you divide up -- you have a pastor selection,
21 you want to have a smaller group, you know,
22 digging in, pulling the sleeves back and
23 trying to figure out the projects, and
24 ultimately, though, the roundtable can say
25 no, we want to change this project for that

1 project and they can pull any project off
2 that list that the executive committee
3 recommends and replace it with another
4 project from the unconstrained list so you
5 have that ability. But the executive
6 committee is important, though, because you
7 are trying to fine tune that effort. If
8 you're smart and you're an executive
9 committee member, you're trying to think
10 about what's going to pass, you're trying to
11 think about strategically what projects need
12 to be done, which projects can we deliver,
13 which ones meet that desired outcome, so you
14 want to put people on the executive committee
15 that can see the region as a whole and
16 they're not just trying to protect their
17 turf.

18 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: I would emphasize
19 one thing that Todd said. He said any
20 project on the unconstrained list, the
21 roundtable can pull any project from the
22 unconstrained list and substitute it for a
23 project that the executive committee
24 recommends. You can't reach into your back
25 pocket and pull out a project and say, "We

1 don't like the one you gave us. I'm going to
2 put this one in."

3 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: That's the way it
4 should be.

5 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: Eddie Lumsden,
6 Floyd County. In relation to understanding
7 the particular needs of that project for a
8 certain area, taking off on what Mr. Santini
9 has presented, I understand he's done it
10 based on population, but I would say that we
11 have counties that have common interests in
12 certain projects more than just a breakdown
13 of population so since we have 15 counties it
14 would seem to me that perhaps we should
15 divide those 15 counties up into three
16 counties maybe that can agree with each other
17 about what those issues are. For Floyd
18 County I would say that Chattooga County and
19 Polk County probably have more issues that we
20 have in common and more advantage that we can
21 gain from projects that we might put forward
22 so in terms of trying to make a fair
23 breakdown of representation on that body, I
24 would suggest that we look at it from that
25 perspective as opposed to population.

1 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. All right.

2 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: John Weaver,
3 mayor of Jasper. I'd like to agree with you
4 in the fact that the 515 corridor has Gilmer,
5 Pickens and Fannin and to the left of us or
6 to the west of us would be Murray County,
7 which we have quite a bit in common, and I
8 think that if the populations anywhere near
9 match would be a great combination for us.

10 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. We need
11 somebody -- Marguerita, at the flip chart.

12 MR. JASON R. WINTERS: I make that
13 motion. Jason Winters.

14 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Looks like we may
15 be making progress here. We may be getting
16 somewhere. We have two proposals as to how
17 to go about electing the members of the
18 executive committee.

19 MR. MATT SANTINI: I'll go ahead and
20 forward it and make a motion based on the
21 proposal that I had that it's done equally
22 by -- I'm sorry. Matt Santini, Cartersville.
23 That the motion is made to do it by
24 percentage of population. That way there's
25 equal representation throughout the region by

1 the number of people.

2 MR. DAVID RIDLEY: David Ridley,
3 Murray County, and I will agree with the --
4 Eddie Lumsden's recommendations. I make a
5 motion that we agree with that.

6 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. We have
7 two different ways of doing it that are
8 opposed. One is that we do it by population
9 as suggested by the mayor of Cartersville and
10 another one, that we do it based on common
11 interest. Am I stating it right, on common
12 interests?

13 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: Yes.

14 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: And I don't know
15 if those two proposals are at odds. Is it
16 possible that they could end up being --

17 MR. MATT SANTINI: Well, I think
18 there's two ways of -- well, go ahead.

19 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Boyd Austin
20 from Dallas. I think the common interest --
21 I think that the statement made earlier that
22 we have to have a region vision and that the
23 common interest amongst them is regional
24 plans that population, I think, is by far the
25 most fair representation. That's the way

1 everything else is based in society, and to
2 not think of it as being exclusive or that
3 this team's pulling for this project or this
4 team's pulling for that project but that we
5 look at the region as a whole and we select
6 those projects from this wide range of
7 criteria. There's like nine different
8 criteria, Todd, or something like that?

9 MR. TODD LONG: Uh-huh.

10 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Because
11 everybody's going to have differing interests
12 amongst counties. There may be a road
13 corridor in one, there may be an airport in
14 Rome, there may be a pedestrian trail in
15 Bartow but that we have enough confidence in
16 our selections that they can carry it out.

17 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: Eddie Lumsden,
18 Floyd County. In response to the point that
19 was made earlier, the representation on that
20 body might be better served in putting
21 together a package that's going to be
22 palatable to everyone on the front side. If
23 you have people who have an understanding of
24 the particular projects that they have coming
25 from that region and can share that

1 understanding with the body at large so
2 that's sort of where I'm coming from in
3 trying to understand that.

4 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Debra, would you
5 pull that flip chart over here, please?
6 Let's see what the proposal here from Matt
7 Santini looks like. We're going to need a
8 darker marker. Would you read off your
9 divisions, Mayor Santini?

10 MR. MATT SANTINI: Floyd, Chattooga,
11 Walker.

12 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Floyd, Chattooga
13 and Walker.

14 MR. MATT SANTINI: Paulding and
15 Haralson.

16 MR. TODD LONG: That title is not
17 correct. This is not projects decided by
18 population. This is executive committee.

19 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Floyd, Chattooga,
20 Walker. That's one grouping.

21 MR. MATT SANTINI: Paulding and
22 Haralson is a second grouping.

23 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Paulding and
24 Haralson only?

25 MR. MATT SANTINI: Yes, because it's

1 based on population. Once again, I'm not
2 married to these counties. It's more of the
3 concept of being based on population
4 percentage versus --

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Third grouping?

6 MR. MATT SANTINI: Bartow, Polk,
7 Pickens.

8 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Bartow, Polk,
9 Pickens. Pickens. Something about Pickens
10 sticks in my mind. I think I lost a lot of
11 money in Pickens County. That's what it was.
12 Jasper.

13 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: You can make a
14 small fortune in Pickens County.

15 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: I spent a lot of
16 money at Bent Tree. That's what it was.

17 And the fourth one was?

18 MR. MATT SANTINI: Murray, Gordon,
19 Gilmer, Fannin.

20 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That's it, right?

21 MR. MATT SANTINI: No. The fifth one
22 would be Whitfield, Dade, Catoosa. Once
23 again, those could get moved around. I know
24 Dade's kind of stuck out there, but I was
25 trying to keep everything as close to

1 20 percent.

2 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Those are
3 the five -- yes, sir?

4 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: There is a
5 motion and a second that we adopt his
6 recommendation.

7 MR. MATT SANTINI: There is not a
8 second.

9 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I thought
10 somebody seconded.

11 MR. CLARENCE BROWN: Okay. Clarence
12 Brown, Bartow County. I second the motion.
13 Now you've got a second.

14 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Mr. Chairman?

15 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Well, I didn't
16 know.

17 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Do we want to
18 go up or down or do we --

19 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: I'm trying to see
20 if the two proposals are dramatically
21 different or if they are pretty close.

