

RESOLUTIONS OF THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA 2001

Adopted March 15, 2001

RAYMOND BERRY OAKLEY, III BRIDGE — DESIGNATED.

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 1969, a group of young but already seasoned and demonstrably and incredibly talented musicians, including guitarist Duane Allman, bassist Berry Oakley, vocalist and organist Gregg Allman, guitarist Dickey Betts, percussionist Butch Trucks, and percussionist Jaimoe, formed the Allman Brothers Band and established the band's home in Macon in April of that year; and

WHEREAS, at now legendary jam sessions at their initial base on College Street, their later home at the "Big House" on Vineville Avenue, and other locations in and around Macon, including Rose Hill Cemetery and a farm known as Idlewild South, the band fused elements of blues, jazz, rock, and country music to create a musical genre now known and loved as "southern rock" and became one of the most exciting groups of performers ever to take the stage; and

WHEREAS, the band members' talents and tour de force marathon performances across the nation not only received critical acclaim and awed their peers among musical greats but also served to inspire countless others and made Macon a musical mecca; and

WHEREAS, Duane Allman's all too brief life was tragically ended at age 24 by a motorcycle accident on a street in Macon on October 29, 1971, and Berry Oakley suffered a similar fate at the same age and at almost the same location a year later on November 11, 1972; and

WHEREAS although their presence is sadly missed, these musicians' incomparable and wide ranging talents, creativity, inspiration, soulfulness, and dedication to their art stirringly remain evidenced in legacies of live performances and studio recordings of such songs and compositions as "Statesboro Blues," "Dreams," "Midnight Rider," "Whipping Post," "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed," "Mountain Jam," "Blue Sky" and "Little Martha;" and

WHEREAS, while the bodies of Duane Allman and Berry Oakley rest peacefully in Rose Hill Cemetery, the spirit of each, like the road, "goes on forever," and the love and intensity with which they lived their lives and made their music remain always in the hearts and minds of family and legions of fellow Maconites, musicians, friends, and fans worldwide; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that their memories and families be honored by this Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD OF GEORGIA, that the bridge on State Highway 19, over Interstate 75, is designated as the "Raymond Berry Oakley III Bridge."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation is authorized and directed to erect appropriate signing for this designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting and that a copy be presented to the family of Berry Oakley.