



Cobb County Department of Transportation

PEACH* Roads and Sustainability Awareness

* Preserving Environment And Community Heritage

About PEACH Roads

Spring 2013

Cobb County Department of Transportation (CCDOT) is committed to improving the quality of our transportation infrastructure in ways that minimize impacts to the environment, including the depletion of irreplaceable resources.

PEACH Roads is an acronym for **Preserving Environment And Community Heritage**. CCDOT developed the PEACH Roads certification program to help recognize and integrate sustainability principles into transportation projects.

Using New York Department of Transportation's GreenLITES Sustainability program and the building industry's LEED system as models to develop the program, PEACH Roads was designed to provide a custom fit for Cobb County and Georgia's needs. Successful implementation of this pilot project could lead to adoption of a similar PEACH Roads program by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

PEACH Roads is a tool for the assessment of environmental sustainability issues impacting transportation projects. Points are awarded based on criteria for each project before it bids for construction. Criteria categories include: promoting the use of recyclable materials, protecting and enhancing the environment, enhancing historic, scenic and aesthetic characteristics of the project site, among many others.

Depending on the level of sustainable points awarded, project designs may fall within one of four certification levels: **Certified, Silver, Gold** and **Evergreen**; with progressively increasing requirements for attainment to each successive level.

Why implement PEACH Roads?

- ✓ Minimize negative impacts to the environment and communities
- ✓ Build on Cobb's tradition for cost-effective solutions to quality of life issues
- ✓ Balance environment, community and economy when developing transportation projects
- ✓ Recognize transportation projects which meet PEACH Roads requirements

A first of its kind in Georgia, PEACH Roads was adopted in November 2010 by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

The first PEACH Roads project, **East Cobb Sidewalks**, met the requirements of **Certified** within PEACH Roads criteria by providing expanded pedestrian and bicycle access for the area, re-using topsoil onsite, utilizing retaining walls to minimize environmental impact, and serving as a valuable link in Cobb County's Trail Masterplan.

As of March 2013, Cobb County has rated 37 projects; designating 2 Gold, 6 Silver and 18 Certified. Of the 37 projects rated, none achieved the highest Evergreen Certification and 11 projects did not earn enough points to be certified.



Preserving Environment And Community Heritage

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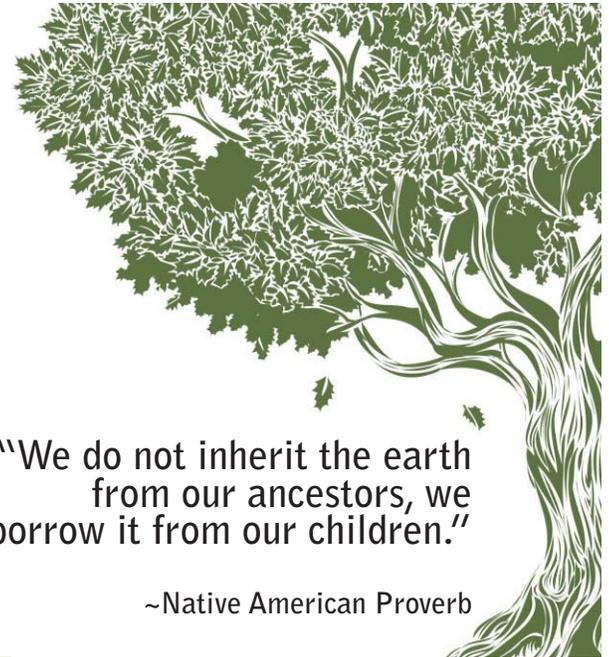
Sustainability Awareness

"Sustainability" is commonly understood to describe any use of resources that does not exhaust those resources. Transportation sustainability awareness will ensure Cobb Department of Transportation will strive to:

- ✓ Protect and enhance the environment
- ✓ Conserve energy and natural resources
- ✓ Encourage public involvement in the transportation planning process
- ✓ Integrate smart growth and other sound land-use practices
- ✓ Encourage innovative and cost effective approaches to sustainable design, as well as effective operation and maintenance of County facilities

These sustainability concepts are not new to Cobb County, which has followed many of these practices for a number of years.

PEACH Roads is a comprehensive way in which Cobb Department of Transportation can recognize and increase awareness of the sustainable methods and practices incorporated into transportation project designs and daily operations.



"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children."

~Native American Proverb

Sustainability Websites

Cobb County PEACH Roads Program
www.cobbdot.org/PEACHRoads

New York State Department of Transportation
www.nysdot.gov/programs/greenlites

Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/Sustainability

Green Highways Partnership
www.greenhighwayspartnership.org

U.S. Green Building Council (LEED System)
www.usgbc.org

Contact Information

As the PEACH Roads program continues to evolve and grow, Cobb DOT looks forward to your comments and suggestions to improve this program.

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