



Monday

(Tentative) GAPT 2026 Program

June 15, 2026

7:00 AM	Registration & Networking
8:00 AM	Welcome - Michael Powe - GAPT Executive Board President
8:05 AM	Prayer - TBA - Evening events - Sam Ham, GAPT Executive Director
8:15 AM	Pledge of Allegiance - Foundation Board update
8:30 AM	Larry Minor - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
9:00 AM	Georgia Department of Public Safety - Capt. Anthony Hudson
9:30 AM	DOE Updates and Presentations -
10:00 AM	Break
10:10 AM	Phil Budensiek - If I Knew Then, What I Know Now
10:40 AM	Jason Ayers - The Three P's of Powers
11:30 AM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Keynote Speaker - Jon Petz
2:00 PM	Break
2:15 PM	Bret Brooks - Grey Ram Tactical (Security, Active Shooter and Hostage Tactics)
4:30 PM	Bret Brooks - Grey Ram Tactical (Security, Active Shooter and Hostage Tactics)
Networking with Sponsors	
6:00 PM	Dinner on Your Own



Tuesday

(Tentative) GAPT 2026 Program

June 16, 2026

	Room 1 & 2	Rooms 4 & 5	Ben Porter Room 6	Rooms 7 & 8	Room 9 & 10
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Thomas School Bus TBA	Stephanie Walker - Workers' Comp Injuries and Unemployment - How This Can Impact Your Department	Sandra Archer - Navigating The Gray Area Between Compliance And Best Practice	Kim Ellis & Terri Anderson The Importance of Effective Communication	Department of Public Safety The Importance of a Pre-Trip
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Bluebird School Bus TBA	Reasonable Suspicion	Marlowe Hinson-Budget, Cost Savings Ideas for Your Department	Phil Budensiek - If I Knew Then What I Now. Continued From Monday	Sissy Summerville & Team "How The Driver Sets The Tone For The Ride" Mike Quick & Mike Warner - Transportation Meets Fleet, why it's so Important You Work Together
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	International School Bus TBA	Sharon Hipps How to Navigate McKinney Vento Transportation. What You Have to Do... What You Don't...	Doris Stewart & Michael Ramsay – De-Escalation Techniques	Brett Martin – How to arrive at a place where you can take down your now hiring sign	
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	BusRight TBA	DOE- FREE Safety Training For ALL Districts Across the State of Georgia! Come See How to Access it and how it can work for you.	Jason Ayers - Critical Conversations	Bernardo Brown Developing Leaders Behind the Wheel	Mike Satterfield - Hiring and Recruiting What's Working? What's Not?
Lunch on your own					
	Summer Waves - Sponsored by Yancey Bus Sales and Service				
	Dolphin Tours - Sponsored by Peach State				



Wednesday

(Tentative)

GAPT 2026 Program

June 17, 2026

	Room 1 & 2	Rooms 4 & 5	Rooms 7 & 8	Room 9 & 10	
8:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Department of Public Safety - Simulator	Special Needs Topic Stephanie Walker to Assign/List	Terri Anderson & Michael Ramsay - HELP! A Round Table Discussion on Transportation Challenges	Kathy Mewborn -Child Safety Restraint Systems (Hands on Training)	
Jekyll Island Convention Center Ballrooms A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H					
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM	Trade Show For Decision Makers Only (Executive Director, Director, Assistant Director, & Shop Foremen) Jekyll Island Ballrooms A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H				
10:00 AM- 12:00 PM	Trade Show - All Members - Members Must Wear Their GAPT Badge to Enter				
11:30 PM - 12:30 PM	Lunch				
12:30 PM - 12:50 PM	Vendor Drawings & Adjourn				
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Southeastern Pupil Transportation College (SPTC) PDC 01 Introduction to Transportation (Course Time Design: 6 Hours - requires separate registration!)	Southeastern Pupil Transportation College (SPTC) PDC 22 Documentation (Course Time Design: 6 Hours requires separate registration)	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY SIMULATOR (Located Outside 1:00 PM - 3:00PM)		



Thursday (Tentative) GAPT 2026 Program June 18, 2026

	Room 1 & 2	Room 4 & 5	Ben Porter Room 6	Rooms 7 & 8	Room 9 & 10
8:00 AM - 8:50 AM	Special Needs Topic - Stephanie Walker to Assign>List	DOE – So You Think You Want to be a Transportation Director.	Department of Public Safety - Free Resources for your Department	Michael Ramsay & Kidata Burnett - Embracing Diversity and Change	Dana Thompson - How to Develop a World Class Training Program
9:00 AM - 9:50 AM	Buddy Gillard & Chief Chris Elrod How Ready Are You For An Emergency	Tim Burns - What School Bus Transportation May Look Like In The Future with AI	Sandra Archer - How to Create Stronger Drive Teams	Resource Officer - Active Shooter Training	Montrell McClendon Departmental Organizational Management
10:00 AM - 10:50 AM	Thomas County - Testing For New Drivers	Anthony Jackson Presenting A Positive Public Image to Your Stakeholders	Doris Stewart- Special Needs Transportation, Do You Have The Right People in the Seat?	Adam Johnson APS "Culture Eats Strategy for Breakfast – School Bus Edition"	Lanetta Mills - Practical, Approachable, and Time-Saving Ways to Use AI in School Transportation
11:00 AM - 11:50 AM	Jennifer Knapp and Jim Maples - The Energy Bus	DOE - Assessing & Interpreting Driver Records and Mandated Regulations	Michael Powe & Charlie Humble How to Navigate Accidents	Lowanda & Bernardo DeKalb and Decatur City Big Districts Vs. Small Districts What Can We Learn From Each Other?	Jake Davis - The importance of Documentation, HR and your Handbook
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Lunch				
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	GAPT Annual Business Meeting: Sam Ham, Executive Director - Michael Powe, President Jason Ayers, President-Elect				
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	GAPT Drawings/Updates: Sam Ham, Executive Director				
1:30 PM	Adjourn/Safe Travels				