22 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: We've got a
23 motion and a second and so we need
24 discussion. I agree with you, John. I think
25 your projects run together, but these folks

1 seem like they could make a decision in the
2 best interest with this grouping. That
3 certainly makes plenty of sense and --

4 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: It looks like to
5 me typical legislative gerrymandering. I
6 mean, Pickens County -- looks like a Chinese
7 checker or a Tic-Tac-Toe with Pickens, Bartow
8 and Polk. I can't even get to Polk County
9 from Pickens County.

10 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: If you're gonna
11 drive an airplane you can.

12 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: You go to Rome,
13 you go 411, go down. I've played golf over
14 there a few times, but I always get lost.

15 MR. MATT SANTINI: And as a point of
16 clarification, like I said, this was done for
17 math. I don't know what regions -- or if one
18 county will work with another. It's just a
19 launching point for discussion so I guess the
20 point -- I guess I've done what I wanted to
21 do.

22 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: This would only
23 be for the election of the executive
24 committee, and then I think y'all's ideas make
25 a lot of sense that your projects are going

1 to flow. This is just a matter of population
2 making decisions that seems to make a lot of
3 sense, but once you get into that executive
4 committee, that group takes your ideas and
5 puts them together and says that makes a lot
6 of sense. I think this is what it's all
7 about.

8 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: Curtis Lewis,
9 Rockmart.

10 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: This will ensure
11 geographic representation so it addresses the
12 question here that --

13 MR. MATT SANTINI: That's population.
14 That's not geographic.

15 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: Some of the
16 counties --

17 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: Curtis Lewis,
18 Rockmart. Can I get a word in?

19 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir. You
20 raised the question about having certain
21 geographic areas of the region excluded.

22 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: I want to go back
23 to Mr. Lumsden's suggestion that I think that
24 the representative who would put a member on
25 there I think we need to be looking farther

1 to the groupings because, like Mr. Weaver
2 says, Pickens County and Polk, we certainly
3 are a long way apart. We have no problem
4 with Bartow, you know, but Pickens we're
5 not -- there's not a road that connects us to
6 Pickens, you know.

7 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: Not even a good
8 road.

9 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: And I think some
10 sort of grouping like in our area of Polk,
11 Floyd, maybe Haralson, Paulding, we're all
12 pretty much in that corridor trying to get to
13 I-20 so I could see where out of this we
14 would probably want to team up for a
15 four-lane from Rome to Villa Rica.

16 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: That's your
17 point.

18 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: Population is
19 important, but I think within certain
20 parameters we ought to be able to make some
21 concessions to regional commonality issues as
22 opposed to just population.

23 MR. MATT SANTINI: That's fine. And
24 I did it as close as I could geographically
25 to have the numbers. Like I said, that

1 breakdown, like I said, this was just a
2 launching point for discussion so --

3 MR. CURTIS LEWIS: Did you do it with
4 men and women or just both?

5 MR. MATT SANTINI: It doesn't make
6 sense that if you've got five representatives
7 and you've got a region with 100 percent of
8 population that you would have one
9 representative that would kind of close to
10 represent 20 percent. Well, I'm thinking
11 more regionally.

12 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: I would just come
13 back in regard to that issue as to this is
14 going to be accurate the final decision is
15 going to come down to this body as a whole,
16 not those members, but in putting together
17 the project list, having members on that
18 board to have an understanding of the
19 particular issue and can advocate for them
20 directly as opposed to having to go through
21 somebody else makes a lot more sense in my
22 mind to bringing about a list that we're
23 going to put forward that would be palatable
24 on the front side instead of having to go
25 through the process several times.

1 MR. JASON R. WINTERS: Jason Winters.

2 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir?

3 MR. JASON R. WINTERS: Jason Winters.

4 I made a little sign here that says, "Will
5 work for Highway 140." I mean, I think we're
6 going to naturally get together depending on
7 who our executive roundtable people are and
8 we're going to each -- if Polk and Haralson
9 has a project together or whatever, we're
10 going to do that anyways. Those projects are
11 going to be brought. I know us and Floyd and
12 Bartow have already done that. I think
13 that's going to happen naturally. The
14 executive table person is not going to
15 determine the regional aspect of these
16 projects so I think that's important to keep
17 in mind.

18 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: I do too.

19 MR. H. ALLEN POOLE: Allen Poole from
20 Haralson County. I'd like to also add to
21 that, Jason, maybe the geographical
22 standpoint so that the smaller counties would
23 be represented on the executive committee
24 we're gonna have the whole interest of the
25 region, we're not going to be looking at what

1 we can get from the three counties based on
2 population.

3 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That's the way
4 it's supposed to be. That's the way it's
5 supposed to be. Right.

6 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: And, you
7 know, when it all comes down to it -- Boyd
8 Austin, Dallas -- the whole thing is we're
9 not -- I don't think we're looking at a huge
10 project. I don't think we're looking at a
11 brand new six-lane road going anywhere.
12 There's not enough money to fund it. We are
13 looking at projects on inter-connectivity,
14 projects that create a flow off the
15 interstate system into this region, get them
16 to 27, down to I-20, all of these things are
17 not something that is a brand new causeway or
18 whatever. It's something -- it's these
19 projects that are meaningful and that when
20 the discussions are had that people say this
21 is what it does for us, this is what it does
22 for the region, this is how things are
23 accomplished with the population influx that
24 we're expecting by 2030 when we are one of
25 the prime growth areas in the state of

1 Georgia for the next 20 years, this is how
2 that's accomplished. We can look at the
3 gridlock in Atlanta, we can look at the
4 gridlock in Paulding County where we got
5 caught by the population wave, but I think we
6 get too much off on territory rather than
7 looking at a true regional picture and giving
8 ourselves credit, you know, to trust one
9 another and also to think in a regional
10 fashion rather than just, you know, we're
11 going to be parochial about it.

12 MR. EDDIE LUMSDEN: I would simply add
13 that the whole is the sum of the parts.

14 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: True.

15 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: There's a
16 motion --

17 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yes, sir?

18 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Well, I was
19 going to present a motion to move the
20 previous question so we can vote this up or
21 down and then decide if we don't go with the
22 population gerrymander system then we can
23 look at -- you can look at the map and pick
24 out three county groups that have regional
25 and culture synergy pretty easily, I think,

1 and I'll even present that if the motion on
2 the table is not passed, but I would move the
3 previous question.

4 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Chairman?

5 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: We've got a move
6 and a second, and is all the discussion over
7 at this point?

8 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: And the proposal
9 is to go with the geographic -- I mean, the
10 population-based --

11 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: The next thing I
12 think on our agenda is a break, and I think
13 if this does go forward then we take our
14 break time to get with the appropriate county
15 that we're put together with and decide maybe
16 who they're going to put on that executive
17 board.

18 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Right.

19 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: So do we have
20 any other discussion? We've got a motion and
21 a second. Let's see a show of hands if --

22 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: What are we
23 voting on?

24 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: We're voting for
25 the geographic location -- the population as

1 Matt had proposed, and it has nothing to do
2 with the corridors that we put together.
3 This is population and only through
4 deciding -- these counties get together and
5 decide the executive for that area.

6 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: That's right.

7 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Is that clear as
8 mud to everybody?

9 MR. CLARENCE BROWN: Clarence Brown,
10 Bartow County. I think from what I've
11 already heard that's probably not going to
12 pass. Even though it looks good, I think
13 there's some counties there that might want
14 to switch around a little bit. You might
15 want to think about that before we go to
16 vote. I know --

17 MR. MATT SANTINI: My motion was for
18 the concept of having a percentage-based
19 representation, not necessarily those
20 boundaries, and I believe that's what your
21 second was for.

