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CONTACT: Sonia Blumstein, 205.776.2246  
[Sonia.Blumstein@IntermarkGroup.com](mailto:Sonia.Blumstein@IntermarkGroup.com)

Drew Granthum, 205.776.2239  
[Drew.Granthum@IntermarkGroup.com](mailto:Drew.Granthum@IntermarkGroup.com)

## GEORGIA-BASED TENCATE HELPING STATE'S TAX DOLLARS AND ROADS GO FURTHER, LAST LONGER

### *Innovative Mirafi® Technology Doubles Life of Roads, According to Groundbreaking DOT Study*

**PENDERGRASS, Ga.**—With the recent passage of a [\\$1 billion transportation package](#) in Georgia, plus a temporary two-month [extension](#) of the national Highway Trust Fund that's due to expire this August, it's time to take a new look at road construction and repair, according to U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA).

"The Highway Trust Fund is a broken system based on an obsolete revenue source that will only continue to become more obsolete," said Sen. Isakson. "To provide the long-term funding stability that is needed to ensure robust investment in our nation's infrastructure, we must look at new and innovative products and building strategies as part of the way to help make our Highway Trust Fund dollars go further."

At least one Georgia-based company is doing all it can to help ensure that tax dollars, and the roads taxpayers pay for, go further. Headquartered in Pendergrass, [TenCate Geosynthetics](#) is producing an innovative product called [Mirafi® RS580i](#) that will be used in improvements on roads across the nation.

Consider this: If Mirafi® RS580i were used on the current 25-mile, two-lane Georgia State Route 20 expansion near Cumming, it would save taxpayer dollars by the truckload—literally.

- By using a Mirafi® woven geotextile, less material is needed in the construction of the road, saving more than \$3 million in hauled materials costs.
- With less trips needed, nearly \$150,000 could be saved in fuel costs alone.
- Bonus: Mirafi® would also help reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent due to fewer trucks needed to haul gravel to the construction site.
- Bigger Bonus: Using Mirafi® would reduce the unevenness of pavement surfaces and create smoother roads that lead to improved fuel economy and reduced tire wear.

"Due to the uncertainty of infrastructure funding, Georgia needs to be nimble to do more roadwork with less money," said Lee Bryan, president of TenCate Geosynthetics - Americas. "The fact that we can take geosynthetic materials like Mirafi® to build roads that last longer and need fewer repairs – all while minimally depleting both natural and government resources – is a true win-win for taxpayers and the environment."

An independent, groundbreaking [report](#) by the [Western Transportation Institute/Montana State University](#), commissioned by nine departments of transportation (New York, Texas, Montana, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Idaho, and Wyoming), found that:

#### **VISUAL ELEMENTS :**

**B-roll product [video](#)**

**Picture [slideshow](#)**

- **FINDING:** Mirafi® RS580i required 26 percent less base course material (gravel) for installation than nonreinforced sections, the highest savings of all geosynthetic materials tested.

**TAKEAWAY:** Mirafi® RS580i saves natural resources, shortens construction times and reduces CO2 emissions.

- **FINDING:** In the same report, Mirafi® RS580i allowed for over 10 times the amount of traffic by a fully loaded, three-axle dump truck when compared to a test section that was not reinforced with geosynthetic material.

**TAKEAWAY:** Roads constructed with Mirafi® RS580i can last two-to-10 times longer than roads without Mirafi®, greatly reducing maintenance and long-term construction costs and saving transportation dollars.

With money in the Highway Trust Fund harder to come by, Congressman Doug Collins (R-GA) said he supports efforts to save money by limiting maintenance costs.

“We need to make sure that when we do go into our Highway Trust Fund issues and the long-term transportation agenda, we’re spending money the best way we can ... and we’re putting incentives into those bills to simply say ‘Let’s look at innovative ideas,’” said Rep. Collins. “I’m glad to have companies like this in my district that I can say, ‘Here are some great things we can show.’”

“While the Georgia transportation bill focuses mostly on repairs to roads and bridges – for which Mirafi® offers products that benefit the useful life of a road – the larger win is for Georgia to build new roads with innovative technologies like ours that extend the life of the road and save future road maintenance funds,” Bryan stated.

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#### **ABOUT TENCATE GEOSYNTHETICS:**

[TenCate Geosynthetics](#) develops and produces nonwovens, wovens and geogrids and creates design solutions and systems for infrastructure and civil technology. As the global leader, our geogrids and geotextiles are engineered with advanced application knowledge to meet project specifications for transportation construction, mechanically stabilized earth, erosion control, water and waste management, and shoreline protection/marine structure construction. TenCate Geosynthetics has factories in Europe, North America and Asia.