Wednesday, November 18

11:30 AM | Registration and Exhibit Hall Open

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 | 12:30-1:30 PM		
Track 1	**Athena G-J**	What Got You Here, Won't Get You There: Moving from Task Doer to Task Leader
Track 2	**Athena F**	NEPA Assignment
Track 3	**Athena E**	NPDES Level 2 Recertification
Track 4	**Athena A-D**	Earthwork Fundamentals for Designers
Track 5	**Empire**	ORD TRAINING: 1A: OpenRoads for Project Leaders: Managing GDOT Deliverables with Confidence
Track 5	**Oconee River**	ORD TRAINING: 1B (Advanced): Staying Ahead of the GDOT Workspace: Updates, Migration and Troubleshooting

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 | 1:30-2:30 PM		
Track 1	**Athena G-J**	Design It Like You Have to Build It: Closing the Gap Between Design & Construction
Track 2	**Athena F**	NEPA Assignment
Track 3	**Athena E**	NPDES Level 2 Recertification
Track 4	**Athena A-D**	Earthworks Training
Track 5	**Empire**	ORD TRAINING: 2A: From Model to Plans: Sheet Setup, Annotation, and Plotting That Works
Track 5	**Oconee River**	ORD TRAINING: 2B (Advanced): Model-Based Staging: Developing Efficient 19-Series Construction Staging Plans

2:30-3:30 PM | Snack Break with Exhibitors

BREAKOUT SESSION 3 | 3:00-4:00 PM		
Track 1	**Athena G-J**	Construction Called. We Have a Problem: What to Do When a Project Goes Sideways
Track 2	**Athena F**	NEPA Assignment
Track 3	**Athena E**	NPDES Level 2 Recertification
Track 4	**Athena A-D**	Earthworks Training
Track 5	**Foundry: Empire**	ORD TRAINING: Building Smarter ORD Models: Templates, Corridors, Feature Definitions, and Controls

BREAKOUT SESSION 4 | 4:00-5:00 PM		
Track 1	**Athena G-J**	Why Can't We All Just Get Along: Best Practices in Interdisciplinary Coordination & Project Management
Track 2	**Athena F**	NEPA Assignment
Track 3	**Athena E**	NPDES Level 2 Recertification
Track 4	**Athena A-D**	Earthworks Training
Track 5	**Foundry: Empire**	ORD TRAINING: Modeling the Hard Stuff in ORD: Intersections, Driveways, Islands, Bridge End Rolls, and Complex Features

ADDITIONAL WEDNESDAY EVENTS

12:30-2:30 PM | College Student Welcome Session (Olympia)**, Resume Review and Meet & Greet with Exhibitors** (Exhibit Hall)

3:00-5:00 PM | November GDOT Board Meeting, Olympia (open to the public)

5:00-6:00 PM | Welcome Reception and GPTQ Award Winner Announcements, Classic Center Atrium

Thursday, November 19

7:30 AM | Registration and Exhibit Hall Open

GENERAL SESSION | 8:30-10:45 AM

Welcome Remarks - Michael “Sully” Sullivan, President & CEO | ACEC Georgia
GDOT Update - Andrew Heath, Deputy Commissioner | GDOT
ATL Airport Update - Ricky Smith, Airport General Manager | Hartsfield-Jackson
MARTA Update - Jonathan Hunt, General Manager & CEO | MARTA
Georgia Ports Authority Update - Kevin Price, President | Georgia Ports Authority
Atlanta Regional Commission Update - Anna Roach, Executive Director & CEO | Atlanta Regional Commission
GPTQ Award Winner Announcements - Meg Pirkle, Chief Engineer | GDOT

10:45-11:45 AM | Networking Break with Exhibitors

11:45 AM-12:45 PM | Lunch

BREAKOUT SESSION 1 | 1:00-2:00 PM

Track 1	**Athena G-J**	Public Involvement and Communications at GDOT: Audits, Accessibility, and the Importance of Effective Communications and Engagement
Track 2	**Athena F**	Project Manager (PM) Roundtable: The Right Rates, the Right Signals, the Right Way
Track 3	**Athena E**	Engineering the Future: GDOT Model-Based Legal Deliverables and Digital Delivery Updates
Track 4	**Athena A-D**	There and Back Again: Managing the World Cup in Atlanta
Track 5	**Olympia 1 & 2**	Strategies for Delivering Quality on Time
Track 6	**Parthenon 1 & 2**	Qualified to Compete: Connecting GDOT Prequalification to QBS Excellence

