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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1008

September 14, 2011

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DEPUTY WHIP

Acting Commissioner Keith Golden
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center
600 W Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Acting Commissioner Keith Golden:

I was recently invited to attend District 9-2 ABATE (American Bikers Active Toward Education) of Georgia monthly meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the meeting because of obligations in Washington, DC but one of my district staff members, Robb Nichols, was able to attend.

Robb reported back to me that this organization is filled with "Great Americans" who are not only concerned about issues related to motorcycles but are concerned with their communities and people that reside in them. Almost weekly they participate in charity rides to raise money for organizations that support veterans to cancer patients. Their invitation to me was a beginning of an initiative that they are undertaking to become more involved in their local, state, and federal government.

They raised a number of issues and concerns with Robb and I would like to bring two of them to Georgia Department of Transportation's attention.

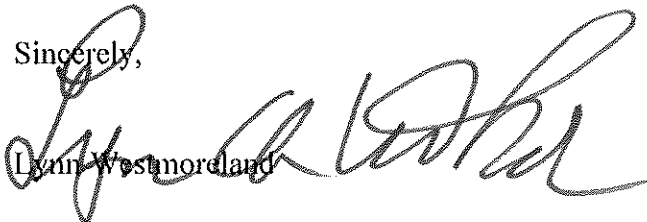
The first issue is that Georgia now has the overhead notification message boards along the Interstate Highway Systems that frequently display the message "Move over for Emergency Vehicle" but often times sit dormant. Awareness of a motorcyclist is a primary deterrent to the most common accident involving motorcycles. ABATE feels that this medium could be used to put a message to the motorists such as "Look twice for Motorcycles" that could help increase awareness of motorcyclists and prevent accidents. This could be accomplished without any additional cost by simply adding some motorcycle awareness messages to the ones currently used.

The second issue is "Tar Snakes", which is a common name for the highway preservation material used to seal cracks in the pavement. When this material is used in moderation it is a relatively minor issue. Recently, many motorcyclists are finding it is being used to an increasing degree on many highways in the North Georgia area. This material is affected by the weather in many ways, all of which make it especially slippery. When the wheel of a motorcycle comes in contact with this material it causes the tire to lose grip with the

roadway and slide till it re-grips asphalt. When the use of this material is extensive or used in sharp corners the results can be catastrophic for the motorcyclist.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Robb Nichols at my District Office located in Newnan at 770-683-2033.

Sincerely,


Lynn Westmoreland