

Elmer Stancil

Senior Policy Advisor



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Overview

Elmer Stancil is a member of Dentons' Public Policy practice. A highly respected communicator, presenter and team player, Elmer brings to the group's Georgia Public Policy team over a decade of government experience in the areas of economic development and transportation planning, including, most recently as a Deputy Executive Director for Georgia's State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) and before that as Director of Government Relations and Policy with the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDED).

In both positions, Elmer was widely respected for his executive management skills, vast understanding of transportation and economic development policy, untiring and effective advocacy, and relationship building and management with both internal and external stakeholders. A strategic thinker and gifted coalition builder, Elmer leveraged his trust-based relationships to identify, develop and implement numerous important state initiatives, resulting in increased mobility, investment, and job opportunities for Georgia's residents and economy.

Recognition

Honors and Awards

- Rotarian of the Year, Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club, 2014
- Leadership Georgia, Class of 2014
- Atlanta Regional Commission, Regional Leadership Institute, Class of 2010
- Lead Atlanta, Class of 2009
- Leadership Oconee, Class of 2003

Insights

- "Georgia Political Primer," Dentons client alert, December 20, 2019

Activities and Affiliations

Community Involvement and Pro Bono

- President, Midtown Rotary Club, 2017-2018; member, 2010-present
- Georgia Erosion and Sediment Control Overview Council, 2016
- City of Atlanta Workforce Development Board, 2013-2016
- Chair, Public Policy Committee, Economic Developers' Association, 2011-2014
- Volunteer Firefighter, Peachtree City Fire Department, 2006-2009
- Volunteer Firefighter and Station Captain, Oconee County Fire Department, 2000-2005

Prior and Present Employment

As Deputy Executive Director for the State Road Transportation Authority (SRTA), a state-level, independent authority created by the Georgia General Assembly and later combined with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), Elmer directly led the government affairs, marketing, communications, human resources and strategic programs for both entities, which together are responsible for the state's commuter transit, tolling, and transportation finance functions. His responsibilities included directing and managing two successful rounds of funding of the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank (GTIB). GTIB provided nearly \$50 million in finance solutions to local communities during his tenure and \$108 million since inception in 2010.

He also oversaw the successful launch of a new 12-mile reversible toll facility in metro Atlanta; the implementation of public communication, roadside data collection and IT infrastructure for a \$236 million toll facility; and the communication, IT and data tasks for a 30-mile \$876 million reversible toll facility slated to open in 2018. In addition, Elmer led GRTA's pursuit of the Volkswagen Clean Air Act Civil Settlement funds, leveraging his federal and state agency relationships for the opportunity to secure \$58.1 million. As part of a statewide commission, he worked closely with the Governor's Office and the General Assembly leadership to develop new transit governance strategies and funding models.

In his nine years with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, a period spanning four different commissioners and two gubernatorial administrations, Elmer rose from Project Manager Associate to Manager of Government Relations and Policy to Director of Government Relations and Policy, with responsibility for managing an annual appropriation process of \$104 million and overseeing the merger of two agencies that resulted in a larger budget and more clout. He worked closely with policymakers during annual legislative sessions, testified frequently before legislative committees, and educated members of the General Assembly to build support for department initiatives. He racked up an impressive list of achievements, including:

- Collaborating with a coalition of companies active in the state's film, video, music and digital media industries to achieve passage of the Georgia Entertainment Industry Investment Act in 2008, attracting almost 100 new film support companies to the state and delivering a 538% increase in direct production expenditures over an eight-year period.
- Creating and formulating concepts to change the state's Mega Project Tax Credit, working with company executives, the Governor's Office and the General Assembly to pass legislation that ultimately generated 1,800 jobs and \$1.2B investment.
- Directing multiple efforts in strategy and policy that involved working with Georgia companies such as NCR, Kia, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche, Club Car, EZGo and Yamaha to change tax provisions.
- Spearheading the policy and approach to pass a sales and use tax exemption on construction materials that was crucial for the location of a Caterpillar project resulting in 600 jobs and a \$200 million investment in the state.

- Organizing an effort to secure a one-time appropriation increase for economic development incentive funds from \$22 million to \$104 million.

In addition, during his time at the GDED, Elmer accompanied Governors Deal and Perdue to multiple Southern Governors' Association meetings, served as delegate on several international trade missions, cultivated and maintained strong relationships with local, state, and federal officials, collaborated with the state's federal congressional delegation and state constitutional officers, and represented the department at Atlanta City Hall on various state economic development issues.

Prior to entering the government sector, Elmer worked for the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau. In that role he served on the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Georgia Restaurant Association and also worked closely with the Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association.

Areas of focus

Practices

- Public Policy and Regulation
- Advocacy and Government Affairs

Issues and opportunities

- Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Initiative and Think Tank

Education

- University of Georgia, 2001, BA (Economics)

Languages

- English