2:00-2:30 PM | Snack Break with Exhibitors

BREAKOUT SESSION 2 | 2:45-3:45 PM

Track 1	**Athena G-J**	The Environmental Footprint Framework: Survey Boundaries, Avoidance, and Lockdown Plans
Track 2	**Athena F**	Writing Great FPR Responses
Track 3	**Athena E**	Digital Delivery + The Future of Construction Inspection (CE & I... T)
Track 4	**Athena A-D**	Driving Smarter: Practical Ways Artificial Intelligence is Maximizing Efficiency in Traffic Operations
Track 5	**Olympia 1 & 2**	GDOT P3 Division: Program Progress, Procurement Innovation, and Future Opportunities
Track 6	**Parthenon 1 & 2**	How to Not Lose Your Local Direct Grant Funds

3:45 PM | Adjourn

Wednesday Breakout Details

SESSION 1 | TRACK 1: Project Managers & Young Professionals | 12:30-1:30 PM | ATHENA G-J

What Got You Here, Won't Get You There: Moving from Task Doer to Task Leader

Experienced transportation leaders will share lessons learned in making the leap from technical contributor to project manager. Participants will gain practical tools for: Building scopes, budgets and schedules Delegating without losing quality or control Managing people, schedule pressures, interdisciplinary friction and difficult conversations with confidence

SESSION 2 | TRACK 1: Project Managers & Young Professionals | 1:30-2:30 PM | ATHENA G-J

Design It Like You Have to Build It: Closing the Gap Between Design & Construction

A panel featuring owner, designer, utility, and contractor perspectives will explore how decisions made during design impact constructability, quality and program delivery and how earlier collaboration can reduce conflicts, RFIs, change orders, delays and cost impacts.

SESSION 3 | TRACK 1: Project Managers & Young Professionals | 3:00-4:00 PM | ATHENA G-J

Construction Called. We Have a Problem: What to Do When a Project Goes Sideways

A candid, case-study-driven discussion with design, construction and owner representatives. Using real world problems discovered during construction, participants will work backward to determine what happened, why it wasn't identified earlier and where in the project lifecycle it could have been prevented. Topics covered include utilities, MOT, interdisciplinary coordination, design assumptions, RFIs, change orders and constructability.

SESSION 4 | TRACK 1: Project Managers & Young Professionals | 4:00-5:00 PM | ATHENA G-J

Why Can't We All Just Get Along: Best Practices in Interdisciplinary Coordination & Project Management

The success of a transportation project is often the result of effective communication and coordination among the various disciplines. In this session, a multi-disciplined group of practitioners will share their perspectives on coordination breakdowns and the project management practices that will keep them from happening on your next project. Participants will learn how to: Anticipate the issues where disciplines can sometimes collide. Run coordination meetings that keep everyone aligned. Communicate across disciplines to prevent competing priorities from turning into conflict. Proactively and effectively communicate bad news, its impacts and potential solutions.

Wednesday Extended Training

SESSIONS 1-4 | TRACK 2 | ATHENA F

NEPA Assignment

Presenter
Amber Phillips, State Environmental Administrator, GDOT

SESSIONS 1-4 | TRACK 3 | ATHENA E

NPDES Level 2 Recertification

Presenter
Michael Bywaletz, Gresham Smith

You must pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org.

To register, you must have a Level II Certification that is expiring within the year or has lapsed.

SESSIONS 1-4 | TRACK 4 | ATHENA A-D

Earthwork Fundamentals for Designers

Presenters
Joshua Taylor
Katherine Park

GDOT Office of Engineering Services

Provides training on earthwork fundamentals for designers designing roadway construction projects. Fundamentals include understanding earthwork terms, GDOT earthwork pay item policy, specifications, and pay item quantity calculations using design software end area earthwork data.

