

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Press Release

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Columbus Gateway to Fort Benning Chosen for Official State Map Cover

State Transportation Board Members Honor Efforts of Community

Atlanta – The State Transportation Board voted today to showcase the Columbus Gateway entrance to Fort Benning on the cover of Georgia’s official state map. The Victory Drive entrance to Fort Benning serves as an impressive welcome to soldiers and visitors alike.



Each two years, the Department of Transportation prints nearly two million maps for distribution across Georgia, and the Board selects a photo depicting something special and unique located in one of the state’s 13 Congressional Districts. This time, the clear choice was the beautiful photo (attached) of the Columbus Gateway which was completed in late 2011 to the delight of the community.

Working with GA DOT, the leaders at Fort Benning and local consolidated Columbus government officials, the Columbus Gateway Foundation completed construction of this magnificent structure encompassing 56 acres, 20 flags, 20 fountains, and life-size statues atop the gateway pillars. The monument’s four statues are two bald eagles, a “Trooper on the Plains” representing the Armor school and a “Follow Me” Infantryman, all well-known symbols to members of the military and especially important to those attending the bases Armor and Infantry training facilities.

GA DOT Board Member Sam Wellborn, who is also a member of the Columbus Gateway Foundation, said ‘I am so proud that our Gateway was chosen for the cover of this year’s map. I worked side by side with John Flournoy to accomplish his vision of this great entrance to the base – an entry that leaves no doubt about this community’s respect of the military and those that serve here and call Columbus home. What we have built will stand for generations and it is an honor for me to have my photo entry selected for the cover of Georgia’s state map.’

Wellborn thanked his fellow Board members for their support of the Gateway photo, and recognized the leadership and dedication of Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson who was in attendance today. He also noted that Columbus would soon see more great things in the community as a result of the transportation referendum investments that would be happening over the next 10 years.

The State Transportation Board determines policy and exercises general governance of Georgia's Department of Transportation. The Board's 13 members, representing each of the state's congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district. In January, the Board will expand to 14 members as Georgia's population growth results in the addition of a 14th member to the state's U.S. House of Representatives delegation.