



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 ORD Workspace: Updates, Resources, and What Changed; Inside the GDOT Workspace: How Annotation, Labels, Levels, and Standards Work

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, Resume Review and Meet & Greet with Exhibitors

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

6:00-8:00 PM | GDOT Board Dinner, Georgian Hall



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 A-D	Public Involvement and Communications at GDOT: Audits, Accessibility, and the Importance of Effective Communications and Engagement
Track 2	Athena E	Project Manager (PM) Roundtable: The Right Rates, the Right Signals, the Right Way
Track 3	Athena F	Engineering the Future: GDOT Model-Based Legal Deliverables and Digital Delivery Updates
Track 4	Athena G-J	Traffic Ops: World Cup Coordination
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 A-D	Design / Environmental Coordination: Environmental Survey Boundary, A3M, Lockdown
Track 2	Athena E	Writing Great FPR Responses
Track 3	Athena F	Digital Delivery + The Future of Construction Inspection (CE & I... T)
Track 4	Athena G-J	Traffic Ops II: AI Initiatives 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: NEPA Assignment | ATHENA F

NEPA Assignment

Amber Phillips, State Environmental Administrator, GDOT

SESSIONS 1-4 | TRACK 3: NPDES Level 2 Recertification | ATHENA E

NPDES Level 2 Recertification

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: Earthworks Training | ATHENA A-D

Earthwork Fundamentals for Designers

Presenters: Joshua Taylor, Katheri

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 and 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

You Must Pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org

Moderator: Chase Horton, HNTB

Panelists:

GDOT Roadway Design/Project Managers

A practical, non-software-intensive session for project managers, discipline leads, reviewers, and supervisors. The session will cover navigating ORD models; understanding horizontal and vertical geometry; reviewing file relationships and model content; identifying common delivery risks; and applying clear QA/QC guidance and checklists during project reviews.

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

ADVANCED: Staying Ahead of the GDOT ORD Workspace: Updates, Resources, and What Changed

Panelists:

Titus Johnson, GDOT

Renea Clark, CROY

Paul Coughlin, VHB

Jake Mitchell, Lowe

Bentley Staff

You Must Pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org

Inside the GDOT Workspace: How Annotation, Labels, Levels, and Standards Work

This session is focused on updates to the GDOT OpenRoads Workspace. The session will address what changed, why it changed, impacts on active projects, migration considerations, where to find current resources, recommended implementation practices, known issues, documentation, and how users can provide feedback on future updates.

A behind-the-curtain session on the configuration that drives GDOT ORD annotation and labeling. Topics will include Civil Labeler, profile annotation, callouts, label preferences, text and leader controls, annotation groups, levels, line styles, colors, display rules, and troubleshooting common annotation issues.

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

Josh Buth, GDOT

Renea Clark, CROY

Jeff Harrison, Michael Baker

Chase Horton, HNTB

You Must Pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org

A practical plan-production session covering the workflow from model development through PDF deliverables. Topics will include named boundaries, drawing and sheet models, cross-section sheet production, sheet seeds, references, level displays, annotation, Print Organizer/PSET workflows, roll plots, and troubleshooting common plotting issues.

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP.



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

George Carroll, Kimley-Horn

Paul Coughlin, VHB

Jeff Harrison, Michael Baker

Leon Karim, WSP

Jared London, Hussey Gay Bell

Bentley ORD Staff

You Must Pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org

A practical workflow session for producing 19-series construction staging plans in ORD. Topics will include model-based staging, staging cross-section generation, station and offset labeling, staging-specific levels and display controls, construction-phase organization, annotation methods, and efficient plan-production practices.

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

You Must Pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org

A hands-on technical session covering corridor and template development in the GDOT Workspace. Topics will include template point naming, feature definitions, component and point behavior, triangulation, plan display, quantity reporting, parametric constraints, end conditions, point controls, and recommended corridor modeling practices. This session is well suited for a workshop format.

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP.

SESSION 4 | TRACK 5: Open Roads Designer Training | 4:00-5:00 PM | FOUNDRY: EMPIRE & OCONEE RIVER
Modeling the Hard Stuff in ORD: Intersections, Driveways, Islands, Bridge End Rolls, and Complex Features

Panelists:

Jeff Harrison, Michael Baker; Leon Karim, WSP; Jared London, Hussey Gay Bell; Aman Mathur, TY Lin; Josh Buth, GDOT; Jake Mitchell, Lowe

You Must Pre-register by October 31 by emailing alia@acecga.org

A technical modeling session focused on difficult roadway and roadway-to-bridge interface features. Topics will include intersections, islands, driveways, curb ramps, civil cells, bridge end rolls, box culverts, wingwalls, and other specialty conditions that require workflows beyond a typical corridor model.

BRING YOUR OWN LAPTOP.

Thursday Breakout Details

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

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, P.E., Vice President, Arcadis U.S

Andrew Pearson, P.E., State Traffic Operations Manager

Curtis Scott, Assistant Chief Procurement Officer for Engineering and Design

Procurement, GDOT

Landon Perry, P.E., 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 F

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

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 G-J

Traffic Ops: World Cup Coordination

Sam Harris, State Traffic Engineer, GDOT

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 (LOCAL) | 1:00-2:00 PM | PARTHENON 1 & 2

Qualified to Compete: Connecting GDOT Prequalification to QBS Excellence

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 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 A-D

Design / Environmental Coordination: Environmental Survey Boundary, A3M, Lockdown

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 E

Writing Great FPR Responses

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 F

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 G-J

Traffic Ops II: AI Initiatives in Traffic Operations

Sam Harris, State Traffic Engineer, GDOT

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

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

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 (LOCAL) | 2:45-3:45 PM | PARTHENON 1 & 2

How to Not Lose Your Local Direct Grant Funds

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.

Moderator: Nikki Parris, AtkinsRealis; successful local government and FHWA representatives