Wednesday Open Roads Designer Training

SESSION 1A | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 12:30-1:30 PM | FOUNDRY: EMPIRE

OpenRoads for Project Leaders: Managing GDOT Deliverables with Confidence

Moderator

Chase Horton, HNTB

Panelists

GDOT Roadway Design/Project Managers

A practical, non-software-intensive session for project managers, discipline leads, reviewers, and supervisors. Learn about GDOT OpenRoads deliverable requirements, the benefits of model quality, and key scoping considerations. Explore evolving digital delivery expectations, including MALD pilots and design data books, and how to prepare for their impact on project planning and deliverables.

SESSION 1B | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 12:30-1:30 PM | FOUNDRY: OCONEE RIVER

ADVANCED: Staying Ahead of the GDOT Workspace: Updates, Migration and Troubleshooting

Panelists

Titus Johnson, GDOT
Paul Coughlin, VHB

Stay current with the GDOT ORD Workspace and spend less time troubleshooting. Learn how GDOT and consultant teams manage updates, plan project migrations, and organize custom resources. Explore configuration and annotation pitfalls, practical troubleshooting approaches, and ways to share feedback to help keep your workspace and project teams working consistently.

SESSION 2A | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 1:30-2:30 PM | FOUNDRY: EMPIRE

From Model to Plans: Sheet Setup, Annotation, and Plotting That Works

Panelists

George Carol, Kimley-Horn
Michael Sheng, Croy

A practical plan-production session covering GDOT workflows for creating clear plan, profile, and cross-section sheets. Learn how to organize references, set up named boundaries and drawing/sheet models, and keep sheets and annotation coordinated as designs change. Explore Print Organizer workflows, ORD 2025 plotting updates, and solutions to common sheet and PDF production issues.

SESSION 2B | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 1:30-2:30 PM | FOUNDRY: OCONEE RIVER

ADVANCED: Model-Based Staging: Developing Efficient 19-Series Construction Staging Plans

Panelists

Josh Buth, GDOT
Leon Karim, WSP

A practical workflow session for developing 19-series construction staging plans in ORD. Compare staging templates and corridor clipping, organize staging files and controls, and keep staging models coordinated as the mainline design evolves. Learn modeling and plan-presentation techniques that reduce rework and help teams move efficiently from staging models to deliverables.

SESSION 3 | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 3:00-4:00 PM | FOUNDRY: EMPIRE

Building Smarter ORD Models: Templates, Corridors, Feature Definitions, and Controls

Panelists

Garrett Smith, VHB
Josh Buth, GDOT
Jared London, Hussey Gay Bell
Brittany Tyson, VHB

Learn the fundamentals and best practices for building efficient corridor models in the GDOT OpenRoads Workspace. Explore how template structure, feature definitions, and control choices affect model quality, plan production, and 3D deliverables. The presentation will show how to apply these principles, reduce manual adjustments, and minimize rework.

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP.

SESSION 4 | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 4:00-5:00 PM | FOUNDRY: EMPIRE

Modeling the Hard Stuff in ORD: Intersections, Driveways, Islands, Bridge End Rolls, and Complex Features

Panelists

Jeff Harrison, Michael Baker
Aman Mathur, TY Lin
Enrique Acevedo

Tackle roadway features that require more than a typical corridor model. Explore practical techniques for modeling intersections, driveways, medians, islands, walls, special ditches, and bridge end rolls. Learn when to use profiled elements, surface and linear templates, secondary alignments, and civil cells to handle complex conditions and reduce modeling rework.

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP.

Thursday Breakout Details

SESSION 1 | TRACK 1 | 1:00-2:00 PM | ATHENA G-J

Public Involvement and Communications at GDOT: Audits, Accessibility, and the Importance of Effective Communications and Engagement

Moderator

Chris Goodson, Assistant State Environmental Administrator, GDOT

Panelists

Katina Lear, Assistant Director of Strategic Communications, GDOT
Melany Reynolds, Communications and Engagement Manager, HNTB
Ron Battle, Digital Services and Web Strategy Manager, GDOT
Amanda Von Oldenburg, Senior Project Manager

This session provides a comprehensive look at the evolution and future of public involvement and communications at the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Building from a focused overview of GDOT's recently completed Public Involvement and Communications Audit, we'll outline the strategic direction for modernizing GDOT's public involvement program and the collaboration occurring with the Strategic Communications team. Learn about forward-focused strategies-including best practices, accessibility improvements through 508 compliance, modernizing public-facing websites, and building on an already strong Public Information Open House (PIOH) process and the importance of explaining the why. Attendees will leave with practical insights and a clearer understanding of how GDOT is enhancing communication, transparency, and engagement across its programs with a goal of improving public trust for internal and external audiences.

