

Russell McMurry
Commissioner
Georgia Department of Transportation

I am pleased to nominate Commissioner Russell McMurry for the Lifetime Achievement Award from the ITS World Congress Hall of Fame. As a dedicated public servant, visionary leader, and national voice for innovation in transportation, Commissioner McMurry has consistently exemplified the advanced the highest ideals of the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) community throughout his career.

Commissioner McMurry has served as the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) for over 10 years and has been with the department for more than 30 years. A Registered Professional Engineer, he brings technical credibility, strategic foresight, and a deep understanding of how policy, infrastructure, and innovation intersect in the real world. His leadership has not only transformed GDOT into a model for modern transportation management, but also elevated Georgia as a national leader in technology-driven safety and mobility.

A long-time champion of Transportation Systems Management and Operations (TSMO) and Connected Vehicle (CV) technology, Commissioner McMurry has been instrumental in guiding the deployment of cutting-edge ITS initiatives both in Georgia and nationally. He often says, "We shouldn't be on the bleeding edge, but we shouldn't be far behind it," an approach that has lead Georgia to many meaningful and impactful deployments of technology. Under his leadership, Georgia has successfully implemented advanced traffic signal operations, vehicle-to-everything communications, and data-driven corridor management strategies and safety programs that have set national benchmarks.

Commissioner McMurry's commitment to excellence and service is also evident in his broader professional roles. He currently serves on the ITS America Board of Directors, is the incoming President of AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials), and is a past President of SASHTO (the Southeastern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials). These positions reflect the high regard with which he is held by his peers and his active influence in shaping national transportation policy and innovation.

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He is also a vocal and unwavering advocate for the thoughtful adoption of technology, frequently encouraging peers and staff to seek continuous improvement and operational excellence. As he often says, our goal should be to be “simply the best”—a philosophy he has modeled in every facet of his career. His leadership style is one of clarity, purpose, and humility, and he consistently brings people together across disciplines and jurisdictions to advance shared goals for smarter, safer, and more efficient mobility.

Lastly, safety is always top of mind for the commissioner and the leadership he provides to Georgia and the nation. “When it comes to safety, I’d rather be accused of trying” is often his message when it comes to trying new ideas, innovations, and technologies to deliver a safer transportation system.

Commissioner Russell McMurry’s lifetime of service, leadership, and innovation has had a transformative impact not only in Georgia, but across the national ITS landscape. He embodies the spirit of this award: true champion of the vision of ITS and its fulfillment within and beyond the transportation community.

I am proud to submit this nomination in recognition of his remarkable contributions and enduring legacy.

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