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SAFETEA-LU Transportation Law Means Access to Additional ITS Project Funding for Georgia

ATLANTA (January 31, 2006) – Georgia will gain access to new intelligent transportation system (ITS) funding and programs under the \$284 billion Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) transportation law. Jeffrey Lindley, Director of the Office of Transportation Management at the Federal Highway Administration, presented a comprehensive overview of the transportation operations and ITS provisions contained in the largest surface transportation investment in the nation's history to members of the Intelligent Transportation Society of Georgia (ITSGA).

Selected projects and programs for Georgia included in SAFETEA-LU:

- \$1.4 million for Atlanta Construction and Traffic Management Projects
- \$360,000 for DeKalb County Signal System Improvements
- \$5 million Intermodal Distribution Pilot Grant for the Georgia Ports Authority
- \$360,000 for the MARTA Smart Card Automated Fare Collection System
- \$720,000 to establish a Transportation Research Center

“ITS plays an increasing important role in reducing congestion and several major provision of SAFETEA-LU are focused on implementing ITS technologies and strategies,” Mr. Lindley said. “One of the major goals of SAFETEA-LU is to enhance the capability to monitor, in real-time, the traffic and travel conditions of the major highways of the U.S. and to improve the security of the transportation system, address congestion problems, support improved

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response to weather events and surface transportation incidents, and facilitate national and regional highway traveler information.”

Additionally, Georgia will be one of the states consulted as part of a study of catastrophic hurricane evacuation plans. The state will be eligible for funding for projects as part of the I-95 Corridor Coalition.

About ITS Georgia –

ITS Georgia is a group of organizations that support ITS technology as a way to significantly reduce congestion and improve the performance, safety and efficiency of our transportation system. ITS Georgia provides a forum for advocacy, facilitation, integration, and for learning more about Intelligent Transportation Systems.

ITS Georgia members include federal, state and local transportation agencies, ITS technology and service providers, large private and commercial transportation system users, universities, and other interested parties with missions that involve, or are affected by, the transportation system. ITS Georgia is the state Chapter of ITS America. ITS America is the organization that provides technical advice and assistance to the U.S. Department of Transportation. For more information, visit www.itsga.org.

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