22 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: But these are the
23 suggested boundaries that you've come up
24 with. These are the suggested --

25 MR. MATT SANTINI: That was a -- we

1 can start from square one if the concept of a
2 percentage is acceptable to the group. If
3 not, we'll go a different direction.

4 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: There's a motion
5 and a second on the table, and I'll call for
6 the vote. If you're in favor of this agenda,
7 please raise your hand. Population.

8 It fails.

9 Next recommendation?

10 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Mr. Chairman, do
11 you have another proposal?

12 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I've just
13 looked at the map and it's under Tab 2 if
14 anybody wants to look in the book to see how
15 the counties are arranged. I don't know
16 everything about the western side of this
17 district, but as a surveyor, I've worked in
18 every one of these counties and kind of know
19 my way around, and if you start at the
20 northwest corner, I would recommend that we
21 group it Dade -- I will move that we select
22 an executive committee member from each of
23 these following groups: Dade, Catoosa,
24 Walker; Whitfield, Murray, Gordon; Fannin,
25 Gilmer, Pickens; Chattooga, Floyd, Bartow;

1 Polk, Haralson and Paulding. And I know
2 there's some -- and the gentleman spoke about
3 Chattooga and Floyd working together in
4 these, but I just -- I think we don't need to
5 have Floyd, Bartow and Paulding all in one
6 group because --

7 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Would you do that
8 again, please, so she can get it down?

9 MS. DEBORAH DEWBERRY: What was the
10 second one?

11 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: The second one
12 was Whitfield, Murray and Gordon. And it's
13 not perfect. You may want to move them
14 around. That's just a good starting point.
15 If you look at the map, I don't see a whole
16 lot of options. Third one is Fannin, Gilmer,
17 Pickens.

18 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: Instead of
19 putting counties together, let's do
20 commonalities. Even though we're regional,
21 we're talking about a region of the whole
22 state, and then we get all biased when we
23 start talking about Region 1. We're going to
24 protect Pickens, Gilmer and Fannin's borders
25 as well as you want to protect Gordon and

1 Bartow and whatever so I think we need to get
2 those, then we come together as a region.
3 We've got to look at our own interests first,
4 then we bring that into the region.

5 MR. CLARENCE BROWN: Wait a minute.
6 Wait a minute. I'm not trying to protect any
7 border.

8 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: Well, I am. I'm
9 trying to protect the city of Jasper. John
10 Weaver, Mayor of Jasper, by the way. We
11 don't even talk about the -- I have -- no
12 one, even the mayor of Cartersville, didn't
13 bring up the fact that the cities usually
14 take it on the chin every time we discuss
15 reimbursement and how we're going to divvy
16 this money up. We didn't get into municipal
17 local option sales tax, how we never get an
18 opportunity to pass our own tax so that we
19 can provide for our own services, but we
20 always divvy up -- the counties get the big
21 portion, the cities get what's left over
22 because we're talking about road mileage.
23 I've got more road mileage inside the city of
24 Jasper being used than all of Pickens County,
25 but we talk about mileage and population and

1 those roads are falling apart.

2 MR. ROBERT JONES: I'll have to
3 disagree with that point.

4 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: Go ahead. He
5 wants to go out on Pearidge over there
6 somewhere where there's nobody, but we'll
7 talk about that later.

8 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Okay. There's a
9 motion on the floor, and do I hear a second?

10 MR. WILLIAM "PETE" BRIDGES: I'll
11 second that.

12 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: There's a motion
13 and a second. Any other discussion about the
14 alignment of these for the population for the
15 executive committee?

16 All right. I'll call for the vote.
17 All in favor of this agenda, raise your hand.

18 It carries. So we're done.

19 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay.

20 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Now, I think it
21 would be appropriate at this time to take a
22 break -- I know I need one -- and then those
23 counties get together and then let's come
24 back in and say who we would select as our
25 executive for the board.

1 MR. TODD LONG: Okay. And, by the
2 way, lunch is on the 15 counties from the
3 Northwest Georgia Regional Commission so we
4 will have lunch here today too. That will
5 start at noon.

6 (Lunch recess taken, 11:29 a.m. -
7 12:04 p.m.)

8 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: If y'all are
9 ready, we'll get started. Dade, Catoosa,
10 Walker, who is your nominee?

11 MR. KEITH GREENE: We have Ted Rumley
12 from Dade County.

13 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Whitfield,
14 Murray and Gordon?

15 MR. DAVID RIDLEY: We have Mike Babb
16 from Whitfield County.

17 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Fannin, Gilmer
18 and Pickens?

19 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: We nominate
20 Mayor Al Hoyle of Ellijay.

21 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Chattooga, Floyd
22 and Bartow?

23 MR. WRIGHT W. BAGBY, JR.: Clarence
24 Brown.

25 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Polk, Haralson

1 and Paulding?

2 MR. H. ALLEN POOLE: Pete Bridges,
3 Tallapoosa.

4 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Todd has
5 recommended that I put myself up as
6 chairperson of the executive committee but a
7 non-voting person just to help move things
8 along. Is that a consensus or do you want to
9 do it a different way? I'd be a non-voting
10 member. These people would do the voting. I
11 would just facilitate the meeting.

12 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I would
13 nominate you as an ex-officio member of the
14 executive committee.

15 MR. W. MICHAEL BABB: I second that.

16 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: All in favor,
17 say aye.

18 Passes.

19 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Move to
20 approve the slate of officers for the
21 executive committee.

22 MR. ROBERT JONES: Second.

23 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: All in favor,
24 say aye.

25 Approved.

1 Any opposed?

2 We're done.

3 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Wonderful.

4 Wonderful.

5 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Now, I will tell
6 y'all that Todd told me to get to this point
7 that ARC had to have three four-hour
8 telephone conversations, and we got this done
9 in less than an hour. Thank you.

10 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Mr. Chairman,
11 would you mind standing there, please, taking
12 a seat there.

13 Okay. Now, this is the one we thought
14 would take two hours, but since we've used
15 the two hours, then this one will take 30
16 minutes. That's not funny, huh?

17 Three different criteria. What I'd
18 like to do is to ask Todd to come forward and
19 walk us through how he arrived at the
20 criteria which he recommends to you and give
21 you a little bit of background, and then
22 we'll go through the process of discussing
23 them and changing them as you see fit. Now,
24 you don't have to change them, but you are
25 free to change them.

1 MR. TODD LONG: All right. Just
2 backing up for a second and let you know kind
3 of what shaped the development of the
4 criteria themselves. As a lot of young guys
5 know, I spoke to y'all before, we started
6 this process several years ago with IT3, a
7 governor initiative, and it was basically to
8 develop a business plan for transportation.
9 We developed plans all along; in the history
10 of Georgia we've always had a lot of
11 different plans. We had never done really a
12 business plan that showed, hey, listen, if
13 you invest in the economy through
14 transportation development then good things
15 will happen, the GDP will go up. We did find
16 out that we're spending per capita the second
17 least of any state in this country, and if
18 we --

19 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Who's at the
20 bottom?

