

House Resolution 1573

By: Representative Roberts of the 155th

A RESOLUTION

1 Creating the Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding; and
2 for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, transportation is a critical component of Georgia's economic competitiveness
4 as a state; and

5 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to 15 *Fortune* 500 companies for whom transportation
6 infrastructure is a critical component; and

7 WHEREAS, Georgia is home to the world's busiest airport, fastest growing seaport, ninth
8 largest transit system, third largest freight rail network in the United States, and 6.5 million
9 drivers who travel 108.5 billion miles each year; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia's elected leadership has demonstrated excellent resourcefulness and
11 productivity with current resource levels by utilizing innovative finance and project delivery
12 mechanisms; and

13 WHEREAS, transportation is a critical resource in providing high quality of life for the
14 residents of Georgia; and

15 WHEREAS, transportation is essential to commerce and the provision of goods and services
16 to the people across this state, to getting Georgia's citizens to the workplace and medical and
17 educational facilities, to the tourism industry, to the freight and logistics industry, and to
18 every facet of the lives of Georgia's citizens; and

19 WHEREAS, the federal government has demonstrated an increasing inability to deliver a
20 consistent, predictable transportation funding environment; and

21 WHEREAS, Georgia's growth rate is twice the national average; and

22 WHEREAS, Georgia's transportation investment per capita is less than most of her regional
23 neighbors; and

24 WHEREAS, traffic congestion in Georgia is projected to increase by 25 percent in the next
25 seven years; and

26 WHEREAS, Georgia's transportation leadership has predicted that current funding levels can,
27 at best, cover 50 percent of our greatest needs; and

28 WHEREAS, new sources and methods of funding transportation projects are needed to allow
29 the transportation systems in Georgia to keep up with the needs of the population; and

30 WHEREAS, the General Assembly needs to study these issues to determine alternative
31 funding mechanisms for transportation projects and special funding sources.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
33 GEORGIA that there is created the Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation
34 Infrastructure Funding to be composed of 16 members as follows:

- 35 (1) The chairperson of the House Committee on Transportation;
- 36 (2) The chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee;
- 37 (3) Three representatives and one citizen member appointed by the Speaker of the House
38 of Representatives;
- 39 (4) Three senators and one citizen member appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 40 (5) The president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce or his
41 or her designee;
- 42 (6) The president and chief executive officer of the Metro-Atlanta Chamber of
43 Commerce or his or her designee;
- 44 (7) The executive director of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia;
- 45 (8) The executive director of the Georgia Municipal Association;
- 46 (9) The executive director of the Georgia Centers of Innovation; and
- 47 (10) The executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority.

48 The chairperson of the House Committee on Transportation and the chairperson of the Senate
49 Transportation Committee shall serve as co-chairpersons of the committee. The
50 co-chairpersons shall call all meetings of the committee.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall undertake a study of the conditions,
52 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and make specific legislative

53 recommendations for consideration in the next legislative session. The committee may
54 conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem necessary or
55 convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties, and
56 accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution. Legislative members of the
57 committee shall receive the allowances provided for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official
58 Code of Georgia Annotated. The allowances authorized by this resolution shall not be
59 received by any member of the committee for more than eight days unless additional days
60 are authorized. The funds necessary to pay the allowances for members of the committee
61 shall come from the funds appropriated to the House of Representatives and the Senate. The
62 funds necessary to pay all other expenses incurred by the committee shall come from the
63 private stakeholders serving on the committee. Those stakeholders are authorized and
64 directed to provide the committee with such logistical, professional, and other support as the
65 committee deems necessary to carry out the committee's duties under this resolution. The
66 committee shall deliver legislative recommendations to the legislature by November 30,
67 2014, and shall stand abolished on December 1, 2014.