

RE: TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2010

BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 6th day of December, 2010, a Roundtable Discussion was held on behalf of Planners for Environmental Quality, concerning the above-referenced matter, in Camilla, Georgia, commencing at 6:02 p.m., as follows:

HOULDRIDGE COURT REPORTING

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1 did pass this last session, House Bill 277, and it is
2 probably the most important piece of legislation dealing
3 with transportation we've had for years. We've been
4 singing the blues on a state level, a federal level, and
5 really a local level for years that there's not enough
6 money for transportation and infrastructure. If Georgia
7 wants to move the needle on bringing jobs to this state
8 and being competitive with other states, not necessarily
9 Alabama -- we're talking about the tier one states,
10 North Carolina, the Washington states, the Virginias. If
11 we want to be competitive and bring jobs to the state,
12 we've got to deal with transportation.

13 Right now we're second lowest per capita in
14 investments in the country. If you want to get good at
15 something, you're not second lowest per capita at
16 anything. So we've got to make some investment. This
17 opportunity seems to be pretty relevant, because we
18 looked at the gas tax. That is our bread and butter. It's
19 been working for years and years, really ever since the
20 fifties. That's the reason the federal government has
21 built interstate systems and we've built much of our
22 roads because of the gas tax.

23 Well, you know as well as I do that over the next
24 ten or fifteen years, the gas tax is in serious trouble.
25 That's simply because you guys are driving less and

1 you're driving more fuel-efficient cars. So if our vehicle
2 miles traveled barely goes up or stays the same, and our
3 fuel economy doubles over the next ten years, what does
4 that mean for revenue? It goes right with it. Right? It
5 follows it.

6 I always give this example: I drive a Chevy
7 Silverado for twenty years. I loved my Silverado, but I
8 got about sixteen miles per gallon; right? Well, this
9 spring, I bought my Dad's Toyota Camry, and I get
10 twenty-four miles per gallon now. Well, my personal
11 contribution to the transportation infrastructure, I didn't
12 change my miles driven, it just went down thirty-three
13 percent on what I give to transportation in Georgia.
14 That's happening all over the place.

15 So the regional sales tax was the option that our
16 General Assembly decided to push. They successfully
17 did that this last year after about three sessions of
18 debating on how the bill would look and how it would
19 bill and roll out, but the bill that passed is what we've
20 got to deal with and we're now working with the bill.
21 It's got some great points in it. It's got -- obviously,
22 some people are looking at it from a critical angle, but
23 I'm telling you, it's a bill that you can work with. That's
24 my opinion.

25 So it is a twelve tax district bill. So, in other

1 words, your tax district is separate from the tax district in
2 the southern regional commission or the Atlanta regional
3 commission. Each district can levy a one percent sales
4 tax for a period of ten years. Money raised in this
5 district right here, the Southwest, will not be spent in
6 Atlanta. That's a concern that everybody in this room
7 has. You don't want your money to spend somewhere
8 else. The money raised in Atlanta will not be spent
9 where? Southwest Georgia, which a fair thing. They
10 think all of the money in Atlanta is going to us. Did you
11 know that? They really think that all the money in
12 Atlanta is going here. Isn't that right? Which is
13 ridiculous. But that's what they think.

14 Money is not subject to congressional balancing.
15 Mr. Floyd will tell you that's something we grapple with
16 every day, trying to understand and spread the money out
17 by congressional balancing.

18 Now, you know our congressional districts were
19 not drawn within the strategy of mind from the
20 standpoint of transportation. It was a different strategy.
21 The strategy is not dealing with transportation,
22 particularly when you get up to the northern region.
23 Those districts are in and out of metro Atlanta. In fact,
24 there are seven regional commissions that have
25 boundaries in the Atlanta regional area. So this is not

1 subject to that, which is good.

2 Individual case, this not about counties. This is not
3 about Grady County. This is about the Southwest
4 Georgia region. This is not about Decatur County.
5 You've got to take off your county boundary. You're
6 now in a roundtable that represents a region. Yes, you
7 represent the area you came from. That's how you got
8 on the roundtable, but ultimately you've got to be talking
9 regionally about these projects.

10 The criteria that we're going to talk about tonight,
11 the bill lays it out. It is submitted by the Director of
12 Planning, but ultimately it's approved by you. So I'm
13 not here to force down your throat criteria for project
14 selection. I'm here to present to you a recommendation.
15 It will be up to this group, without my vote, to approve
16 it.

17 Ultimately, the project list, yes, I work with you
18 guys on the project list, but ultimately guess what
19 happens? The vote is, once again, the roundtable. This
20 bill is leaning heavily towards local involvement and
21 local decision-making. The votes will be in 2012. In
22 fact, if you look at the Secretary of State's page, it's
23 actually August of 2012, is the next statewide election.
24 The funds will start flowing the first quarter of 2013.

25 Let's remind ourselves. The bill does consist of

1 pots of money, the regional pot and the local pot. Now,
2 we're here today as a roundtable to discuss the money,
3 the criteria and the project selection. That's on the
4 regional topic. The local pot of money will go back to
5 the city and counties directly by formula without any
6 input from the roundtable, without any input from you
7 guys.

8 So as it comes to -- let's take Worth county, for
9 example. You'll get your allotment. You and your
10 county commissioners will decide how that money is
11 spent, and no other body. You just have to spend it on a
12 transportation project as defined under the bill.

13 So you can look here. The local share is a
14 significant part. It's twenty-five percent. The reason the
15 bill passed, in my opinion -- you could ask these
16 legislators -- is because twenty-five percent of the money
17 went back to the locals for their needs and their desires.
18 That's a big percentage. That's divided by formula. The
19 formula is real simple. It's the old arc formula which is
20 based on one-fifth population, four-fifth lane miles.
21 Discretionary money, it can be used for resurfacing,
22 bridge repair, paving dirt roads, you name it. It's wide
23 open.

24 In 2013, the first year of the bill, it looks like that
25 local pot will be about \$11,000,000.00. It will be

1 distributed among the counties and cities within this
2 region. Now, Dan, you probably now how many cities
3 are in your region.

4 MR. MULLINGRIFF (phonetic): Forty-four.

5 MR. LONG: Forty-four cities. How many
6 counties?

7 MR. MULLINGRIFF: Fourteen.

8 MR. LONG: Fourteen counties and forty-four
9 cities. So it will be split up among those cities and
10 counties.

11 On the region side, that is why you're here. You'll
12 be deciding how this money gets spent on the left-hand
13 side of the column. Seventy-five percent of it will be
14 used to fund all projects on the final list approved by the
15 roundtable. Of course, ultimately, who has to approve
16 it? Those nine or ten million citizens in the State of
17 Georgia have to approve it for all of the different
18 regions. So in your region – I'm not sure what your
19 population is. Dan probably knows.

20 MR. MULLINGRIFF: Three hundred and sixty-
21 five thousand.

22 MR. LONG: Three hundred and sixty-five
23 thousand.

24 MR. MULLINGRIFF: Six thousand square miles.
25 What else you want to know about it?

1 MR. LONG: How many voters you got? You
2 probably don't know that.

3 MR. MULLINGRIFF: I don't know that.

4 MR. LONG: The voters in this region get to
5 decide how that money is spent ultimately.

6 So you guys will be responsible for project
7 delivery. In 2013, the first year of the bill, you will raise
8 approximately \$45,000,000.00 total. Seventy-five
9 percent is \$33,000,000.00, and then the twenty-five
10 percent is 11.2 million.

11 The definition of project, let's remind ourselves
12 again what the definition of a project is because this is
13 very important. It is wide open. This project definition
14 is about as vague and open as you can get for a project
15 definition. Now, the big part of this project definition
16 that usually is not in capital SPLOST programs is the
17 fact that you can do purposes for providing, operating
18 and maintaining the same. Those words really give you
19 a lot of leeway on maintaining what you have. Now,
20 that's not typical. Your SPLOST programs, when you
21 build ballfields and you build libraries, you don't use it
22 for operating those. You use it for capital. This is
23 different. This bill actually allows that to happen, which
24 I think is very good. So you've got a lot of flexibility.

25 Why we're here tonight, we're starting this process.

1 So imagine it's a big funnel. We're going to start this
2 process after we adopt the criteria with a big funnel at
3 the very top, the unconstrained list. So you guys get,
4 what, \$45,000,000.00 a year over a ten-year period. I
5 don't know what the final number is, probably well over
6 \$500,000,000.00.

7 MR. MULLINGRIF: Just over \$500,000,000.00.

8 MR. LONG: \$5,000,000,00 for a ten-year period.

9 So we start with this unconstrained list, which may be
10 two or three times as much money as that. So that's
11 where you guys will come in, because I will develop,
12 working with input from the MPO's that are in this
13 region -- and you have one; right? You have the Albany
14 area. And the local jurisdictions provide me project
15 suggestions, and we'll develop a list by the summer of
16 2011. This unconstrained list will be based on the
17 criteria. Ultimately, the executive committee, which you
18 also elect tonight, working hand in hand with the
19 planning committee, they will actually develop what they
20 call a constrained draft investment list. Then ultimately
21 that is presented to the roundtable, and you guys
22 approve, amend, change up however you want to, a
23 constrained list of projects that meet the available funds
24 from the sales tax. And that is what will be presented,
25 hopefully, to the voters.

1 Now, a lot of people are asking does a portion of
2 the bill – I’m standing in your way. I’m not sure where
3 to stand to be out of everybody’s way. But there is a
4 portion of the bill that actually your behavior in this
5 process affects another program we have in the state. So
6 a lot of you guys have been up to the city commission. I
7 recognize all of your faces. You’ve asked for LARK
8 money or state aid over the years. If you remember
9 correctly, the state aid and the LARK Program, back
10 under Senate Bill 202 sessions ago, were combined
11 together to form what we call the Local Maintenance
12 Improvement Grant Program. We call it LMIG.

13 That program had roughly ninety to a hundred
14 million dollars in it state-wide. That money is
15 distributed by a formula as well to counties and cities.
16 And you guys all have been dealing with our office, our
17 state office, back in Atlanta. Most of you are shaking
18 your head because you know what I’m talking about.

19 Well, that program, the match on that money is
20 affected or dictated by your behavior in this regional
21 roundtable process. I will use the word behavior, not
22 knowing what other word to use, really.

23 So, in other words, if you stop the process as a
24 roundtable and say, “We’re not going to go forward.
25 We’re not going to allow the citizens in our region

1 commission the opportunity to vote on a list,” then you
2 stop the process called gridlock. The match on
3 everybody in the forty-four cities and the fourteen
4 counties, your match is going to be fifty percent on that
5 LMIG Program.