21 MR. TODD LONG: Who's bottom?
22 Tennessee. But I'd say I think Tennessee
23 actually passed some referendums and they're
24 probably a little bit ahead of us right now.
25 So if we want to move forward as a state, we

1 can't be there on spending on transportation,
2 guys, so that's why we're here today, because
3 we lay out a business plan if it needs to be
4 done, in fact, Senate Bill 200, which created
5 the position I'm in and created a demand for
6 a statewide strategic plan, actually used
7 some of the principles of IT3 in the very
8 beginning and ultimately we developed the
9 Statewide Strategic Transportation Plan,
10 which is called SSTP, and that document is a
11 93-page document which we delivered to the
12 General Assembly last year and was used kind
13 of as, you know, a backstop to why we needed
14 to pass HB277. I'm going to tell you, I
15 don't think HB277, you know, the very first
16 doubters about whether we really needed
17 additional infrastructure investment and, you
18 know, this document I think lays that out,
19 says, hey, listen, if you want to create
20 jobs -- in fact, it creates -- an investment
21 at this level over a 20-year period that
22 we're proposing will create almost 420,000
23 jobs. That's a lot of jobs. I think if you
24 look at some of the economic indicators of
25 how many jobs we've lost in Georgia over the

1 last four or five years, it's about that many
2 jobs so this would actually, just one sector,
3 transportation, could reshelf our job status.
4 It ultimately -- you know, HB277 as out there
5 today, it doesn't require this criteria. It
6 doesn't say, hey, come up with a list of
7 projects, it says come up with criteria
8 first.

9 So as we developed it we said, "What
10 are our performance goals?" Well, these
11 performance goals that you see at the top of
12 the slide there, those four bullets are
13 essentially straight out of the statewide
14 strategic plan. It basically says, hey,
15 listen, our goal in transportation is always,
16 remember, job one, right, we've got to create
17 a system that supports Georgia's economic
18 growth and competitiveness. If we're not
19 competitive with our peer states, we're going
20 to lose in the long run, and we have been
21 winning for years, guys. Georgia has
22 positioned itself well over the years, but
23 guess what? Over the last 10, 20 years,
24 we've been coasting on that past success.
25 Driving in this morning some of you guys

1 probably heard this on the radio. There's a
2 report once again both Tennessee and
3 North Carolina are rated higher than Georgia
4 for recruitment of new businesses. That's
5 not good for us. We need to be the state
6 that people want to come to first. So that's
7 Number 1. Number 2, always ensure safety and
8 security of our citizens. That should be a
9 goal for anybody's plan, whether it's his
10 plan or our plan. Number 3, maximize the
11 value to Georgia citizens. We've got to take
12 what we do have and use it in the wisest way.
13 And, Number 4, you've got to minimize the
14 impact of the environment.

15 All right. So those are your goals.
16 Well, what are your outcomes? The outcomes
17 ultimately will be achieving the best value
18 for the taxpayers, projects that are
19 delivered on time and on budget, and in
20 public acceptance and trust. If you don't
21 have those three goals on a sales tax, you're
22 probably going to fail. And these three
23 goals apply to not only a sales tax for this,
24 but if you have a regular -- not a T-SPLOST
25 but a regular SPLOST program you probably

1 have similar goals. If you don't make it
2 publicly acceptable and deliver the projects,
3 guess what, they're not going to vote for it.

4 And then the guiding principles we
5 use, we're going to focus on deliverability
6 of the projects. That's a huge issue. You
7 want to see orange barrels on the road so, in
8 other words, you have to have projects that
9 are kind of ready to go in the first three,
10 four, five years and get those construction
11 projects out there first and so we can have
12 this thing moving.

13 Projects from existing plans or
14 studies. There has been a lot of discussion
15 about that. Several counties have told us we
16 don't have a plan. Well, technically, you
17 know, everybody's supposed to have a plan
18 under the comprehensive planning laws of
19 Georgia, but we have provided money to a lot
20 of counties to do transportation plans. In
21 fact, Dade County is doing one now. They've
22 hired RS&H and right there in Dade County
23 they're doing a big plan, and a lot of you
24 guys have had plans. The MPO is certainly
25 required by federal law to have a plan so

1 most people have plans. The reason is we
2 want projects not to just come out of
3 nowhere. They want to come out of at least
4 they've been vetted somewhere through some
5 process.

6 The investment consistent with our
7 goals and the MPO plans so if your project is
8 submitted in the Rome area, that project
9 won't be just some project you've never
10 thought of before, it needs to come from at
11 least the MPO plan or the long range
12 planning -- the aspiration plan because y'all
13 vet it through that process. We have a
14 formal body that goes through that process.

15 All right. Next slide.

16 All right. So looking at these, these
17 are all program areas. This is not just
18 roadways. This is transit, bike, everything.
19 You know, it comes from existing plans.
20 That's number one.

21 Emphasis on construction. Now, let's
22 talk about that a little bit. We talked
23 about preference to be constructed projects
24 that are constructed -- in fact, we lay out
25 later projects that can be under construction

1 in the first six years of the bill. Now, not
2 all -- we can't fund all projects in the
3 first six years. We know that. But if you
4 focus on projects that can be delivered that
5 quickly, you're assured probably that you're
6 going to deliver them in the ten-year period.
7 Now, everybody in here has dealt with big
8 projects before in some form or fashion.
9 There are 1,000 hurdles from start to finish
10 to get a project done. You know, we laugh at
11 411 and people have devoted their life to
12 that because there's 1,000 hurdles in the way
13 trying to block you as you go forward.

14 Smaller projects. You know that
15 there's a lot of processes that you have
16 to -- so if you focus on projects that can be
17 delivered quickly, you're going to make sure
18 that you can deliver the whole program. Now,
19 if you want to focus on non-construction
20 projects, certainly that's going to be fine
21 to a certain degree but after you get some of
22 your construction projects done.

23 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: At the risk of
24 beleaguering this, the question that I've had
25 to deal with is how do the various lists

1 compare? For example, like the STIP, do
2 these projects have to come from the STIP if
3 we take projects that are on the STIP and
4 leave some, what happens to the jobs or the
5 projects that are still on the STIP? Can we
6 one-up with a project on the list for the
7 referendum that's not even been submitted as
8 a STIP project? How do those work? And are
9 counties at risk if we target -- State Route
10 382 extension is a big project in Gilmer
11 County. It's been on the book since I was
12 riding a bicycle, and it's on the STIP and
13 has been since I was riding a motorcycle. If
14 we take it off and put it on this, does it
15 kill it for the two years? And part of the
16 reason I'm asking is if the referendum fails
17 then obviously it's not going to be funded
18 through the regional sales tax. Has that
19 project set dormant and dead for the two
20 years, are we putting it on pause on one list
21 to make it active on the other list? How are
22 those parts being handled?

23 MR. TODD LONG: That's a very good
24 question. I want to make sure everybody
25 understands. The STIP, State Transportation

1 Improvement Program, is a four-year document
2 required by federal law for money spent on
3 federal aid projects; all right? Now, this
4 is how it's going to work. If we identify
5 projects that have been -- a project that is
6 on the STIP because remember when we develop
7 the STIP we've got to develop it with
8 anticipated funds. Right now these cannot be
9 considered anticipated funds because the
10 public hasn't voted on them. Projects like
11 you mentioned, 382 extension, you know, it
12 may be a right of way in the STIP but
13 construction is out beyond the four-year
14 period so typically it's not in the STIP, the
15 construction.

