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Free GA400 Petitions, Letter Presented to Governor Deal

ATLANTA, GA – A group of civic leaders representing VoterGa's Free GA 400 project presented Georgia Governor, Nathan Deal, with 400 petitions requesting that he adhere to the original GA 400 construction agreements and **honor his 2010 pledge** to remove the GA 400 toll, the **only** mandatory road toll in Georgia history.

Copies of the original 1989 Atlanta City Ordinance and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) agreement were displayed today to show the original stipulations. According to those agreements:

- The toll was required to be **removed upon repayment of construction bonds** for the Georgia 400 extension and the Buckhead loop and,
- Toll revenue was **only allowed to be spent for those projects**, both of which are inside the I-285 perimeter.

Construction costs were **repaid in 2009** and over \$40 million in surplus funds had been collected by the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) when the original bond matured in 2011. But in September of 2010, Governor Perdue convinced the SRTA board to issue a new \$40 million bond for Buckhead interchange ramps and other new, unrelated projects. Free GA 400 contends that the \$40 million bond was unnecessary to fund the \$21 million Buckhead interchange ramps since SRTA already had about \$50 million in cash, assets and 2011 receivables at the time.

The Free GA 400 group also contends that SRTA currently has enough money to:

- Pay for completion of the Buckhead interchange ramps;
- Open a trust or interest bearing account to repay all current bond principal
- Fund now all bond interest that will accrue until the 2017 maturity date

In their [letter](#), Free GA 400 explained that to end the toll now, Governor Deal simply needs to make a decision to **suspend** the new, unrelated projects until they can be funded by normal means. These projects violate the original agreements since they have nothing to do with the GA 400 extension or Buckhead loop.

The group also requested liquidation of a \$10 million 17th St. property purchased under Gov. Roy Barnes 2002 even though it had **nothing** to do with GA 400.

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