

# GPTQ History Subcommittee Meeting: November 8, 2012

## Georgia Department of Transportation – Office of Environmental Services – History Unit

Attendees: Erin Lane, David Adair, Erin Murphy, Jennifer Corcoran, Cameron Sexton, Mike Wilson, Christine Quinn, Mike Reynolds, Rebecca Crawford, Patrick Sullivan, Mark Grindstaff, Charlotte Weber, Heather Perrin, Matthew McDaniel, Charles Lawrence, Sharman Southall, Madeline White, Chad Carlson, Sandy Lawrence, Glenn Bowman

From: Sandy J. Lawrence, GDOT History Unit Manager

CC: Glenn Bowman, Katy Allen

Date: 11/8/2012

Re: Meeting Minutes

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### **GHBS**

Sandy demonstrated the functionality of the database and explained that since the integration of the database with Geo Traqs was taking longer than expected she would be providing access to the database to all consultants via the FTP site within the next couple of weeks. She will notify the consultants via email when the database has been uploaded. They will also have access to the transportation context. Sandy also explained the level of effort now required to explore the preservation potential for all eligible bridges. Due to a shortage of funds during the database development, only 91 eligible bridges in the database have management plans; however, these 91 bridges represent a good cross section of the total typologies. GDOT has committed to providing completed management plans in the format of the GHBS to SHPO as projects are programmed. These plans must be completed by a structural engineer with assistance from the historians. In many cases, where firms do not have structural engineers on staff, (either prime or sub), GDOT will provide this expertise. Currently, Ben Rabun, the State Bridge Engineer is assisting our office and as his time is limited, the completion of the management plans can take several weeks. Sandy advised the consultants to factor this activity and the logistics into their project schedules. After the first of the year, GDOT plans to contract out the completion of the management plans; however, it may be mid-to-late 2013 before all of the eligible bridges have management plans. Sandy asked the consultants to contact her with any questions regarding the utility of the database or regarding the completion of the management plans.

### **Historic Roads**

Sandy provided the consultants with a copy of meeting minutes with SHPO from a meeting held earlier this year documenting our agreed upon approach to historic roads in Georgia. Essentially, our focus with respect to survey and evaluation will remain on the roads with the potential for state and/or national levels of significance. The meeting minutes provide a list of roads GDOT and SHPO have already agreed have this level of significance and should be surveyed and evaluated when encountered on a GDOT project. Dualized highways are on the list, and Erin Murphy asked if we had information to share with the consultants. Sandy confirmed that GDOT has identified eligible highways and has SHPO concurrence on most of

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them. She will provide the consultants with this information. The Dixie Highway is also on the list of identified significant highways in Georgia, and Madeline White described the context development for the highway currently underway. She further explained that the evaluation process developed as part of the context development could be used in the future for the identification and evaluation of the other highways identified in the memo.

### **GNAHRGIS**

Mike Perkins, IT Director - Application Development at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government is one of the developers of Georgia's Natural Archaeological and Historical GIS (GNAHRGIS). Mike gave a presentation of the capabilities of the latest version of GNAHRGIS and asked for feedback from the group. Mike suggests setting up a blog or Google document to capture feedback as the group begins to use the GIS. Mike also asked for more ideas for useful maps layers such as the historic GDOT highway maps which have been scanned and will be available through GNAHRGIS soon. Sandy explained that consultant feedback was important in the development of the program and in insuring its success.

### **On-Going Research Projects**

Sharman Southall described GDOT's efforts in partnership with students and professors from Georgia Tech to evaluate the potential for steel truss storage. The end goal is to identify a method of storage and inventory of truss bridges that are slated for replacement with the intent that the public could re-use these trusses for a multitude of uses.

### **Suggestions for Agenda Items for the Next Meeting**

Most agreed that it would be very helpful to meet with Mike Perkins again and brainstorm ideas for report printing as well as other ideas for making the History portion of GNAHRGIS as tailored as possible to the professional historian's needs.

Sandy asked that if anyone had other ideas for future meetings that they contact her or Heather Perrin.