16 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Construction's
17 in the 2012 fiscal year.

18 MR. TODD LONG: Oh, is it? Okay.

19 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: It moves a year
20 or two away every year or two.

21 MR. TODD LONG: Well, chasing a
22 rabbit.

23 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: That
24 happened somewhere else.

25 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Does everybody

1 here have that same problem?

2 MR. TODD LONG: We're trying to get
3 away from having that problem. We're trying
4 to lay out a clear plan. But what he's
5 saying is if a project's in the STIP let's
6 say in fiscal '13, all right --

7 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: So you've
8 already moved it out another year.

9 MR. TODD LONG: I'm just -- Project B
10 is in '13 and we want to fund it -- hey, this
11 is a good sales tax project, the public would
12 like it to be on the list, it will be a good
13 one to have, we fund it with the sales tax,
14 it actually frees up money in our regular
15 federal aid program to do something else and
16 as we develop -- we develop the STIP every
17 year, a new one, so we adjust and move
18 projects in and that's what counts.

19 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: And that's what
20 goes through the congressional balancing?

21 MR. TODD LONG: That does.

22 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: So we're not
23 being affected by our federal congressional
24 balancing money regardless of this?

25 MR. TODD LONG: That's right. But it

1 absolutely -- David Doss represents
2 congressional district 11. His district
3 probably is one of the hardest in the entire
4 state -- David, you can shake your head in
5 agreement -- because he's got a lot of
6 projects that cost a lot of money in his
7 district, and he doesn't get a whole lot of
8 money per year, so that's why a lot of the
9 projects that he has in his district are out
10 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, they're long range,
11 and so there's no way to fund them all. So
12 if you do projects that are in the STIP or
13 even just outside the STIP years, you free up
14 money in the federal aid pot to pull in and
15 do sooner so it does help. It's complicated
16 because you guys are actually -- there are, I
17 think, three congressional districts in this
18 area, if I'm not mistaken. Is that about
19 right? 9, 11, and there's probably maybe
20 some of 13. I'd have to go back and look.
21 What congressional district is Haralson
22 County in?

23 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: 11.

24 MR. TODD LONG: Y'all are 11? Okay.
25 Maybe it's just 9 and 11. But that helps 9

1 and 11 if y'all pass it for sure. Actually,
2 believe it or not, guys, if Atlanta passes
3 the regional sales tax, guess who benefits?

4 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: All of us.

5 MR. TODD LONG: Congressional district
6 11 benefits greatly because guess where 11
7 goes, into Cobb County. So if I produce a
8 lot of Cobb County projects with the sales
9 tax, that frees up money in congressional
10 district 11 for Cartersville, for -- you see
11 what I'm saying? So we'll just shuffle as
12 needed once it passes.

13 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: But if we
14 identify -- like I'm just using 382 extension
15 because it's already in STIP, it's in the
16 books. If we put it on the regional
17 roundtable project list, what happens to its
18 status on the STIP and the federal funding in
19 the meantime?

20 MR. TODD LONG: I will take it off if
21 it gets funded and voted on by the voters.

22 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: If it passes or
23 until it passes?

24 MR. TODD LONG: I will leave it on the
25 STIP until it passes.

1 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Thank you.

2 MR. TODD LONG: Hopefully we'll get
3 that one done in '12. Is that '12?

4 MR. STEVE BRADLEY: '14.

5 MR. TODD LONG: I think it was '12.

6 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Mike Evans told
7 me I would be driving on it before my last
8 term of office ended, but, anyway, that's --

9 MR. TODD LONG: That's up to the
10 chairman.

11 MR. STEVE BRADLEY: Just following up,
12 I just have a followup if I'm allowed. Steve
13 Bradley, Bartow County. Following up on his
14 discussion, say you've got something on the
15 STIP that may be looking at '12 or '13 or
16 maybe '14 but the money that we're going to
17 get that's 120 million annually, it's going
18 to take a while to accumulate because a lot
19 of these projects that are going to be
20 regional in nature are going to be very
21 expensive so we wouldn't want to get delayed
22 on a project that we might could get to
23 earlier with the STIP so I just wanted to --

24 MR. TODD LONG: That's right. Steve,
25 you make a great point. You would decide

1 what you put on the list based on which one
2 you can get funded on first. If you can get
3 it funded through the STIP, in other words,
4 if you guys are working -- like if we have
5 State Route 113 in Bartow County, if we have
6 funding of construction in '13 already laid
7 out in the STIP, you might not put it on the
8 list unless -- you've got to think through
9 this, guys -- unless you know that project's
10 a big seller to the public.

11 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: John Weaver, city
12 of Jasper. I thought state routes were not
13 included.

14 MR. TODD LONG: No, no. Absolutely
15 not. No. State routes are not included in
16 the center line lane miles for your local
17 allotment --

18 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: Oh, okay.

19 MR. TODD LONG: -- of formula.

20 MR. JOHN W. WEAVER: Oh, there you go.

21 MR. TODD LONG: State routes, please
22 include state routes. You're going to get a
23 bucketful of them on your unconstrained list.

24 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Are we using
25 controls on this?

1 MR. TODD LONG: So we broke the
2 criteria into several areas. That's how we
3 laid out, roadway capital being the first
4 one. You know, we laid out some strategic
5 parameters on each of the categories. Like
6 roadway capital, hey, you want to serve
7 employment centers or activity centers.
8 Well, think about it, guys. In your case,
9 you're serving regional employment centers,
10 activity centers, areas that come in. State
11 Route 140 -- came up with that earlier. 140
12 connects what? I-75 to 27. Connects another
13 employment center because it's connecting the
14 region. So then you get into new roads,
15 widening interchanges -- in fact, y'all have
16 got a lot of interchanges in your district
17 that you want redone and new ones you want
18 built. Interstate improvements. I-75
19 widening. It goes on and on and on.
20 Economic development corridors. You've got
21 one leg of 27 left; right? Which is that?
22 Do you know what that is? 27's got four
23 projects left basically. You've got some
24 down in south Georgia, then you've got
25 Summerville bypass sitting out there at

1 \$80 million.

2 Next slide.

3 You can use the money for roadway and
4 bridge maintenance. Now, regular SPLOST
5 programs you can't use for maintenance. This
6 program you can. Using it for operations and
7 maintenance is a big deal. And if you decide
8 to use a lot of your money for roadway
9 maintenance, just understand there's a need
10 there but there's also a consequence of
11 what's sellable to the public so you've got
12 to think through that. That's why we laid --
13 we laid this in there -- well, we actually
14 laid a relatively low percentage. I think we
15 did zero to ten percent.

16 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Let me point out
17 one thing in case you didn't know. Todd is
18 going to be reappointed by Governor Deal so
19 for a -- what period of time?

20 MR. TODD LONG: At his pleasure.

21 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: But just so you
22 know, this will continue so we won't have to
23 start over with a new planner. He has
24 been -- or that is the pleasure of the
25 governor-elect.