6 Now, if you pass it as a roundtable and the voters
7 say, “Yes,” then the match is only going to be ten
8 percent. If you pass it as a roundtable and the voters say,
9 “No,” the match is thirty-percent. So a lot of folks are
10 not real comfortable with this, but I want to just remind
11 everybody of the old state aid process. When you came
12 to the DOT, not about resurfacing, but if you came to the
13 DOT about a paving project, or a new road, or a new
14 industrial park, who did the engineering on that? You
15 guys did; right? Who bought the right-of-way? You
16 guys; right? Who paid for fifty percent of the
17 construction? You guys. Your match requirement on
18 the old Shenid (phonetic) Program was actually much
19 greater than fifty percent. Now, LARK, you had a match
20 requirement on LARK, too, but you didn’t know it.
21 What do you have to do to your road to get it prepared?
22 Some people did. A lot of people had to do a lot of prep
23 work, right, to your roads. There’s a question of that
24 maybe even counting toward the match. This isn’t a
25 carrot to get you to go in the right direction, but at the

1 same time, it's not a huge financial hit like a lot of
2 people are thinking.

3 People get confused. I can't tell you now many
4 times I've explained this. People think that every
5 project, every federal aid project, everything, every
6 money they get is matched to that new requirement. It's
7 just to match on that one pot of money. And some of
8 you-all don't get a whole lot of money in that category.
9 You know that. I don't know what you guys get. You
10 know what it is, but sometimes cities and counties are
11 only getting five to ten thousand dollars, anyway, in the
12 first place.

13 Project Delivery, GDOT is authorized to determine
14 who can deliver a project. We can't do this by ourselves.
15 There are a few counties and cities around the state that
16 we will allow to deliver a project for us. That we'll enter
17 into a project agreement with them and go forward. I
18 know Dougherty County does that for us in some cases.
19 But, for the most part, we're going to be delivering the
20 projects. That way it is uniform across the board. But if
21 we have counties and cities that want to deliver projects
22 for us -- this is the regional list now -- then you'll have to
23 get certified that you can deliver the project. In other
24 words, you have to have staff in place to do that. We're
25 going through the local certification process now. I

1 don't know. Do you have anybody in your district?

2 Shane, do you know if people are doing it down here?

3 MR. PRIDGEN: The City of Sylvester, Fitzgerald
4 and Tifton.

5 MR. ____: Decatur County, aren't we certified?

6 MR. LONG: So there are some that are doing that.
7 Over the next couple of years, you ought to look into that
8 program. To get certified, though, you have to have
9 staff. You know, it can't be just a clerk back at the
10 office processing paperwork. Administering projects is
11 actually more complicated than that.

12 There will be a website that shows the project
13 status and whether the project is over or under budget.

14 Now, let's talk about citizen involvement. There is
15 a requirement in the bill that there are two public
16 hearings that will be held basically next summer or fall
17 on the project list. You can have more if you want. It
18 says at least two. But the citizen involvement is more on
19 the flip side. In other words, after the vote is taken and
20 the voters vote yes, there is going to be a citizen review
21 panel that is part of this activity. It's a five-member
22 committee that's appointed by the speaker and the
23 lieutenant governor. They will be from this area. So
24 they will be people you probably know that are well-
25 respected in the community. They will be part of a

1 citizens review panel to make sure that everything is
2 going hunky-dory, and we're doing everything right,
3 and, in fact, every year there will be an annual report on
4 how the project process is going.

5 If you're successful and you can have ten more
6 years, obviously, if you reinitiate the process where the
7 roundtable picks projects again, then ultimately you have
8 to go before the voters again as well with a new list of
9 projects.

10 So that's in a nutshell. I told you it would be
11 quick. If you have any questions, I will be glad to
12 answer those now about the bill. You've had -- he left.
13 My answer man is gone.

14 You've done these before. So I know they've
15 answered a lot of these before, but I just want to make
16 sure that everybody is on the right page before we go any
17 further.

18 MR. POWELL: Todd, I don't think it's addressed
19 in the bill, but in the project selection list can this group
20 prioritize so that if there is not enough money or which
21 ones they're going to do first, or if?

22 MR. LONG: That will be part of the process
23 ultimately, is identifying this next summer about the
24 delivery and the time frame within the bill for a ten-year
25 period.

1 You can't just say project number one is 2013.
2 Sometimes it's project readiness or where it is in the
3 process. So you'll lay out when you do the projects.

4 Now, I don't know if you asked this, but I want to
5 answer it, anyway. There is a provision in the bill if the
6 project comes in less than you thought and you have
7 extra money, that extra money at the end of the day gets
8 redistributed back to the cities and counties to be used on
9 the discretionary side. It's very user-friendly for you
10 guys, by the way.

11 MR. MULLINGRIFF: There has been a lot of
12 confusion about this. Say that again. If there is extra
13 money in the bill –

14 MR. LONG: In other words, let's say you've got a
15 hundred projects for twenty-five percent of
16 \$500,000,000.00 maybe -- I mean seventy-five percent.
17 Let's just use round numbers. You have a hundred units
18 that you have dollar-wise. You have ten projects. If
19 those ten projects come in at ninety, that extra ten you
20 have is redistributed to the counties and cities.

21 MR. MULLINGRIFF: Just like they --

22 MR. LONG: Right, the discretionary side. You
23 just have more money that your city council and county
24 commission can decide how to use. Yes, sir.

25 MR. ROGERS: Tommy Rogers, Seminole County.

1 On the twenty-five percent money that the county will
2 get we will have to have the same right-of-way and all
3 this that we do now? Can we go in and pave small, short
4 dirt roads with it?

5 MR. LONG: If you spend money on our state
6 routes, we will probably be involved with it, but we're
7 not going to be involved with how you use your money.

8 It's very attractive from a local government
9 standpoint that you've got not many strings attached.

10 Now, I will recommend this: If you want this bill
11 to pass the public that when we go out to vote, I can
12 assure you that whoever is kind of heading up this
13 campaign to sell it to the public that you have your
14 project list on the regional side, but you probably better
15 have on the discretionary side, you know, you have
16 Seminole County plans to use their money, you know,
17 twenty-five percent on resurfacing, twenty-five percent
18 on paving dirt roads, twenty-five percent on fixing
19 culverts. Kind of lay out what you're going to do with
20 this so the public knows, because those are selling points
21 to the public in my opinion. Why not advertise what
22 you're going to use it for? Don't tie yourself down.
23 Some districts are saying to locals, "You have to have
24 your list on that side, too." I don't think you should do
25 that, but certainly tell how you plan on using the money.

1 MR. CHAPMAN: Jerry Chapman with Miller
2 County. The redistribution -- of the twenty-five percent
3 goes to the cities and the counties, is that a negotiation
4 as far as how it is distributed within the county? The
5 SPLOST, you know --

6 MR. LONG: Let's be real clear. Unincorporated
7 part of the county gets a formula amount, and each city
8 in the county gets a formula amount. There is no
9 revenue share. Now, I highly recommend that you work
10 with your cities and counties, and do joint projects if you
11 can. I think that will happen a lot, to be honest with you.
12 But there is no stipulation that you revenue share like
13 you will a SPLOST.

14 Now the next -- any other questions?

15 (Whereupon, no one responded.)

16 MR. LONG: The next part of the meeting, I want
17 to talk about roundtable guidelines. In other words, I
18 noticed several people here were proxies for somebody
19 and how the meeting should be run. So we're going to
20 have a facilitated discussion on how you guys should act
21 as a body and Inga is going to lead that now.

22 MS. KENNEDY: Thanks, Todd. I want say kudos
23 to the spaghetti and salad. It was really good, and there
24 were a couple of -- yes, sir?

25 MR. PERRY: Earl Perry, Decatur County. I have

1 a fundamental question that I think needs to be addressed
2 for at least five or six of us here. We still do not know
3 whether those of us who are chairman or mayors now
4 will be the ones that serve, or where under those
5 conditions whereas some of us change on January 1.
6 Will those people be the ones -- I hate to interrupt but
7 this is a very fundamental issue that needs to be settled.

8 MR. LONG: I'll answer that; okay?

9 MR. PERRY: Okay.

10 MR. LONG: The county commission chair is there
11 by their by position. So that's easy. Whoever the county
12 commission chair tonight is allowed to vote in this
13 group. If you're not county commission chair tonight,
14 you can't vote in this group.

15 Mayors are elected by the mayor caucus; right? So
16 whoever is elected the mayor is in that position tonight,
17 and then if that person changes January 1st, whoever
18 their replacement is will be in that position.

19 MR. PERRY: This is not what we have been told
20 before. We were told that whoever was on the
21 roundtable to start with had to stay. This is what we
22 were told in a meeting in Camilla here at a different
23 location back in December.

24 MR. __: I am county commission chairman today,
25 and if Butch takes my place January 1st, then you've got

1 one person who is has taken part in this initial thing and
2 then is replaced.

3 MR. LONG: Guys, I don't know who told you
4 that. The bill was clear. The bill says the county
5 commission chair is on the roundtable.

6 MR. MULLINGRIFF: I'm going to take the blame
7 for that, and, Earl, if I misled you I didn't –

8 MR. PERRY: I don't think it was you. I think I
9 got the information from the DOT people and the ACCG
10 people at the meeting that we had at your Farm Service
11 Center, I think back in August or whenever that was.

12 MR. MULLINGRIFF: Yeah, and I think we were
13 under that impression at that point. Last Monday night
14 here, we all said that whoever the county commission
15 chair is now votes. After the first of January, whoever is
16 county commission chair will be on the roundtable, and
17 they will vote.

18 MR. LONG: I've been on the speaking circuit with
19 Matthew Hicks from ACCG and he's been saying the
20 same thing I've been saying the whole time. So I don't
21 know who told you that, but I'm sorry about that.

22 MR. PERRY: Matthew was at the one in August.
23 This was one of the early ones, I believe. It was very
24 confusing.

25 MR. LONG: It takes about ten times of reading the

1 bill before you really kind of start getting it.

2 MR. RYNDERS: Todd, just a point of
3 clarification. On the mayors, it's my understanding, and
4 if I'm wrong I apologize in advance, but it's my
5 understanding if we had a mayor today who is on this
6 roundtable, but come January, they were to leave office,
7 then the group of mayors within that county would be
8 responsible for selecting a new mayor to join the
9 roundtable at that time.

10 MR. LONG: We're going to treat it like this: If
11 you don't tell us any differently, we're going to assume
12 it's the new mayor within that city you chose.

