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State awards \$8M for metro-Atlanta roadwork

Atlanta Business Chronicle by Dave Williams, Staff Writer

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A state transportation-financing program awarded more than \$8 million in grants and loans Thursday for a dozen road, bridge and streetscape projects across metro Atlanta.

The Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank, a revolving investment fund created by the General Assembly in 2008, approved requests from 11 community improvement districts.

The amounts of funding that went to each project ranged from five \$1 million grants for major intersection upgrades to two \$200,000 grants for bridge improvements.

"They were great applications," Gov. Nathan Deal said during a ceremony at the Capitol announcing the awards. "We saw the value in each."

The applications were approved by the **State Road and Tollway Authority**, which administers the infrastructure bank. Deal serves as SRTA's board chairman.

Thursday's round of funding was the second for the program. More than \$10 million in grants and loans were awarded in the first round of funding two years ago.

Thus far, community improvement districts, self-taxing organizations formed by businesses to finance transportation projects in their communities, have leveraged the state money to finance more than \$100 million in improvements.

"It's a great partnership," said Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, who helped spearhead the legislation creating the program. "[It] has allowed the private sector to sort through a lot of

bureaucracy ... to improve our transportation system around the state.”

Two of the \$1 million grants – to the Gwinnett Place and Gwinnett Village CIDs – will go toward the construction of “diverging diamond interchanges” (DDI) at Interstate 85 and Pleasant Hill Road and I-85 and Jimmy Carter Boulevard. Georgia’s first DDI opened recently at I-285 and Ashford-Dunwoody Road.

Here is a breakdown of the other grants and loans announced Thursday:

- \$1 million to the Perimeter CIDs for improvements at Lake Hearn and Peachtree-Dunwoody Road.
- \$1 million to the Cumberland CID for improvements to Windy Hill Road.
- \$1 million to the North Fulton CID to reconstruct the Encore Parkway Bridge over Georgia 400.
- \$800,000 to the Lilburn CID to realign Main Street.
- \$750,000 to the Buckhead CID for the Georgia 400 Multi-use Trail. \$501,962 to the Evermore CID to construct a two-lane road parallel to U.S. 78 between Hewatt and Britt roads in Snellville.
- \$500,000 to the Stone Mountain CID for a series of improvements along Mountain Industrial Boulevard.
- \$300,000 to the Evermore CID to realign Old U.S. 78.
- \$200,000 to the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District for improvements to two bridges over the Downtown Connector.
- \$200,000 to the Midtown Community Improvement District for improvements to three bridges along the Connector.

Dave Williams covers Government