1 MR. TODD LONG: Yeah. That's true.

2 Thanks.

3 All right. Safety and traffic
4 operations. I personally think these are
5 going to be sellers. You talk to the public,
6 they know that these operation projects,
7 these safety improvement projects, those
8 actually are great projects, and I put a
9 large percentage in this category on the
10 funds as part of my -- now, remember you'll
11 get to it in a minute. These recommended
12 percentages are just recommendations.
13 They're guidelines, they're targets for you
14 to go by.

15 Freight and logistics. Once again,
16 you know, these are areas that address
17 ongoing state logistics and corridors. You
18 know, you've got several corridors that
19 qualify probably under this category and they
20 also qualify on the roadway widening category
21 that could be funded under either area.
22 These are all matching up back to the
23 statewide transportation program and the
24 goals of that.

25 Next.

1 Aviation. That may be something you
2 want to do. A lot of you guys have good
3 airports. There are several really good
4 airports in this region. There's several
5 counties that actually want to have an
6 airport, right? Fannin?

7 Next slide.

8 Bike and peds. We laid out anywhere
9 from one percent up to five percent for bike
10 and ped type projects. Once again,
11 particularly in your cities around this
12 district, these might be big sellers to the
13 public. And we try to be a little bit
14 strategic about it. This is on the regional
15 side. Of course, you can use your
16 discretionary money however you want to, but
17 on bike and pedestrian trails we said, hey,
18 listen, the plan also you need to enhance
19 some connectivity to activity centers and
20 employment centers. In fact, like buses, if
21 you're going to -- I guess Rome has a bus
22 system, right?

23 MR. WRIGHT W. BAGBY: Yes.

24 MR. TODD LONG: So if you're going to
25 put a sidewalk in, you want your sidewalks to

1 connect bus stops, right? It's a strategic
2 way to spend your money.

3 MR. WRIGHT W. BAGBY, JR.: And hope
4 the buses can get from one point to the
5 other.

6 MR. TODD LONG: Yes.

7 All right. Transit. This is a huge
8 issue in a region south of you on having this
9 in there. It will be up to this roundtable
10 to decide how much transit to put in there.
11 Certainly you do have several jurisdictions
12 within your region that have transit systems
13 and that are in desperate need of money and
14 you'll have that discussion. We want
15 obviously that money to be spent in taking
16 care of what you've got first, that's a big
17 issue before you expand, but there's a wide
18 range of eligible projects that you could do
19 under capital, but ultimately, once again,
20 look at the last bullet, make sure these are
21 projects that actually are connecting
22 activity centers and employment centers.

23 All right. This is the
24 recommendation, but look at the title. This
25 is basically investment allocation targets.

1 You don't have to be to the penny of these
2 targets. I highly recommend that you guys
3 keep some form of target ranges. If you were
4 developing a SPLOST, once again, you would
5 not go into it cold without any kind of
6 direction. You would say okay, I need to
7 spend this much on parks, I need to spend
8 this much on jails, I need to spend this much
9 on libraries, I need to spend this much on
10 roadway improvements. You would go into it
11 with some guidance of how you're going to
12 spend your money. That's why we felt like
13 there needed to be a guide. This guide kind
14 of gives you some direction of what we felt
15 like is needed in this region. You can see
16 the bulk of the money obviously the roadway
17 capital, and then you add safety and traffic
18 operations. Really that's the bulk. Now,
19 you may wonder. These numbers don't -- if
20 you're looking for something to add up to
21 100, these percentage ranges don't add up to
22 100, but ultimately you've got to break down
23 in how you spend your money has to equal 100
24 percent, right, so it does work out and the
25 ranges will plot.

1 But let's back up a second. So you're
2 looking at some pretty serious money. I know
3 projects are large and some of them are big,
4 but you can still do some really good work
5 with that amount of money.

6 Okay. So I'd like to take questions.
7 Yes?

8 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: At what point
9 will we actually discuss and debate and set
10 some percentages? I mean, you're giving a
11 good overview of the material. I guess we're
12 going to overview and then come back and
13 discuss and make some decisions?

14 MR. TODD LONG: You do not have to
15 decide on a percentage on each category. You
16 adopt the criteria. The criteria gives you
17 ranges to work within.

18 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Right.

19 MR. TODD LONG: You never have to
20 adopt a finite percentage. But the
21 discussion about the criteria itself is
22 fixing to happen right after I sit down.

23 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Thank you.

24 MR. TODD LONG: Any questions in
25 regard to the criteria?

1 All right. We can turn it back over
2 to Morris, I guess, for facilitation. He
3 will facilitate.

4 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Okay.

5 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Okay. Comments
6 about the criteria? Questions about the
7 criteria?

8 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Is everybody
9 happy with the percentages as they're
10 allocated here? I know we've got ranges so
11 are you okay with the ranges or do you see
12 any problem with the ranges that are set up
13 here?

14 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I would just
15 like to speak my opinion since it's -- as
16 Todd pointed out --

17 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Excuse me,
18 Mr. Chairman. Is everybody at Tab 8 in the
19 booklet, in the binder?

20 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Tab 8 is the
21 same thing as the criteria.

22 MR. MORRIS DILLARD: Yeah, the
23 criteria. Just keep flipping through --

24 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: It's page 3 of
25 Tab 8. As Todd pointed out when he addressed

1 the regional commission a few weeks ago, this
2 is not a SPLOST. All of us are used to
3 SPLOST being constrained strictly to capital
4 improvements and equipment, and I'm sure that
5 the intention is not to make this a
6 maintenance cash cow, but I really think the
7 discussion bears attention that I believe
8 that the amount of roadway and bridge
9 maintenance should be significantly increased
10 from zero to ten to something in the ten to
11 30 range strictly because if we spend 120
12 million dollars a year on capital
13 improvements and you can't see them for five
14 feet of weeds on the side of the road, that's
15 embarrassing us along with the DOT instead of
16 just the DOT like it is now. And if you look
17 at bridge situations all around our counties,
18 the more glaring example was the bridge in
19 Minnesota that failed on the interstate that
20 was the product of poor underfunded
21 maintenance for many years, but every county
22 and city represented here has bridges that
23 are on the troubled bridge list, and I think
24 if you continue to neglect those they wind up
25 being multi-million dollar bridge replacement

1 projects when the taxpayer's dollar can go a
2 lot farther if we just do a better job of
3 taking care of what we've got, and if we
4 continue to hope that maintenance is funded
5 out of discretionary funds or what's left of
6 motor vehicle tax after you make the bond
7 payments or, you know, we're going to
8 furlough people two days a month to try to
9 have enough money to mow grass once, that's a
10 failed system. And this is an opportunity
11 as -- again, I actually would not want to see
12 the regional sales tax money go to mowing the
13 side of the road, but if you were doing more
14 planned engineer-based logical maintenance of
15 improved capital assets like your subgrade,
16 your base and in your bridges, then the
17 maintenance plan that you've got left for
18 roadkill and mowing the side of the road
19 would be relieved considerably and we
20 wouldn't be building a lot of stuff that we
21 don't have money set aside to take care of so
22 my recommendation would be to bump the
23 roadway and bridge maintenance percentage up
24 significantly for that reason, but I wouldn't
25 want to see it over 25 or 30 percent because

1 I believe that would circumvent the whole
2 idea.

3 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Boyd Austin
4 from Dallas. You need to keep in mind that
5 on the criteria is for resurface and
6 rehabilitation projects. It's not
7 operational maintenance, shoulder upkeep or
8 anything like that. It's for resurface and
9 rehabilitation priorities and based on GDOT
10 pace ratings or bridge maintenance and
11 replacement so it's not everyday maintenance.