13 But the bill is kind of solid. It says, about the
14 mayor reps, you had to provide a mayor rep by
15 November 10th. That's why we're here today, Guys.
16 The bill is set up. It didn't take into consideration this
17 change-over in January. It said to have your reps in my
18 November 10th. So we might as well have our meeting
19 in December after all and not wait until January. In fact,
20 half our meetings are in January.

21 The mayors, can they re-caucus together to choose
22 someone else? That's the question. And we may have to
23 get that answer by the Attorney General's Office because
24 we have a controversy in one particular county where
25 they've elected – they went through several generations

1 of elections. And the first guy that got elected is now
2 thinking about filing suit against the other mayors and
3 it's real nasty. Bottom line, we hope that doesn't happen
4 here.

5 I hate to answer your question with a definitive
6 answer, but I would think that you could. If that person
7 leaves office -- think about it. Let's not think about
8 elections. Let's think about for illness purposes, let's
9 say, God forbid, somebody dies. You should be able to
10 re-caucus together, and I think elect a new
11 representative.

12 MR. BURKE: Joe Burke, Mayor of Donalsonville.
13 Take this one step further. Somebody is elected to the
14 executive committee tonight and the person is replaced
15 January 1st; who replaces the person on the executive
16 committee?

17 MR. LONG: Well, I think in that scenario -- I don't
18 know the legal reading of that. I'm not a lawyer. I don't
19 want to be confused as a lawyer. The roundtable could
20 reconvene and elect a replacement.

21 MR. BURKE: So the roundtable could do it?

22 MR. LONG: Yeah. The roundtable picks the
23 executive committee.

24 MR. BURKE: It would not be the successor of that
25 person?

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MR. LONG: t could be.

MR. BURKE: But not automatically?

MR. RYNDERS: We talked a little bit about that, and I don't want to step on facilitating –

MS. KENNEDY: No. This is important because it's a question that's asked all over the state.

MR. RYNDERS: I think that's the exact reason why we tried to establish some of the bylaws tonight to handle those kinds of questions where we know in advance there is no surprises.

MR. LONG: That's right.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Richard Vanlandingham, Mayor of Cairo. So a person who is going to be the chairman of a commission as of January 1st, can they be nominated to be on the meeting or not, on the executive committee or not?

MR. LONG: In fact, we had two of the five individuals nominated for the executive committee this morning that are not in office today that will be in office in January.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: They can be.

MR. LONG: Yes. The executive committee really doesn't start officially meeting until the summer.

MS. KENNEDY: These are important questions, and continue if you need more clarification. It's

1 important to have clarity.

2 I started saying I enjoyed the spaghetti and then a
3 question came up. So let's go ahead and continue. Are
4 we clear in that regard?

5 And, as I mentioned, this is happening and this
6 discussion is taking place all over the state. So you're
7 not the only ones and we are also glad to have those of
8 you who obviously are currently in office, but we have
9 some people here tonight who are coming into office.
10 They've taken their time out of their busy schedules to
11 come here to learn more and to become acclimated and
12 to learn more about the program and process; so we
13 really appreciate that. Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. MAYS: I do have a question. In this instance,
15 Camille, if she is not –

16 MR. LONG: Identify yourself.

17 MS. MAYS: I'm sorry. Elaine Mays, Thomas
18 County. If she is not re-elected, then the new mayor that
19 comes in does not automatically come into this seat as
20 the mayor from Thomas County? When you said that
21 the mayors –

22 MR. RYNDERS: How many mayors are in
23 Thomas County?

24 MS. MAYS: They do go on the roundtable.

25 MR. LONG: The major that's elected, they get

1 elected by the rest of the council. Is that how that works,
2 just rotated around?

3 MS. MAYS: Uh-huh (Yes).

4 MR. LONG: Okay. A lot of cities have that. Like
5 I said, for the sake of our work, the twelve districts,
6 we're just going to assume that that mayor is the
7 replacement unless I'm told otherwise by the mayor
8 caucus. Does that make sense?

9 MS. MAYS: That makes sense. When you said
10 the mayors, but you were talking about for the executive
11 committee?

12 MR. LONG: No, no, no. I'm talking about the
13 roundtable.

14 MS. MAYS: To the roundtable.

15 MR. LONG: The executive committee could be
16 five mayors. It could be five county commission chairs.
17 It could be a mix. It doesn't matter.

18 MS. MAYS: Thank you.

19 MR. MULLINGRIFF: If I might make a
20 suggestion. One of the reasons you've got the mayors
21 appointed is by a memo to the other city mayors saying
22 we don't object. And we handled it that way. We might
23 do the same thing later. We could go ahead and just poll
24 the rest of them and see if it's all right and go from there.
25 I think that's the simple way to do it, and it worked out

1 pretty well.

2 MR. LONG: Mayors are elected a hundred
3 different ways, Guys. I could tell you thousands of
4 stories, from flipping coins to, you know -- it's amazing.
5 The bill is very solid on that because it wanted -- it didn't
6 want the state to get involved in the election of the
7 mayor rep. There's no reason for the state to be
8 involved.

9 MR. RYNDERS: I just want to be make sure that
10 I'm clear, though, because we don't need a situation
11 where we're missing. If for some reason the other six
12 mayors decided that Ms. Payne was not who they
13 wanted, they would have the right to be able to do that.
14 We're going to assume it's her until we hear differently.

15 MR. LONG: That's right, unless she's not the
16 mayor.

17 MR. RYNDERS: Right.

18 MR. LONG: Right. That's her qualification.

19 MS. KENNEDY: Any other clarification? This
20 area is very important, very important. Okay.

21 Before we talk about our roundtable guidelines, I
22 want to jump back and make sure that you are aware of
23 what's in your notebooks. You have information in your
24 notebooks that we'll use tonight and it's reference
25 information for our future meetings. And, of course, we

1 have today's presentation. We have the regional
2 commission boundaries and MPO boundaries. We have
3 the actual bill. For those who haven't read it, and how
4 many times did you say you had to read it – ten times to
5 flush it out. So that's there for your leisurely read.

6 There is a tab in here for the time line, and Todd
7 has gone over that. There are roundtable meeting dates.
8 That has to be updated because as Todd mentioned some
9 of the roundtables have decided to push their meetings
10 back until January for the exact reasons that you-all just
11 talked about, because you have new people coming in
12 and they wanted to wait until that change or that
13 transition took place. So some of those meeting dates
14 will change slightly.

15 We have a list of the roundtable members. The
16 funding projection is very important. The recommended
17 criteria, we'll be working from that document this
18 evening as well. Some FAQ's, some Frequently Asked
19 Questions, and responses to some draft criteria
20 comments that have come in for a lot of the roundtables
21 and other organizations relative to what has been
22 presented here.

23 And then over in your pocket, of course, you have
24 your agenda and the recommended guidelines. So I just
25 wanted to point that out in terms of what's in your

1 notebook.

2 Now, let's talk about those guidelines very quickly.
3 And these are recommendations. We assume that most
4 people, and most of you, lead your own meetings,
5 obviously, that you typically use the Robert's Rules of
6 Order in terms of conducting a meeting. We suggest that
7 we continue with that particular process.

8 As Todd mentioned, there is not a requirement to
9 elect a chair, but it's good to have a person to kind of
10 guide the process, someone who is familiar with
11 everyone here in the region, someone to call for action
12 and address issues, and so we recommend that you elect
13 a chair and we hope that you'll do that tonight.

14 We have also -- but the bill does call for an
15 executive committee election, and we want to have that
16 conducted tonight as well, and that's elected by majority
17 vote.

18 We ask that all members be present, physically
19 present, to vote, and we think that is very, very
20 important. Yes, sir.

21 MR. MOSELY: I want to go back to your majority
22 vote.

23 MS. KENNEDY: Sure.

24 MR. MOSELY: This has come up more than once.

25 MS. KENNEDY: Absolutely.

1 MR. MOSELY: Let's suppose for the moment that
2 there's nine people in the room that want to serve on the
3 executive meeting. Does that mean the first five, if
4 we've got, hypothetically twenty here, the first five that
5 gets eleven votes?

6 MR. LONG: We'll decide. The group needs to
7 decide at that time.

8 MS. KENNEDY: We're going to get to that.
9 We'll get to that, and that is going to be totally up to the
10 roundtable in terms of how they'd like to select it and
11 everyone is doing it different. So there is no standard
12 procedure, if you will, and it's up to you.

13 Then all members must be physically present, all
14 roundtable members. Proxies are allowed to participate,
15 but are not permitted to vote. I know that there are some
16 people here tonight who are representing others, and
17 that's very important. We want you to participate in the
18 discussion, but when there is the voting time, if you will,
19 we'll ask that you abstain from voting as a representative
20 or a proxy of that, and then a proxy of your person that
21 you're representing.

22 And then all meetings are open to the public.
23 We're aware, and we always like for the public and
24 others to come in and participate with us. The guidelines
25 suggest that perhaps you consider giving – yes, sir.

1 MR. CHAPMAN: Jerry Chapman, Miller County.
2 The proxies are not permitted to vote, is that a
3 recommended guideline? Is that a recommendation or is
4 this fact?

5 MS. KENNEDY: It's a recommendation.

6 MR. CHAPMAN: Can the members of the
7 roundtable can change that?

8 MR. LONG: Let me give you a little perspective
9 because this has come up in the first two. I want to give
10 you a question. Does anybody allow a proxy to vote on
11 their city council? Does anybody allow a proxy to vote
12 on their county commission? Of course, you don't. This
13 is a governing body. The bill is very clear that
14 representatives of the roundtables are those elected
15 officials. They're not proxies. So participation by –
16 when it comes to a vote – I don't see legally where a
17 proxy has any right to vote any more than a proxy would
18 vote at a city council meeting. I'm not a lawyer.

19 MS. KENNEDY: But it's open for discussion, but
20 that's the general rule, if you will, based on the fact that
21 you-all are the elected body.

22 MR. CHAPMAN: Do you have any other regions
23 that have varied from this?

24 MS. KENNEDY: They have not. Yes, ma'am

25 MS. MAYS: Elaine Mays. What if you have

1 someone who can't, a chairman who cannot, for some
2 reason, cannot be at the meeting or cannot attend or is
3 unavailable, and in my absence, my vice-chair. What do
4 you do if for the whole time that person cannot come?

5 MR. LONG: Well, if they're unable to come for
6 the entire duration, I mean, the vote is tonight and then
7 the vote is in October. So we're talking about two
8 meetings here. So I don't know that it's -- if you've got
9 somebody on the executive committee that can't come
10 for illness or whatever comes up, I think the roundtable
11 needs to reconvene and pick another executive
12 committee member.