SESSION 1 | TRACK 2 | 1:00-2:00 PM | ATHENA F

Project Manager (PM) Roundtable: The Right Rates, the Right Signals, the Right Way

Moderator

Cleopatra Vicks, Assistant State Program Delivery Administrator, GDOT

Panelists

Kimberly Nesbitt, State Program Delivery Administrator, GDOT
Matt McDow, PE, Vice President, Arcadis U.S.
Andrew Pearson, PE, State Traffic Operations Manager
Curtis Scott, Assistant Chief Procurement Officer for Engineering and Design Procurement, GDOT
Landon Perry, PE, PTOE, Assistant State Traffic Engineer, GDOT
Randy Blair, Program Manager, Gresham Smith

From further understanding of the requirements for beginning or completing work under a Billable Rates Contract (BRC) or navigating new and revised traffic signal permit approvals, this session will highlight the steps involved in getting the "green light". Panelists will share insights into the timing, documentation, and coordination needed to navigate both processes and obtain the appropriate approvals that keep projects moving forward efficiently and effectively.

SESSION 1 | TRACK 3 | 1:00-2:00 PM | ATHENA E

Engineering the Future: GDOT Model-Based Legal Deliverables and Digital Delivery Updates

Presenters

Sam Woods, GDOT
Chase Horton, HNTB

GPTQ Digital Delivery Subcommittee co-chairs will present the progress of 3D model requirements developed through GPTQ and adopted by GDOT that have become effective since the 2025 Summit, including model evaluations and Field Plan Reviews and additional digital deliverables for final plan submissions. Presenters will highlight internal training efforts to support the kick-off of model review and discuss potential next steps in the evolution of model review at GDOT. This session will also include an overview of GDOT's first MALD (model as the legal deliverable) pilot project.

SESSION 1 | TRACK 4 | 1:00-2:00 PM | ATHENA A-D

There and Back Again: Managing the World Cup in Atlanta

Moderator

Justin Hatch, GDOT

Panelists

Sarmed Hendow, GDOT
Lenor Bromberg, ATLDOT

Major events like the FIFA World Cup challenge transportation infrastructure, technology, and interagency collaboration. In this panel, transportation leaders explore how Atlanta became a leader in major-event operations by turning experience into repeatable, scalable special-event playbooks, and how this experience prepared us for the largest event since the Olympics. Panelists will share lessons learned on planning, signal timing, emergency operations, technology used, planned and unplanned closures, adjustments made during matches, and law enforcement/stakeholder alignment.

SESSION 1 | TRACK 5 | 1:00-2:00 PM | OLYMPIA 1 & 2

Strategies for Delivering Quality on Time

Moderator
Daniel Pass, PE, State Design Policy Engineer, GDOT

Panelists
Frank Flanders, Assistant State Design Policy Engineer, GDOT
Dave Peters, Design Policy & Support, GDOT
Colin Abbey, PE
Garrett Stinson, PE
Aneece Louaked, PE
Christopher Broyles, PE

Quality means much more than technical accuracy; it is the discipline of knowing what is needed, doing what is needed, and doing it at the right time. A perfectly prepared Design Exception submitted late in the process can still create outsized impacts if approval does not come as expected. Likewise, a concept report that cycles through repeated resubmittals consumes unnecessary effort and can delay project delivery. OPDS has developed new tools, guidance, and processes to strengthen both quality and efficiency across our workflows. By working together with shared expectations and timely coordination, we can increase both quality and delivery - the central theme of this session.