12 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Right. And I'm
13 going to keep it out of everyday maintenance
14 and keep it into the --

15 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: But the
16 thing, too, is -- and we talked about this
17 last month and Todd and I have had a
18 discussion in between. This is a template
19 basically to get us started and that when
20 priority projects are submitted it will help
21 us to define more narrowly what those
22 percentages would be that would apply at that
23 point. Also keep in mind that you've got a
24 significant pot of money coming back to you
25 locally that can be used at your discretion

1 for those types of things too.

2 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: But not for
3 state roads. I mean, you could actually
4 make -- actually you'd have to go through
5 some bureaucratic hoops and it would be very
6 unpopular with our constituents to use our 25
7 percent local match to rebuild a state bridge
8 on a state route.

9 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: But what I
10 would say is today that if you move the
11 adoption of this generic criteria and you
12 take the time to assemble -- Todd didn't like
13 my comment of backing into a percentage, but
14 I think if we, say, look at safety and
15 traffic operations, says between 15 and 50,
16 if we look at a number of projects and we
17 total them up and we prioritize them and
18 they're 37 percent, then you go back and you
19 kind of fit the other pieces of the puzzle
20 in. You take the top priorities and then you
21 go do it like your next tier of projects to
22 develop so --

23 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Does anybody
24 else have any other comments on bridges?

25 MR. JASON R. WINTERS: Jason Winters.

1 I think it's important, too, to look at the
2 dollar figure. I mean, 100 million dollars
3 is a lot for roadway and bridge maintenance
4 upkeep. It costs us eight to \$10,000 to mow
5 our state right of ways so the county -- you
6 know, that's important to remember is the
7 dollar figure.

8 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Well, just my
9 final comment on that is when we all get the
10 bridge report once a year, you know,
11 recommendations in there that we do this, we
12 shore up this curb, this plate or whatever,
13 and it's widespread that we'll -- they'll
14 just lower the tonnage and we'll put that off
15 another year, and you keep doing that and you
16 keep doing that and you're doing what
17 Minnesota did. And it might be an \$18,000
18 repair to a bridge that may cost you a
19 million and a half to fix or to replace five
20 years from now, and it's those -- you know,
21 the engineering-based bridge repairs that I
22 think get neglected that I would really like
23 to see -- you know, the one with 100 million
24 may go pretty far, but I think if you start
25 the threshold at zero you're opening the door

1 for those type things to get de-prioritized
2 all the way down to the bottom list when you
3 go backing in, which is the most feasible way
4 to go about the building list anyway.

5 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Any other
6 comments on the bridge?

7 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: I would move
8 the adoption of the criteria as presented as
9 a starting point for development of the
10 regional transportation plan and then that
11 will all be hashed out through the executive
12 committee and the final roundtable vote next
13 year.

14 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Is there a
15 second?

16 MR. WRIGHT W. BAGBY: Second.

17 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Motion and
18 second. Any other discussion?

19 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Move to amend
20 the motion to increase the bridge allotment
21 from zero to ten to ten to 20.

22 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: The motion is to
23 accept it and you're asking --

24 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: I'm moving to
25 amend that motion according to Robert's

1 Rules.

2 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Is there a
3 second?

4 Failed for lack of a second.

5 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Fair enough.

6 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: We have a motion
7 and a second to accept this criteria. Any
8 other discussion? All in favor, raise your
9 hand.

10 Any against?

11 So it passes.

12 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: But, now, if we
13 need to come back months from now and we need
14 to adjust this, I know we just accepted it,
15 we just adopted it, it is not written in
16 stone, but that's up to our roundtable to do
17 that.

18 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: That's up to us.

19 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: We can fine tune
20 it as we go.

21 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: The key word
22 there is parties.

23 MR. TODD LONG: Well, let's make
24 sure -- you can't go back and redo the
25 criteria again. You just adopted the

1 criteria, according to what the bill says.
2 Now, how you use those percentages, they're
3 still target allocation ranges.

4 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: I think the
5 confusion comes is you've got categories and
6 then you've got a target range. The target
7 range is malleable. It can be moved. That
8 target range just gives you a starting point
9 to work. When you're talking about criteria,
10 you're talking about the total items and what
11 that item allows under it; correct?

12 MR. TODD LONG: Well, when I speak of
13 criteria, I speak of the document as a whole,
14 but the wording in the criteria still will
15 apply, all of it. Now, but let's go back.
16 We went -- go back one slide. If you look --
17 I mean, this is really a point of
18 consternation during the development of the
19 percentages, as you know, and we didn't do
20 this in a vacuum, we talked to a lot of
21 people and got different input, and this is
22 one of the areas that how you phrase that
23 term in that first column, investment
24 allocation target ranges. The bill actually
25 uses the word allocation. The director of

1 planning shall submit criteria that includes
2 allocation of funds so I've done that. Okay?
3 That's why I have this category. But it
4 doesn't say anything about how the roundtable
5 uses that allocation. The bill is silent on
6 that matter. Does that make sense? But I
7 would strongly encourage you -- the way you
8 said a minute ago is a perfect example. You
9 get in there and you figure out what projects
10 you want and it comes out to 37 percent.
11 Well, voila, you're right in the middle of
12 your range, which is perfect. But you've got
13 to have a starting point as you go forward,
14 and I think it will work. I'm really not
15 worried about it, to be honest with you.

16 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Just to be
17 clear, though, we can't go spend 10.1 percent
18 on bridge and highway maintenance after the
19 last vote?

20 MR. TODD LONG: Yes, you can.

21 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: We can? What
22 was the purpose in adopting that, just as a
23 guideline?

24 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: The
25 guidelines and the criteria, those one, two,

1 three, four, five, six, seven -- eight
2 program areas and what's stipulated in those
3 program areas I think is the functional
4 meaning of it, and then the target range
5 gives you somewhere --

6 MR. MARK E. CHASTAIN: Good. I
7 thought it was more rigid.

8 MR. TODD LONG: I'll give you just a
9 crazy example --

10 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: If it is
11 more rigid, we'll just call the next governor
12 and ask for a new planning director.

13 MR. TODD LONG: You could have adopted
14 a program, let's say, that was 100 percent
15 today, amend this, 100 percent bikes; right?
16 So according to the criteria, which now I'm
17 obligated to follow under the unconstrained
18 list, my unconstrained list would only
19 include, you know, bikes. That's not going
20 to happen obviously, but, I mean, it's just
21 giving you an example. My unconstrained list
22 is not constrained by these percentages. I'm
23 going to give you a larger list of projects
24 that meet the criteria; all right?