13 MS. MAYS: Good answer.

14 MR. LONG: You've got the responsibility as an
15 elected official. You signed an oath to participate when
16 you became an elected official. And just like
17 Representative Rynders can't send a proxy to Atlanta.
18 He'd like to. You can't have somebody vote on your
19 behalf; right?

20 MR. RYNDERS: You're not supposed to.

21 MS. KENNEDY: These are important questions.
22 So keep giving us your questions because they're
23 important.

24 MR. MOSELY: David MOSELY, Decatur
25 County. Who is the custodian of the air conditioner? I

1 should have brought that deer I killed this morning so I
2 could hang it.

3 MS. KENNEDY: That's a good housekeeping
4 issue.

5 Any other questions? So are we clear on the
6 proxies, on the proxy voting and we'll kind of get your
7 consensus here.

8 All meetings are open to the public, obviously, and
9 we're glad to have the public here. One of the
10 recommendations that you might want to consider is
11 having them -- having the public to speak, and that's
12 going to be totally up to you. In our guidelines, we
13 suggest that that occurs on the front end of the meeting
14 for ten minutes and each person gets two minutes, you
15 know, and then, you know, we'll move into the regular
16 roundtable meeting.

17 At a minimum there is an opportunity, however, to
18 provide written comments. We have written comment
19 forms back in the back there for those who are visiting
20 with us tonight.

21 Those are our general guidelines. Are you -- what
22 do you think about those guidelines? Do they make
23 sense to you? Is it something that you want to follow?
24 What do you want to do with the public? Any
25 discussion?

1 MR. FLOYD: Let me ask you a question. If
2 you're not a mayor and you're not a county
3 commissioner, but you're an administrator, where would
4 you fit into that?

5 MR. LONG: The same status as you are. You're
6 not a roundtable member, but you can participate. It's up
7 to the chair, now. Think about this now for a second. If
8 you do elect a chair, if you go in that direction, then the
9 chair will be able to recognize people not on the
10 roundtable. That will be up to the chair. It's just like
11 any regular county commission. The chair will control
12 who they recognize. But we fully expect in a lot of these
13 executive committee members a lot of staff from the
14 counties will become very actively engaged in those
15 meetings and providing insight that we wouldn't have
16 otherwise.

17 MS. KENNEDY: But I think your question also --
18 correct me if I'm wrong -- is whether that person, the
19 public, can participate in the discussions. Are you also
20 asking that?

21 MR. FLOYD: In a particular county, where the
22 smaller cities have mayors, but the larger city has a city
23 administrator, no mayor.

24 MS. KENNEDY: So your question is -- please ask
25 your question. Your question is whether that person --

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MR. FLOYD: Or an employee of that –

MS. KENNEDY: How they get to participate in the discussion is what your question is relevant to?

MR. FLOYD: Yes.

MS. KENNEDY: No, they do not. The roundtable members are voting members. Yes, sir.

MR. REYNOLDS: I'm Edward Reynolds from Bainbridge. I don't think that would affect any city in our district anyway. Everybody has a mayor. Even if we have a hired administrator, everybody still has a mayor.

MS. KENNEDY: I want to make sure I understand your question. Your question is relative to how they participate?

MR. FLOYD: Right.

MS. KENNEDY: How they participate in the roundtable meeting?

MR. FLOYD: We have a couple of small communities in Crisp County. They have mayors. But the City of Cordele does not have a mayor.

MR. LONG: They're not in this district.

MS. KENNEDY: Your point is –

MR. LONG: They're not in the district.

MS. KENNEDY: Let me say something because we're talking about how people participate. Anyone who has an issue, for instance, if in the district there is an

1 issue, there is nothing that precludes your public from
2 coming to you and voicing their opinion about an issue
3 relative to HB277. So just because they're not at the
4 roundtable or on the roundtable, and just because they
5 may not get a chance to publically speak does not mean
6 that they can't present their issue and information to you
7 and to roundtable members. We're not shutting anyone
8 off or out from participating in this process.

9 Did I answer that?

10 MR. FLOYD: Well, you answered it, but I still -- I
11 mean, there is a large county that would not have -- I
12 mean, we have a chairman of a city commission.

13 MS. KENNEDY: Yes, I understand.

14 MR. FLOYD: And they would not be in the
15 mayors roundtable group.

16 MR. LONG: The bill says the mayor or the chief
17 executive officer of the city council or commission.

18 In Athens, Georgia, they have a government. They
19 don't have a mayor. They have a CEO or whatever
20 they're called. Chairman Ellis in Dekalb County, he's
21 not -- he's a little different than a CEO position instead
22 of a chairman. It counts for that. So if you're a
23 chairman of the city commission, that is your mayor rep.

24 MR. FLOYD: The chairman of the city
25 commission is the mayor rep.

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MR. LONG: That's right.

MS. KENNEDY: But everybody can participate. Everybody can give their opinions.

MS. WOMBLE: Barbie Womble with Miller County. I think that prompts my question about participation. Miller County doesn't have a county administrator or a manager, but the city does have a city manager. You know, if the county couldn't be here to represent in one of the meetings, or the mayor couldn't, you know, maybe the proxy could at least let the city manager participate in the discussion and not be part of the general public, is what he's trying to say.

MS. KENNEDY: That's why some of the proxies are sitting here at this table tonight, as a matter of fact. Dan suggested that. He asked them to come to the table as proxies tonight.

MS. WOMBLE: I understand they could not vote but they would have –

MS. KENNEDY: Discussion opportunities at the meeting.

MR. MULLINGRIF: Everybody at this table is an elected official, okay, and either will be on the roundtable in the future, or they're representing someone for the roundtable tonight. I think you-all understand that.

1 MS. KENNEDY: Right. And you make that
2 determination in terms of who, if you need to send a
3 proxy, who that is and who you send with the
4 understanding that they understand their opportunities in
5 representation here.

6 Okay. Any other discussions with regard to the
7 guidelines? And so are you okay with the guidelines as
8 they are presented? Everybody kind of raise your hand
9 there. Everybody is okay with the guidelines. Are all
10 minds clear? Are all minds clear?

11 That was the fun part. Now we're going to move
12 to the part where we are going to talk about or move to
13 the election of the chair. And as Todd mentioned – yes,
14 sir.

15 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Richard
16 Vanlandingham. Question, can the chairman be
17 someone that's not sitting at this table? It could be like
18 Dan. Could he be elected chair? Could we elect
19 someone like Dan to be the chair?

20 MR. LONG: You may elect a chair that is not on
21 the roundtable. That chair would not have voting rights.

22 The chair in the Atlanta region so far has been a
23 non-roundtable member thus far. Now they decided to
24 do that. The chair from the Northwestern and the chair
25 from Three Rivers, both were chairs that were on the

1 roundtable.

2 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We have that option.

3 MR. LONG: You have that option. They're more
4 like a convenor.

5 MS. KENNEDY: Yeah, presiding officer that
6 manages the meetings. They help you address the issues
7 but that person, they are not an elected member or a
8 member on the roundtable does not vote.

9 MR. RYNDERS: If I may, I just want to address
10 that, and this has nothing to do with it being Dan. I lean
11 on him so much for information. But you've got to
12 remember that the legislative intent was to have it come
13 from local up. At the end of the day, that's why we did
14 this. And I don't think it was our intent for someone
15 who wasn't elected to be part of that decision-making. I
16 think the intent was to lean on Dan like Todd did earlier
17 on the facts, the figures, how do we do it. He knows the
18 bill and I think that's what we need him for. But I think
19 the legislative intent was someone that was a local
20 official, an elected local official.

21 MR. FLOYD: To make it perfectly clear, that's the
22 first I heard of that was when you brought it up. I was
23 asking the question. I was not saying that you shouldn't
24 be –

25 MR. MULLINGRIFF: I think from what you just

1 said, Todd and his department has really designated us as
2 a convener and that's what we want to do. That's what
3 we're here for, and we will be with you every step of the
4 way. So you don't necessarily need me as a chair or
5 anything like that.

6 MR. __: As mayor, I don't get to vote either on
7 city council unless it's a tie. So that's not really an issue.
8 The point is wanting somebody that could do a good job
9 as chair. I just wanted to know if you were an option or
10 not, Dan. That's the reason I was asking.

11 MS. KENNEDY: That's a good question. Do you
12 want to elect a chair?

13 MR. QUINN: I make a motion that Richard
14 Vanlandingham be chair..

15 MS. KENNEDY: We have a nomination.

16 MR. ____: I make a motion the nominations be
17 closed.

18 MR. CHAPMAN: Second.

19 MS. KENNEDY: All right. Richard
20 Vanlandingham. Before we move to vote, are there any
21 other discussions? So I was going to send around a
22 ballot form.

23 MR. MEDDERS: Since we now have a chairman I
24 think it would be a good idea to have where we don't
25 vote as proxy added to our – where we don't have a vote

1 at the table, have a representative, make that official.

2 MS. KENNEDY: I'll tell you what. We've got a
3 motion on the floor. I'm coming back to you.

4 Is there any discussion around the nomination for
5 the chair?

6 As I was saying, I was going to send a ballot
7 around, but since we have one nominee, and it seems
8 kind of unanimous. I'm just going to ask you-all, all in
9 favor. If there isn't any more discussion, all in favor of
10 Richard Vanlandingham for the chair, you just raise your
11 hand, please?

12 (Whereupon, there was a unanimous response to
13 the vote.)

14 I think that was a unanimous vote. So I didn't have
15 to use that piece of paper, there.

16 Mr. Vanlandingham, I'm going to ask you to come
17 up and help me continue with this meeting.

18 All right. So I'm going to come back to your
19 question, and it sounds like a revisit of the guidelines.

20 MR. MEDDERS: I just wanted it official that we
21 wouldn't be able to vote by proxy or is that concrete?

22 MS. KENNEDY: What's your desire? Let's go
23 back to the guidelines.

24 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: If we're going to do
25 this like we should do it, if you want to make a motion, a

1 formal motion, we'll get a second and we'll get a vote on
2 it. So if you want to make a motion –

3 MR. MEDDERS: I'll make that a motion.

4 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Go ahead and restate
5 it so everybody can hear it.

6 MR. MEDDERS: I make the motion that proxies
7 are not allowed to vote.

8 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion as to proxies
9 not being allowed to vote. Do we have a second?

10 MR. HAYWOOD: Second.

11 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We have a second.
12 Do we have any discussion?

13 MR. LONG: I'll make a recommendation to you.
14 This is not -- you've got draft guidelines in your booklet.
15 What tab are they under?