SESSION 1 | TRACK 6 | 1:00-2:00 PM | PARTHENON 1 & 2

Qualified to Compete: Connecting GDOT Prequalification to QBS Excellence

Presenters
Maria Roux, Chief Procurement Officer, GDOT
Robert Elam, Assistant State Roadway Design Engineer, GDOT

Explore how GDOT's Prequalification procedures establish a foundation for fair and transparent Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) of Engineering and Design consultants. This session will examine the purpose of Prequalification, how it supports the identification of firms with the qualifications and expertise best suited to meet project needs. This session will connect GDOT's Prequalification procedures with the principles of QBS, emphasizing that prequalification establishes eligibility to compete, while QBS evaluates and selects the most qualified firm for a specific project. Attendees will explore how Prequalification enhances competition, assists with evaluation criteria and meets the requirements of 23 CFR Part 172.

SESSION 2 | TRACK 1 | 2:45-3:45 PM | ATHENA G-J

The Environmental Footprint Framework: Survey Boundaries, Avoidance, and Lockdown Plans

Moderator
Amber Phillips, State Environmental Administrator, GDOT

Panelists
David Borchardt, GDOT
Laura Dawood, GDOT
Fletcher Miller, GDOT

The session will include panelists from GDOT OES, Office of Roadway Design, and Consultant communities to provide multiple perspectives on these key milestones of cross collaboration for successful project delivery. Panelists will discuss elements of successful projects and lessons learned.

SESSION 2 | TRACK 2 | 2:45-3:45 PM | ATHENA F

Writing Great FPR Responses

Presenters
Tanisha Georges
Amina Gahair

Responses serve as permanent documentation from the Field Plan Review (FPR). This session will clarify why FPR responses are important and discuss what makes a great FPR response. We will go over how to write great FPR responses as well as give examples on how to revise responses to make them great.

SESSION 2 | TRACK 3 | 2:45-3:45 PM | ATHENA E

Digital Delivery + The Future of Construction Inspection (CE & I... T)

Moderator

Patrick Allen, Construction Division Director, GDOT

Panelists

Sam Woods, GDOT
Jeremy Daniel, GDOT
Tom Clower, ER Snell
Ed Shappell, WSB

This session will reintroduce GDOT's Digital Delivery efforts and spotlight the future of Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI). As Model as the Legal Document (MALD) delivery becomes standard, construction engineering and inspection professionals must adapt accordingly while ensuring the same level of quality in the field. The panel will highlight tools and technology used in the field that will support the transition away from traditional plans. A diverse panel will share perspectives on what we may eventually refer to as CEI+T (Construction Engineering and Inspection + Technology).

SESSION 2 | TRACK 4 | 2:45-3:45 PM | ATHENA A-D

Driving Smarter: Practical Ways Artificial Intelligence is Maximizing Efficiency in Traffic Operations

Moderator

Sam Harris, State Traffic Engineer, GDOT

Panelists

Landon Perry, GDOT
Andrew Pearson, GDOT
Kim Williams, GDOT

This session will explore the journey of testing artificial intelligence and language models in GDOT's TMC, what it truly means for a Department of Transportation to embrace these technologies, and where we are heading next. After an overview of our vision and roadmap, our team will dive into the technical details of our active projects, highlighting how AI is being applied across critical areas like permitting, safety analysis, and incident management.

SESSION 2 | TRACK 5 | 2:45-3:45 PM | OLYMPIA 1 & 2

GDOT P3 Division: Program Progress, Procurement Innovation, and Future Opportunities

Presenters

Andrew Hoenig, P3/DB Pre-Let Administrator, GDOT
Chandria Brown, P3 Division Pre-Let Assistant Administrator, GDOT

This presentation provides transportation industry professionals and public-sector stakeholders with an overview of GDOT's Alternative Delivery Program, highlighting program accomplishments, innovative procurement strategies, upcoming project opportunities, and the I-285 East Express Lanes Comprehensive Development Agreement (CDA) approach. The presentation is intended to promote industry awareness, transparency, and understanding of GDOT's approach to delivering major transportation infrastructure investments through alternative delivery methods.

SESSION 2 | TRACK 6 | 2:45-3:45 PM | PARTHENON 1 & 2

How to Not Lose Your Local Direct Grant Funds

Moderator

Nikki Parris, AtkinsRealis

Panelists

Jared Lombard, U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration
And other successful local government and FHWA representatives

In this session, local government officials will learn how to ensure they are complying with the stringent federal deadlines and performance obligations to avoid claw back of local direct grant funds.