25 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: One of the

1 things I'll add there to what Todd said,
2 yesterday Bank of North Georgia had a forum
3 and they had Dr. Albert Niemi, the dean of
4 the Cox School of Business from Southern
5 Methodist University, and he's spoken several
6 years and given predictions, and he predicted
7 the top ten markets in 2030 in the United
8 States is California, Texas, Florida,
9 New York and then tied Illinois, Georgia and
10 North Carolina are tied. Then you've got
11 Pennsylvania, Ohio and Arizona as the top ten
12 markets by 2030. If we don't really get busy
13 and make sure this passes, we'll drop out of
14 that top ten. I'm convinced if we can't
15 maneuver and get around, we'll drop out of
16 that top ten. And population wise he showed
17 the population, and you can't see this, but
18 yellow and orange are bad, blue is great.
19 This is done by county, and our northwest
20 Georgia region is all blue. Northwest
21 Georgia Regional Commission is all blue, and
22 that's great, for population moves, and we've
23 got to be able to move those people.

24 MR. TODD LONG: Good. All right.
25 Next steps. All right. We elected a

1 chairman. Great. Check. You elected
2 executive committee. Check. And you
3 approved criteria. Check. So that's good.
4 And you really did that -- we had a long
5 lunch -- in a couple of hours total time in
6 the room. That's good.

7 What's next? Well, the next is now
8 falling on me and you. We've got to develop
9 this unconstrained list. The bill calls for
10 me to develop it, but it also says I solicit
11 projects from local jurisdictions and MPOs so
12 I'm going to be looking for your help in
13 developing that list, and keep in mind as you
14 develop your list the criteria you just
15 approved so I'll be looking for that help.
16 We haven't decided exactly how that's going
17 to look. Probably we're going to develop a
18 form that we have to submit on. We have
19 asked the regional commission staff all
20 across the state to help us be a facilitator,
21 in other words, you send the projects in to
22 them, they'll send them to us, they'll just
23 make sure their i's are dotted and t's are
24 crossed, but we'll do the evaluation on the
25 projects because according to the bill when I

1 give the unconstrained list I've got to
2 provide the public benefit for the project so
3 you'll see a sheet of paper with a project
4 description, map, everything about it, you'll
5 also see the public benefits of the project.
6 That will be useful to you guys, particularly
7 on the executive committee, as you make your
8 decisions. So that process is going to take
9 place between now essentially and April, and
10 I just want to let you know that it's going
11 to be a big process. It's something -- I
12 can't do it overnight. Obviously the General
13 Assembly meets during that time period, and
14 they probably will have suggestions, as well,
15 on projects to include, but we welcome every
16 suggestion.

17 So by May, if you look at that middle
18 part, we'll have this unconstrained list
19 done, and the executive committee meetings
20 will occur during the summer.

21 Yes?

22 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Going back
23 to that last point on submission of projects,
24 is there any way to delineate or to note on
25 there where the submission was made?

1 MR. TODD LONG: From who, you mean?

2 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: If it comes
3 from a legislator, I'd like to know what
4 they're sending on my behalf or maybe not on
5 my behalf and where it was derived. No
6 offense, Katie --

7 MS. KATIE DEMPSEY: No.

8 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: -- but some
9 of us don't have representatives as
10 responsive as you are.

11 MS. KATIE DEMPSEY: No. I'm with you.

12 MR. TODD LONG: Yes, that is true.
13 And just to let you know, Cindy Van Dyke --
14 stand up, Cindy -- Cindy's actually leading
15 our effort with our consultants and she'll be
16 leading that effort with Jacobs, helping us
17 do that evaluation, so we're looking forward
18 to that process. So this summer you guys
19 will be busy so technically you chairing this
20 committee really doesn't -- you don't have
21 meetings until this summer of executive
22 committee you guys just adopted so -- then
23 ultimately executive committee work during
24 the summer, then by August the constrained
25 list should be presented -- if earlier, the

1 earlier the better, right? -- to the
2 roundtable, so those are the next steps.

3 All right. If you have any questions,
4 feel free to call me.

5 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Do we need
6 to take any action to appoint the regional
7 commission as a facilitator or anything like
8 that? Is there any formal recognition of
9 that?

10 MR. TODD LONG: If you want to. I've
11 asked them to do that. We wrote a letter to
12 all the regional commissions across the
13 state, and we asked them to do five things.
14 We asked them to help us with the mayor
15 elections, gathering that data; we asked them
16 to help find locations and post meetings like
17 today; we've asked them to help us out as far
18 as collecting the projects and then sending
19 them to us; and we've asked them to help with
20 the public hearings that are required; and
21 then ultimately the logistics of the
22 roundtables back in the fall and executive
23 committee members meetings, so if you want to
24 adopt their helping out with that regard,
25 that's certainly fine with me. Bill, do you

1 have any preference?

2 MR. WILLIAM STEINER: No.

3 MR. TED M. RUMLEY: I make a motion to
4 that effect.

5 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: There's a
6 motion. Is there a second?

7 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: Second.

8 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Motion and a
9 second. Is there any other discussion? All
10 in favor as proposed.

11 MR. TODD LONG: We do have a website,
12 and we try to post a lot of information on
13 that website. It's not on the screen here,
14 but it's -- you might want to jot this down
15 in your notebook somewhere -- www.IT3.GA.gov.
16 If you go to the DOT web page, you can get
17 there by linkage back to that page, but we've
18 got all the criteria posted, we'll have --
19 like today we'll have a meeting report of
20 today's meeting, and we'll post that on the
21 web so we'll have -- we have the
22 discretionary money -- he's got it right
23 there. We've got the discretionary money.
24 We've got information about how mileage and
25 center line mileage and population is

1 calculated. We've got a page writeup on
2 that. So there's just a lot of good
3 information. And as we go forward, we'll put
4 more and more information on that page.

5 MR. WILLIAM STEINER: Important
6 clarification. Projects will come to our
7 office, we'll kind of take a look and see if
8 the i's are dotted and the t's are crossed,
9 we bundle them up and send them to you
10 periodically.

11 MR. TODD LONG: We'll give you the
12 process. If you want to know, guys, just so
13 you know, this wasn't just Bill and his
14 staff. We've met with the Regional
15 Commission Association back in the summer, I
16 guess it was August, in trying to decide how
17 we would use the regional commissions because
18 the bill was silent on how we would
19 facilitate this, but since the boundaries
20 were the regional commissions, we decided to
21 make a lot of use. They actually asked to
22 be -- the commission association asked to be
23 part of this, they asked to help out in
24 whatever way they could do it. This is kind
25 of a group we talked to and this was kind of

1 we thought was the best way to use them, and
2 so far it's worked real well. They've helped
3 us on education and getting word out, and
4 it's really worked well, and we appreciate
5 Bill and his staff here. Thank you.

6 All right. Chairman?

7 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: Do I hear a
8 motion to adjourn?

9 MR. BOYD L. AUSTIN, JR.: I make a
10 motion.

11 MR. DAVID A. AUSTIN: All in favor,
12 aye.

13 (Roundtable meeting adjourned at 12:47
14 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF FLOYD)

I, CHRISTY L. FREYBERG, Certified Court Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within Georgia, do hereby certify that the said proceedings were taken in machine shorthand by me at the time and place aforesaid and were thereafter reduced to typewritten form under my direction, pages 1 - 126; that the foregoing is a true, complete and correct transcript of said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not employed by, related to, nor of counsel for any of the parties herein, nor otherwise interested in the outcome of this litigation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have affixed my signature and seal this 12th day of January 2011.

CHRISTY L. FREYBERG, CCR-B-1730
My commission expires the
31st day of March 2011.