16 MS. KENNEDY: They're in the pocket, the inside
17 pocket.

18 MR. LONG: Instead of making a motion on one
19 particular item in there –

20 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Everybody needs to
21 read all of the guidelines and we'll just determine if we
22 want to approve them or not.

23 MS. KENNEDY: Yes. This is a summary. Yes,
24 sir.

25 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We already have a

1 motion and a second. Since it's in there, we can vote on
2 it and it won't matter. So any discussion? All those in
3 favor raise your hand.

4 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

5 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Any opposed raise
6 your hand.

7 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

8 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion carried. A
9 proxy person cannot vote.

10 Now we go back to look at the question about the
11 other guidelines.

12 MS. KENNEDY: Are there any other guidelines
13 that are of issue to you? What you can do is what I call a
14 full sweep of approving all of the guidelines. Do I have
15 a motion?

16 MR. __: I have a question.

17 MS. KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

18 MR. __: Before we get into discussing it, that goes
19 back to Mr. Long. That goes back to the question about
20 elected by a majority vote on the executive committee.

21 MR. LONG: The executive committee by a
22 majority vote is actually language out of the bill.

23 MR. __: We were talking about the –

24 MR. MULLINGRIF: It's the majority of the
25 roundtable, though; right?

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MR. LONG: That's correct.

MR. __: There's several ways to do it.

MR. LONG: There are different ways to do it.
You can group counties together.

MR. __: That's why I didn't know if we needed to
vote on the rest minus that one.

MR. LONG: Ultimately, you've got to vote by a
majority vote. You'll eventually have five names that
you vote by majority. How you get to those five names
is the methodology. It's fine.

MS. KENNEDY: We're still ahead --

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Still the question,
though, is the recommended roundtable guidelines that
we have here.

MR. REYNOLDS: I move to accept them.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We have a motion to
accept. Do we have a second?

MR. SINYARD: Second.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We have a second.
Any other discussion?

MS. KENNEDY: Discussion on the motion?

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Excuse me? We
already have a second on the motion here.

MS. KENNEDY: I know we do, but you need to
state the motion.

1 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The motion is to
2 accept the guidelines.

3 MS. KENNEDY: All right. Thank you.

4 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Any other discussion
5 or questions? All those in favor raise your hand.

6 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

7 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Any opposed raise
8 your hand.

9 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

10 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion carried. The
11 guidelines are all accepted.

12 Now we'll do the executive committee.

13 MS. KENNEDY: Now we'll do the executive
14 committee. Let's go ahead and talk very quickly about
15 the duties of the executive committee.

16 They're responsible for developing the constrained
17 draft investment lists in collaboration with Todd for the
18 planning director.

19 Here's how the executive committee should be
20 made up: It should consist of five voting members from
21 the roundtable. We have two state representatives who
22 are non-voting members, but participate with the
23 executive committee, and we have a senate
24 representative still to be determined, who is also a non-
25 voting member.

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DR. ADAMS: Why is that to be determined?
Don't we have a senator in office now?

MR. LONG: There are actually three senators that possibly could be in this position, and the senator is to be appointed by the Senate Transportation Executive Chair, which is a senator named Jeff Mullis out of Chickamauga. He has got to appoint who that senator is. So it could be Senator Bullock, Crosby or Sims. It would be one of those three. At this point the chairman has not appointed a senator.

MR. RYNDERS: Mr. Mayor, it's my understanding that some of the senate leadership has been out of country, and, therefore, they just have not convened to discuss that issue just yet.

DR. ADAMS: I think it's important to make that clarification because there are some of us who might be somewhat suspicious of that not being filled. After I have clarification, I'll feel better about it.

MS. KENNEDY: That is to be to determined. And that responsibility is that you're responsible at such time to hold public meetings, those public hearings. Those are the requirements, basic requirements of the executive committee.

Mr. Chair, one of the things, before we go to the methodology in terms of how you'd like to select an

1 executive committee, is there anyone here who does not
2 want to serve on the executive committee? Does not
3 want to serve? Who wants to have their name removed
4 from consideration? I'm going to go down the table and
5 call those names out as Wade helps us identify them.
6 Reeves Lane, Mike Stewart, John Alderman, Richard
7 Ward, Willie Adams, Al Ball, Charles Norton. All right.
8 Now, everybody can't remove themselves from the
9 executive committee here. I don't know if I should have
10 asked that question. Ed Duffy, Ben Hayward and
11 Tommy Rogers.

12 MR. PERRY: We need to make a clarification
13 here. My name needs to go on that list because I will not
14 be the chairman after December 31st. If you're putting
15 together a list of those who don't, of those sitting at the
16 table that don't wish to be considered, but those will be
17 taking our offices, those of us that are going off, need to
18 be added to the possible candidates. Isn't that right?

19 MR. LONG: Two of the five members of the ones
20 we did this morning actually are people coming on.

21 MR. PERRY: So we need to be sure that we take
22 my name off the list because I won't be in office after
23 December 31st. I'll be a commissioner but not chairman.

24 MS. KENNEDY: Are those people here tonight?
25 Are those people here tonight?

1 MR. MULLINS: Dan Mullins is speaking. Butch
2 Mosley will be the chairman, is that correct, of Decatur
3 County? Bo Haywood will be Chairman of Miller
4 County. Charles Norton will be Chairman of Grady
5 County.

6 MS. KENNEDY: So those who are coming into
7 office who will be in office in January, are any of you
8 uninterested or not interested in serving on the executive
9 committee? You want your name off?

10 MR. __: We have one more.

11 MS. KENNEDY: Bo Haywood, and put a note by
12 his name that he is an incoming chair.

13 MR. __: Del Shingler is another county
14 commission chair that will change the first of January.
15 He will replace Tommy Rogers.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: I have a question there. Some
17 chairs rotate. Some county chairs rotate. Some county
18 commissions elect their chairman at the first meeting in
19 January. If you haven't been elected and you are elected
20 by a majority vote of the board, you don't know who you
21 are until that first meeting.

22 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The question right
23 now would be who are going to nominate to the
24 executive; so, therefore, if you're not elected, you can't
25 be nominated at this point.

1 MS. HAYWOOD: A good number or a good
2 amount of the membership of this board may change
3 come January the 1st or whatever.

4 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: As far as who would
5 be here, you're right.

6 Question: Can the election of the executive
7 committee be done after the first of the year or does it
8 have to be done today?

9 MR. LONG: Do it tonight.

10 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: It has to be done
11 today.

12 MR. PERRY: Earl Perry of Decatur County.

13 MS. KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

14 MR. PERRY: Can we add to that board list there
15 the names of those persons who will be eligible? Can we
16 put that in a list up there so that they can be see or that
17 people will know names?

18 MS. KENNEDY: Right. So are we done with the
19 ones who are not interested in serving? All right. So
20 then let's – Mr. MOSELY, tell me your first name again.

21 MR. MOSELY: My real name is David.

22 MS. KENNEDY: David MOSELY.

23 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Let's do it separately
24 then.

25 MR. LONG: Don't put the names. Just put the

1 position.

2 MS. KENNEDY: She has a question here.

3 MS. HAYWOOD: If the person is not here and we
4 know that person would be willing to serve, do we put
5 their name?

6 MS. KENNEDY: That's what I was asking so that
7 we have clarity in terms of who is coming in and what
8 positions are new, are going to be newly filled. Okay.
9 Who else?

10 MR. REYNOLDS: Edward Reynolds. Would this
11 be an annual thing to elect an executive committee or
12 they won't change through the process?

13 MR. LONG: Actually, our job will be finished
14 this, what, August. We present it back to the –

15 MR. REYNOLDS: My question goes to if there is
16 change, and obviously, I won't be changing during that
17 period, but if those people do change, would we then re-
18 vote as a roundtable on the position that might change,
19 whether it be a chairmanship or a mayor?

20 MS. KENNEDY: Yes. The roundtable can
21 reconvene to replace that person.

22 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We're elected
23 actually for the year.

24 MS. KENNEDY: For the year. That's right.

25 MR. GAINES: John Gaines. Just say a man is

1 going to come while he's chairman, could he be
2 considered as one of the eleven now even though he is
3 not serving as yet?

4 MS. KENNEDY: You mean out of the hat?

5 MR. GAINES: On the committee. Could he be on
6 the committee?

7 MR. LONG: He could be on the executive
8 committee.

9 MR. GAINES: He could be on the executive
10 committee even though he has not taken office yet.

11 MS. KENNEDY: Yes.

12 MR. GAINES: He could be elected tonight to
13 serve.

14 MS. KENNEDY: And that's what Todd has
15 mentioned has occurred in a couple of other areas.

16 Who else newly?

17 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The Decatur County
18 Commission Chair, the Seminole County Commission
19 Chair, the Miller County Commission Chair and the
20 Grady County Commission Chair.

21 MS. KENNEDY: All right.

22 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Can we just take
23 volunteers so you'll know?

24 MS. KENNEDY: Yes, you can. Todd mentioned
25 how you elect your membership is up to you. If you

1 want to go down the table and say, "Hey, Volunteers."

2 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The best way to do it
3 is just take nominations. That's the easiest, simplest way
4 to do it. So just sit and think a minute on who you would
5 like to nominate. You can nominate five or we can
6 nominate ten. The real question is how we're going to
7 elect them. I'll give you two suggestions to start with
8 and you might can change it.

9 The first suggestion would be that everybody has
10 to get at least a majority vote to be elected. Therefore, if
11 we have several people running, and four get majority
12 votes and the other there don't, then we can re-elect one
13 person out of the other three. That's one option to use.

14 MR. DUFFY: I want to nominate Jeff Bodine
15 Sinyard.

16 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Let me finish this and
17 then we'll do that. The other option is if we nominate
18 seven people, then we can just take the top seven votes,
19 the top five votes, and they all get elected whether
20 they're majority or not. That's the two options I can
21 think of. If somebody would like another option they
22 would like to consider, tell us.

23 MS. KENNEDY: I just wanted to make sure they
24 have the majority.

25 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: No. It says we could

1 do either way we wanted to.

2 MR. LONG: The ultimate selection of the five
3 members is – the vote on those five members has to be
4 the majority vote.

5 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: If that's the case, then
6 what we'll do is if somebody doesn't get the majority
7 vote and three of the seven do, then we take the other
8 four and re-vote on those for two votes, and whoever
9 gets the majority on those would win.

10 MR. PERRY: How many votes does each
11 individual member get?

12 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Excuse me?

13 MR. PERRY: How many votes does each
14 individual member get, one?

15 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: That's the question
16 we'll decide. We've got to get more than one vote.
17 We've got to vote at least two or three times.

18 Somebody make a motion on how we want to do
19 that.

20 MR. DUFFY: I would like to nominate –

21 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Let's get this motion
22 first on how we are going to actually elect them. Yes,
23 sir.

24 MR. PERRY: Earl Perry, Decatur County. I move
25 that we take the list of nominations, and we ask five of

1 us who are qualified to vote and cast five votes.

2 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: All right.

3 MR. PERRY: And then we go from there, as you
4 suggested, any who gets a majority vote – the top
5 majority vote – of those persons who get the majority
6 vote, those five were the top with the highest total votes
7 are all on the executive board. If they do not, if fewer
8 than five get the majority vote, then we put those that
9 have been elected to the side and we cast another ballot
10 and do it the same way. That's in the form of a motion.

11 MR. YEARTA: Second it.

12 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion is seconded.
13 Any other discussion or questions about it? Yes, sir.

14 MR. BALL: It doesn't sound like a majority to me.
15 If you get the majority –

16 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Well, what he's
17 saying, though, is they have to get a majority vote to be
18 elected the first time we do it. So if they get – so if four
19 of the seven have the majority, they're automatically
20 elected because they do have a majority. That makes
21 sense. Okay.

22 MR. PERRY: Earl Perry of Decatur County. Bill
23 has asked a question. You don't have to vote for five
24 people, but you cannot vote for the same person five
25 times.

1 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: That's correct. You
2 can only vote for one person at a time. You cannot vote
3 four or five times. That's correct.

4 MS. KENNEDY: You'll have a written sheet.

5 MR. LONG: Yes, sir.

6 MR. SINYARD: Mr. Chairman, how did the other
7 two regions do this? Is it similar to what we're talking
8 about here?

9 MR. LONG: Let me make a statement before we
10 go ahead and answer that question. We have to
11 remember once you get this first round of voting back
12 that you're not allowed in the bill to have more than two
13 people from the same county. So a mayor and a county
14 commission chair from the same county cannot vote to
15 be on the executive committee. I think you should go
16 through your voting method first and see what you've
17 got. If you've got a situation where you have two people
18 from one location, then one of them has to step away and
19 re-vote.

20 Now, you asked a question. The two other RC's –
21 this is kind of funny. You're battling about this, but this
22 is probably one of the more difficult things for the
23 roundtable to come to grips with. Northwest Georgia
24 fussed about – they were trying to divide it up by county,
25 by population, and finally what they did was, they region

1 voted. There's ten counties, and they paired two
2 counties together. They had five different pair and they
3 told those two counties, which had four people, right, to
4 break and go away and decide who their person is. They
5 came back, wrote the name on the board and then the
6 whole group voted.

7 This morning, it was a little bit different than that,
8 but a similar concept. They just grouped similar counties
9 together. Now, the problem is – I want to say this and it
10 might surprise you – not a single person in the first two
11 regions we did this in opted out not to be on the
12 executive committee. Everybody wanted to get on the
13 executive committee. So this presents a challenge for
14 you, now that you've got a dozen people or whatever the
15 number is, that don't want to serve. Because grouping of
16 counties, you may group a couple of counties together,
17 and you've got four guys that don't even want to vote.

18 I do think, though, personally the grouping of the
19 counties is the fastest way to do this. If you can decide –
20 you've got fourteen counties. If you could decide some
21 grouping of counties together that are similar in nature,
22 that would be a good way to do it. We'd take a quick
23 break, let people get together and decide who it is going
24 to be.

25 MR. DUFFY: We've got a motion on the table.

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MR. LONG: Yes, we do.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We already decided how we were going to do the process of electing them. So we have a motion on the table. Any other questions for discussion on it?

MR. RYNDERS: We discussed this in the legislature about – I want you-all to have food for thought here. There’s a part of me and others that thought the correct way to proceed with this -- it won’t affect the motion. Just think about it -- is perhaps to have three county commission chairmen and two mayors or three mayors and two county commissioner chairmen, some kind of geographical balance. Big counties are the donor counties represented, smaller counties represented, I just want to throw that into the mix. Let’s think about this because at the end of the day the job is to sell it to the public.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: That’s a good point.

All right. Any other discussion or questions? If not, all those in favor of the process of how we will elect our executive committee, which is what we just explained – does anybody need it explained again?

All right. All those in favor of electing as was stated in the motion please raise your hand. Raise your hand again and let me make sure we’ve got everybody.

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(Whereupon, the members voted.)

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: All those that are against it please raise your hand.

(Whereupon, the members voted.)

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion carries.

All right. So we'll elect our person through the nomination process and then vote on it as we said, and that they will be elected. So the next process will be who would we like to nominate?

MR. DUFFY: I've already made a motion for Jeff Bodine Sinyard, Chairman of the Dougherty County Commission on the Executive Committee.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We'll do one at the time. We'll go around this way.

MS. KENNEDY: Yeah. Let us capture the names.

MR. BALL: I second.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: I don't think you need a second; just the nomination.

All right. Who else around this way. Yes, sir.

MR. OLIVER: John Alderman, and I nominate Bill McIntosh.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Bill McIntosh.

All right. We'll come around this way.

MR. BURKE: Joe Burke from Donalsonville. I nominate Edward Reynolds.

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MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Ed Reynolds. Yes, sir?

MR. ROGERS: Tommy Rogers, Seminole County. I nominate Mr. Butch.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Mr. who?

MR. ROGERS: Mr. Butch over there.

MR. LONG: Mr. MOSELY.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: David MOSELY.

MR. ROGERS: Chairman of the Decatur County Commission. He's a chairman-to-be right now.

MR. HAYWARD: I'm Ben Hayward, and I nominate, Mitchell County, Mary Jo Haywood.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Mary Jo Haywood.

MR. HAYWARD: I make a motion that the nominations be closed.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We've got somebody else that wants to nominate.

MR. ____: I nominate Matt Medders.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Matt Medders.

Anyone else? Do you want to make your motion now?

MR. HAYWARD: Yeah. I make a motion that the nominations be closed on the six names.

MR. LONG: It's seven.

1 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We have a motion to
2 close the nominations. Do we have a second?

3 MR. SINYARD: Second.

4 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Any discussion or
5 questions? All right. All those in favor of closing the
6 nominations raise your hand, please?

7 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

8 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Opposed?

9 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

10 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion carried.

11 All right. At this point in time, we'll pass out and
12 do a ballot.

13 MS. KENNEDY: As a reminder, those who are
14 here as a proxy, if you will –

15 (Whereupon, the members began talking amongst
16 themselves.)

17 MS. KENNEDY: We need to have a write-in
18 because David Mosely's name is not going to be on the
19 list that you have before you. So if you will write at the
20 bottom of each of your ballots, David Mosely.

21 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Just circle the ones
22 you're voting for.

23 MS. KENNEDY: For those of you that can't see
24 the names -- let me call out the names for those who
25 can't see. Jeff Sinyard, Richard Vanlandingham, Bill

1 McIntosh, Edward Reynolds, David Mosley, whose
2 name you have to add to the list, Mary Jo Haywood and
3 Matt Medders.

4 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The people that have
5 been elected, we have four elected based on the majority
6 – Medders, McIntosh, Sinyard and Vanlandingham have
7 been elected. We have a tie between Reynolds and
8 Mosely, both of Decatur County. Butch, do you want to
9 stand up so everybody knows who you are? Do you
10 want to stand up? These two are tied.

11 MR. LONG: Both good people.

12 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: And they want us to
13 decide which one of them gets elected. Would you-all
14 like to make any comments before we have the election?
15 All right. We're going to pass out a sheet of paper, write
16 down either Mosley or Reynolds, one of the two, Mosley
17 or Reynolds.

18 (Whereupon, the members voted.)

19 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The winner is
20 Mr. Reynolds.

21 Since that's been elected, now you've seen the list.
22 The next item is the regional criteria.

23 MS. KENNEDY: Okay.

24 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: The next item of
25 business is the regional criteria, and she is going to go

1 over the items with us.

2 MS. KENNEDY: And you have that information in
3 your notebooks as well. Hopefully, you've had a chance
4 to review some of these criteria and let's talk about that a
5 little bit. We need to approve the criteria tonight.

6 MR. LONG: I'm just going to give you a quick – I
7 know it's getting late and I've got to drive back to
8 Atlanta; so I've got motivation to finish early, too. I'll
9 give you a quick summary of where the criteria came
10 from.

11 The bill calls for the Director of Planning to issue
12 recommended criteria. So that's what we're here for
13 today. I actually have done what the bill required. The
14 framework for doing the criteria was based on a long
15 process of HB277, but the state actually developed a
16 statewide transportation plan as a result of Senate
17 Bill 200, as a result of some guidance we had several
18 years ago about developing a business plan for
19 transportation. And I've given this presentation a lot
20 about our business plan and how we try to think outside
21 the box. If we invest in transportation, good things will
22 happen.

23 As you go through it, you've got to have some kind
24 of basis or compass, right, of how your to decide the
25 projects. This is not the regional discretionary money.

1 This is the regional money. It will be based on some
2 goals and objectives. The goals and objectives from the
3 statewide plan are real simple, support Georgia's
4 economic growth and competitiveness. It sounds great.
5 That's what we should be doing. That's what we should
6 be all about, particularly here in Southwest Georgia.

7 Number two, assure safety and security.

8 Number three, maximize the value of our assets,
9 getting the most out of what we have.

10 Number four, minimize impacts on the
11 environment.

12 So those are the goals. The outcomes you expect at
13 the end of the day, obviously, are products that are
14 delivered that are of some value to the taxpayers, so that
15 the voters will vote for it. They have to be delivered on
16 time and on budget, and there is a lot of public
17 acceptance and trust in this process.

18 The guiding principles, we're going to focus in on
19 picking projects, should be on products you can deliver.
20 If you can't deliver it, Folks, it shouldn't be on the list.
21 It's no different than your regular SPLOST that you
22 have. You go through the same thought process for that.
23 If you can't deliver a library in time, the five-year time
24 period, or you can't deliver a park or whatever you're
25 doing, you're going to be in trouble getting that

1 re-upped; right? Same process.

2 So we've got to have projects that have been vetted
3 a little bit. So we say actually the products should come
4 from some kind of existing plan or somewhere
5 somebody has vetted the project out. Everybody in here
6 has to do a comprehensive plan. Some of you have done
7 it. Some of you haven't done quite as much, but
8 everybody has had to do some form of that. But we've
9 done special studies in a lot of the counties down here.
10 We've got projects in our plans. There is a number of
11 locations for projects to come from.

12 Investments need to be consistent with not only the
13 statewide goals, but in your case you've got Dougherty
14 and Lee County, they're part of an MPO, and their
15 projects needs to be consistent with their planned
16 principles.

17 So let's look at all program areas that we're going
18 to talk about. We're going to talk about roads, and
19 dikes, and bridges. But every project, like I said, needs
20 some kind of existing plan or study. Emphasis needs to
21 be on construction barrels. Think about that for a
22 second. You're going to put this out there. One of the
23 projects that you can put out there on the street to show
24 construction going on, that's going to be very important
25 for the bill at the very beginning stages. But, also, it

1 really secures the fact that you've got projects you can
2 deliver. You say, "Listen, the project needs to be along
3 in the process enough," particularly the big projects, so
4 that you can deliver it in the time frame.

5 Now, we're going to emphasize constructions
6 projects, but it doesn't have to be all construction. It
7 could be right-of-ways. Certainly, it could be
8 engineering as well. And we must, you know, as you go
9 through it, if you're identifying a big project, you've got
10 to say all of the money is not coming from this sales tax.
11 You've to say where it's coming from, which makes
12 sense.

13 We looked at several different areas, growing
14 capital being obviously probably the most important to
15 you guys, and these are new roads, widenings,
16 interchanges, interstate improvements, bridges, economic
17 development; and you probably can round them off to
18 ten or fifteen example projects in your region's
19 commission. These are projects that serve employment
20 centers, activity centers, that benefit not necessarily the
21 whole region, but benefit an area that is an employment
22 center or an activity center.

23 Railway and bridge maintenance, we know that a
24 section of the project money needs to go toward this,
25 taking care of what you have, but remember you have

1 your discretionary money. And remember this is
2 ultimately going to the voters. So you don't want to put
3 all maintenance on there, because that's not going to be
4 very appealing to the voters; right?

5 Don't forget. This is only one pot of the money.
6 The regional sales tax is a pot. We still have a regular
7 federal aid program, but we also have – you guys have
8 your local money just in general. Everybody here put
9 money into transportation whether you know it or not;
10 right? You have a road superintendent. You are
11 spending money on roads. Most people that have a
12 SPLOST devote some percentage of that money to roads.
13 There are other pots of money for those type of
14 activities.

15 Traffic and safety operation projects, those to me in
16 areas like this are really, really some of your bread and
17 butter projects, believe it or not. You know, you can
18 certainly round off the big projects like 133, or finish up
19 US 27. Those are great projects, too, but the intersection
20 improvements are really, really appealing to the public.
21 They like to see those types of projects.

22 You guys, this category sort of really overlaps a
23 little with capital. So widening 133 would be a roadway
24 capital project, but it also is in the freight and logistics
25 quarter; right? Particularly for the Base in Albany or

1 U.S. 27, same thing.

2 The next one is aviation. We have 103 general
3 aviation airports around the state. Most all of the
4 airports are in some need of improvement, whether it's
5 taxiway lighting, a number of different aspects. Now,
6 you can use this money for that. Remember, the
7 definition of a project was wide open.

8 Bike and pedestrian, a percentage of this money
9 can be used for bike and pedestrian projects. We say
10 let's be strategic with it. We want to enhance activity
11 center in activity -- like if you're doing a bus stop in
12 Albany, you want to fund the bus stop that actually -- a
13 sidewalk that feeds into a bus stop, not just some random
14 sidewalk. So think more regionally. If you're just
15 putting in general recreational sidewalks, those kinds of
16 things, you need to do that with your discretionary
17 money.

18 Transit, we have transit in this region, Guys. In
19 fact, a lot of rural counties have transit. It's not just
20 Albany, Guys, that has transit services. So it opens up to
21 that. So we lay out some guidance in that. And you
22 know, obviously, if it's going to be transit, you've got to
23 decide, you know, where do you want to go first, but
24 take care of what you have first and then go to capital if
25 you need to. Capital can include buses. It's not just, you

1 know, buses. It can include a new transfer facility if you
2 need one.

3 Now, some of you can just look at your book. This
4 is basically a breakdown of the percentages, the
5 allocations that I am proposing in the recommended
6 criteria. We worked with the staff, Cindy and Tim and
7 others. These aren't magic numbers; okay? But these
8 are what we feel like are appropriate allocations.
9 They're very flexible. Notice roadway capital, fifty to
10 seventy. Road and bridge maintenance -- we have wide
11 ranges.

12 Now, notice right here the title of this column,
13 "Investment Allocation Target Ranges." The word
14 "target." These are target ranges. You don't have to be
15 exactly in these ranges when it's all said at the end of the
16 day. The goal is to give you a lot of flexibility, but it at
17 least gives you some guidance as you go into it. If you
18 want to have a sales tax of your own, and everybody
19 here probably has worked on a sales tax list at some
20 point in their life, you don't start with a blank sheet of
21 paper. You state going into it that you're going to have
22 some money going towards parks and recs, some money
23 going toward maybe road improvement, some money
24 going toward a jail or whatever it may be. You divide
25 out, and you decide how you're going to spend it

1 generally before you get started developing your list.
2 Otherwise, you're just shooting in the dark. So that's
3 why the bill called for allocation. That's why we put
4 allocations in there. There's a lot of flexibility in the
5 ranges, and also you don't have to stick to the ranges
6 exactly, because there is a lot of flexibility in that as
7 well.

8 These are the general categories of projects and
9 you can move with them like you want to. That will be
10 probably be a good discussion point for her to step in on.

11 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Let me ask a couple
12 of questions about that because it has come in, and I
13 understand the question earlier that came about the state
14 guidelines versus what you're going to do with your
15 local money. For example, you know, if you wanted to
16 help the voters get on and you really needed some of
17 those new vans for the senior center for transportation
18 purposes, that could be used?

19 MR. LONG: Right.

20 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: And additionally, go
21 back to the slide where it said traffic, safety and traffic
22 operations, the question I was asked and I said I don't
23 know, if the intersection still doesn't qualify for a traffic
24 light, it still doesn't qualify by the state standards for a
25 traffic light, or can you –

1 MR. LONG: Yeah. If you put this in, you know,
2 when we're talking about traffic lights, we're all bound,
3 whether it's a city or state road, Guys, county roads, city.
4 We're all bound by the same guidance, the manual of
5 uniform of traffic control devices. So you can't just
6 ignore that. A lot of local officials do ignore that, but
7 technically if you're ever sued, you could be held liable
8 for not following the manual of uniform traffic controls.

9 You know you hear all that stuff on a national level
10 about the signs, about lower case and upper case letters.
11 That's all guidance from the same committee about sign
12 and structure. We're bound by these guidances that are
13 nationwide.

14 MR. DUFFY: odd, let me make sure we're being
15 clear here, Ed –

16 MR. RYNDERS: I had someone say to me, “Does
17 this mean if we pass this that I can tell my voters they're
18 going to get a traffic light now at this intersection that
19 they've been wanting for ten years?”

20 MR. LONG: If it's warranted, you will.

21 MR. RYNDERS: I said I think there's guidelines
22 and traffic patterns.

23 MR. LONG: There are.

24 What I'd like to do is turn this over to Inga to
25 facilitate the discussion, and I will certainly jump in if

1 you have questions.

2 MS. KENNEDY: And you have the regional
3 criteria before you at tab number eight. And that was a
4 good question, a very important question. Any other
5 questions or comments regarding the criteria? Do you
6 understand the criteria?

7 MR. SINYARD: Just for clarification, on the
8 criteria, on this list of capital equipment. Define capital
9 equipment. Are we talking about bulldozers? Are we
10 talking about road scrapers? I know there's twenty-five
11 discretionary, but I just want, from a regional standpoint,
12 it defined, this capital equipment.

13 MR. LONG: Well, the capital equipment is
14 actually under the transit section.

15 MS. KENNEDY: That's where you are?

16 MR. SINYARD: Yes. The regional criteria –

17 MR. LONG: Well, let's see. You have to go back
18 and look at the criteria itself. This slide is actually
19 saying construction or acquisition of capital equipment.
20 The acquisition of capital equipment only applies in one
21 area, which is the transit. That's a pretty good pick up
22 there, because you guys are thinking about backhoes and
23 bulldozers, aren't you?

24 MR. __: But you could with your local money.

25 MR. __: Could you do it with your local money?

1 MR. LONG: I think you need to defer that
2 probably to some legal opinions. The way the
3 transportation project definition reads, it says, "Project."
4 You can operate and maintain a project, but I don't know
5 if that means you can go out and buy capital equipment
6 for that exact purpose. I don't know that's – I'd have to
7 get further reading on that.

8 MR. SCOTT: I thought you said on the twenty-
9 five percent earning, we could basically do anything we
10 wanted to do?

11 MR. LONG: The definition of a transportation
12 project is the same for region and the discretionary. I
13 don't think I would read it that way.

14 MR. MULLINGRIFF: If I may, I think, remember,
15 you're going to submit this project to the Director of
16 Planning. You're going to glean the projects that are not
17 eligible under the guidelines. Is that right?

18 MR. LONG: I'm not worried about him buying a
19 dozer with his discretionary money.

20 MR. MULLINGRIFF: But if he wanted to buy a
21 dozer with his discretionary money –

22 MR. LONG: The audit, there is another section of
23 the bill that says there will be an annual audit of all
24 expenditures of the program. We'll have to keep that in
25 mind.

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MR. SCOTT: The county does the audit.

MS. KENNEDY: Any other issues on the criteria?

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We're going to be needing clarity all along.

MS. KENNEDY: Yes, we are.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: So we need to vote on approval.

MS. KENNEDY: We need to.

MR. YEARTA: So moved.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: We have a motion to approve. Do we have a second?

MR. BURKE: We have a second.

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Does anybody have any question or discussion?

All those in favor raise your hand.

(Whereupon, the members voted.)

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: All right. Any opposed raise your hand?

(Whereupon, the members voted.)

MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Motion carries.

MS. KENNEDY: And then we're finished with the goal of this meeting. You did really well and we appreciate your time, and I'll turn it over to Todd to wrap up and talk about the next step.

MR. LONG: Congratulations. You have finished

1 the first official roundtable meeting just in time to get
2 home and watch TV, right, football, the Pats versus the
3 Jets; right?

4 MS. __: It won't be near as good as the one
5 Saturday night.

6 MR. LONG: So you elected a roundtable
7 chairman. You've elected the executive committee, and
8 you've approved the criteria. Now, what's next?

9 Well, what happens next is over the next few
10 months, we're going to send some guidance and we're
11 going to help you work through here on soliciting
12 projects from the local jurisdiction of the MPO. That's
13 what the bill calls for. We have projects we have in
14 mind, obviously. You have projects you have in mind.
15 We're going to take all those in, and we will be vetting
16 those, through the criteria, and ultimately submitted an
17 unconstrained list back to the executive committee. So
18 we hope to do that by May and how the land lays, you
19 know, over the next, I guess the bringing of the projects
20 won't occur 'til May, and then the executive committee
21 meetings will be basically June, July and August. And
22 ultimately they will submit a constrained list to you guys
23 as a roundtable, and add in the roundtable and there's a
24 public hearing to that process as well. You guys will go
25 over the list. You will add, subtract, amend and

1 ultimately approve by no later than October 15th, 2011.
2 Thank goodness we still have ten months before that
3 date, a little over ten months.

4 So we will be here to help you. We did
5 introductions earlier, but Bradley Simpson here, he's
6 kind of over this part of our planning efforts.
7 (Unintelligible) is here as well. He's part of the Georgia
8 -- and then you've got your district staff, and Jeff
9 Sheffield is here, and Shane and Brent, you-all know
10 them. I'm telling you, I'm going to be relying on input
11 from you guys and from the people I just named.

12 We know that a lot of time the locals do their best.
13 We're going to be weighing it and vetting it through the
14 criteria and what makes sense from a business
15 standpoint. So we do very much value your opinion.

16 We do thank you for being here, and I want to say
17 a special thanks to RC because going into this bill, you
18 notice if you read the bill – on your tenth reading, you
19 might notice this: The RC's are not mentioned in the
20 bill. There is a lot of debate about why that was not the
21 case, but, you know, you're paying – not all RC's are
22 created equal; right? So we actually met with the RC's
23 back in the summer and decided on roles for them, and
24 how they should play out in the facilitation of these
25 meetings, the logistics of it, helping to get the mayors

1 selected. And now on the project selection they're not
2 going to be doing evaluations, but we're going to have
3 you turn your projects into them and make sure the I's
4 are dotted and T's are crossed and then forward them to
5 us, kind of a clearinghouse, so to speak. They're not
6 doing an evaluation. They won't be rejecting projects,
7 but make sure you've got all of your ducks in a row
8 before you submit them.

9 So they're helping us, and we appreciate their
10 willingness to do that, and we thank them very much
11 because the bill doesn't say do it. They're not mandated
12 to do it. But all of them stepped up and said, "Hey, we
13 want to be part of this," because they know this is part of
14 the regional commission plan to work together. This
15 probably one of the pivotal points in your agenda really
16 over the next several years. So I want to say thank you.

17 And with that, I will just mention my contact
18 information is here. We do have a web page with a lot of
19 information, criteria, meeting dates, maps, you know it.
20 Also, your breakdown of your discretionary money is on
21 that web page as well. Most of you have already seen
22 that, and you're welcome to look at that. If there's a
23 question about your lane miles that you have for your
24 county or your population data, you need to make sure
25 that's right, because guess what? Not only is this money

1 based on that, but your local maintenance improvement
2 grant program money is based on that same data.

3 Yes, sir.

4 MR. SCOTT: Quick question. Mike Scott from
5 Moultrie. Is it determined how the funding will be on
6 those projects? Is it pay as you go? Is it going to be a
7 bond issue?

8 MR. LONG: That's a great question. Okay.
9 Discretionary money is going to be, you know,
10 obviously set by the counties and cities directly to them.
11 If the cities and counties want to bond against that, that
12 will be their call.

13 Now, on the regional side, there's nothing in the
14 bill that says you can't do it, but there's nothing in the
15 bill that says necessarily -- you could spend a lot of time
16 doing bonding efforts on that. It is a guaranteed revenue
17 source, per se. You probably could bond against it.
18 Certainly, it will be a decision we have to make as a state
19 whether we want to do that or not. Personally, I think
20 you've got the regular program and you've got this
21 program. I would rather do pay as you go, personally,
22 but that's just Todd Long speaking. But you may have a
23 need to do something different. What if there's a big
24 development you need to come in?

25 Yes?

1 MR. SINYARD: Just a process question. Should
2 the roundtable have an interest in 133, how much
3 emphasis will be put on the other regions? Let's just for
4 the moment have the assumption that we were to have it,
5 and that project, whichever we choose -- how much
6 emphasis would be put on 133 being successful in our
7 region should the region below us not pass nor put that
8 as a top priority?

9 MR. LONG: Well, we have a regular federal aid
10 program. Say they pass it and you don't. Brooks
11 County, I guess is in your region; right?

12 MR. MULLINGRIFF: No. They're a different
13 region.

14 MR. LONG: That's the break line. So, you know,
15 that's when we fill the gaps with the regular federal aid
16 program. I told you before I want to fund 133, but the
17 problem is my methodology on funding 133 is a
18 congressional battlefield. It's going to take it a long time
19 to get funded. This could help accelerate that, at least
20 particularly in your area.

21 Now, the amount of money I spend in the
22 congressional district doesn't change. We're still going
23 to have congressional balance. My regular federal aid
24 program, I've still got to spend money and it doesn't
25 change a thing. But it certainly helps accelerate projects

1 like that if one or two of the regions pass it.

2 And 27 is a great example. 27, I can't deal with the
3 regular federal aid program. For those who don't know
4 that, 27 environmental document was not clear that
5 federal funds were eligible. That's why 27 has never
6 been dealt with and completed. We would need state
7 money only for that to happen. Of course, this would be
8 state money; right? It would allow a project like that to
9 be wrapped up.

10 (Whereupon, there was a discussion in which the
11 reporter asked that the members speak up when asking
12 questions.)

13 MR. SINYARD: In 1988, when we had discussion
14 in Thomas County about 19. Of course, it will be
15 completed this year. So I think all of us in our region
16 understand the history of how long it takes to do
17 construction, and I think as we look at long-term
18 projects. we just want to know specifically what we need
19 to do within the process without running awry. These
20 thing plays together very good for Southwest Georgia.

21 MR. LONG: Now, ultimately, after the selection
22 of the list that goes past this roundtable, we really will
23 have to have champions pushing it to the public. There
24 will have to be a campaign. We're looking at a statewide
25 campaign, because, remember, the votes for all twelve

1 regions hopefully will be – if everybody passes that as a
2 roundtable it will be -- so working with the Chamber of
3 Commerce, the Georgia Chamber and others, we're
4 trying to package together a statewide campaign, but
5 we're going to be looking for leadership in the region. It
6 will not pass this region unless there's champions to
7 make it pass. You-all know that. I'm not telling you
8 anything you don't know. I can't be that champion.
9 Obviously, I'm a public official. I can't be out there
10 campaigning, but you-all know people that certainly can
11 be that champion. It may be a business leader. It may be
12 someone like that.

13 Any other questions?

14 MR. __: Talking about 27, what happened to the
15 Griff Program that was recommended?

16 MR. LONG: The Griff Program was actually
17 implemented under the governor in '88, and it had an
18 original Griff Program, and then they added, I don't
19 remember how many miles. They added all these miles,
20 and about sixty percent of it is done. But to finish it is, I
21 think, six or seven billion dollars.

22 MR. __: Wasn't 27 on that list?

23 MR. LONG: 27 is on that list. But if you
24 remember correctly, the original Griff Program was
25 funded and paid for bond money, repaid by the General

1 Assembly. So we weren't using federal money for a lot
2 of those projects. So that's how that one got started. It
3 was never a federal aid project. But now we have no
4 state money. We have no bonds backed by the General
5 Assembly to repay them out of the general fund; so,
6 therefore, we have not been able to finish it.

7 MR. __: Todd, just to be clear, when do we have
8 to all of the information turned into you?

9 MR. LONG: We'll give you guidance. We'll be
10 working with the RC's. Don't worry. Let's get the
11 roundtables first, you know, and get the criteria done,
12 and hopefully some time in January, we'll be sending out
13 that information. Start working together. Start
14 developing your lists.

15 Counties, if you don't have a transportation study,
16 you're supposed to have a comprehensive plan at least,
17 but you-all can get together and develop one right quick.
18 There's no reason why you can't do that in some of the
19 smaller counties. You need to do it, not for the regional
20 money.

21 MR. RYNDERS: For the local.

22 MR. LONG: You need to do it for the local
23 money.

24 MR. PERRY: We've got most of the regional
25 projects, I think, already identified in our comp plans –

1 MR. LONG: With Mr. Floyd, your state rep, on
2 board, you know, if you've got issues with
3 transportation, work through him. He calls me regular.
4 He's calling me all the time. Even though I work for the
5 governor, and I don't work for Mr. Floyd, we work hand
6 in hand.

7 MR. FLOYD: I would like to say I appreciate Todd
8 coming down and all of them for coming in. This is a
9 great program to enhance transportation in Southwest
10 Georgia, and it will be an opportunity for us to move our
11 projects forward and get something accomplished. If
12 not, it's going to be a long, drawn-out project.

13 MR. LONG: Two things: First of all, they want a
14 picture of the executive committee. Let's just take about
15 a minute to get a picture.

16 The other thing I would like to comment, is that
17 you've got the names and the way to contact everybody
18 that's on this roundtable group. I would go ahead and
19 start talking to each other. Don't wait until the last
20 minute. If there are things that are on your mind that you
21 want to do, let's go ahead and start getting this
22 committee a little more active than just waiting and
23 meeting when they call them. I think we've got a lot to
24 gain if we work together, and we've got a lot to lose if
25 we don't. I just encourage that we do that. If you have a

1 thought, you need to just tell everybody. Email us, call
2 us, write us, or whatever.

3 So if the committee would come on for the
4 executive committee, we'll go ahead and have that done
5 real quick.

6 MS. KENNEDY: If there is anyone who provided
7 comments or who would like to provide comments in
8 writing, we'll take those as well.

9 MR. __: Let's give a round of applause to the
10 DOT staff.

11 MR. VANLANDINGHAM: Anybody else have a
12 comment? If not, the meeting is adjourned, and the
13 executive committee come up, please.

14 (Whereupon, at 8:15 p.m., the proceedings were
15 concluded.)
16

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF GEORGIA)
COUNTY OF DOUGHERTY)

I, Bobbie Houldridge Mahon, Certified Court Reporter, before whom the foregoing was taken, hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken down by me and later reduced to written form by me, and that the foregoing pages are a true and correct record of the proceedings held in this matter; that I am neither counsel for or related to the parties to the action in which this proceeding was held, nor any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto; or am I financially interested in the outcome of this action.

Witness my hand this 31st day of January, 2011.

BOBBIE HOULDRIDGE MAHON
CCR #1118-B