

## Who's Driving Georgia's Economy Anyway?

Handout, page 1

Characters:

Narrator  
Air Empress  
Oceanic Girl  
Highway Man  
Captain Rail-O-Tron

**Narrator:** So here we are at the yearly Superhero Interplanetary Transportation Conference. The focus of this year's conference is, "Who is the Best Driver of Georgia's Economy?" I am speaking today with four of the most well-known transportation superheroes that have ever tied on a cape. Welcome superheroes and thanks for coming.

**ALL superheroes:** Thanks! Great to be here.

**Narrator:** Let's get right to this. Heroes, which one of you is best at "driving" the economy of Georgia?

**ALL superheroes:** I AM!

**Narrator:** OK, OK, one at a time. Air Empress let's start with you. Why are you the best mode of transportation out there today?

**Air Empress:** I have a one word answer for you and that word is speed! I can get goods from China to Georgia in a matter of hours. Does 500 miles per hour sound good to you? That's me, fast. Let me see Oceanic Girl do that.

**Oceanic Girl:** Oh please Air Empress. You are so full of yourself. How many cars or trucks can you fit on an airplane? How about oil? Go ahead and ask the Empress how much oil, peanuts or molasses she can carry to and from Georgia.

**Air Empress:** You know that is a cheap shot Oceanic Girl. People want their goods right now! How many overnight packages have you ever delivered in your lifetime?

**Oceanic Girl:** Well, none.

**Air Empress:** Hah! Exactly my point.

**Oceanic Girl:** Maybe I can't get there overnight but I sure can haul huge quantities of just about anything. You can fit 100 times more stuff on a boat than you can a plane. I am all about quantity and I can save companies with lower shipping costs than miss hot-shot Air Empress here.

**Narrator:** Let's not let this get out of hand now. Both of you make good points.

**Who's Driving Georgia's Economy Anyway?** Handout, page 2

---

**Highway Man:** Good points, maybe. But they still can't hold a candle to me.

**Narrator:** Why do you say that Highway Man?

**Highway Man:** I am the oldest, most experienced, and most popular transportation option on the planet. I go back to the days of the horse and buggy.

**Oceanic Girl:** Uh, excuse me. You are not older than me. I've been around longer than any of you young whippersnappers.

**Highway Man:** As I was saying, I am all over your face because I'm all over the place. I am always right outside your front door and I am in every single community in this state. You can take me from Atlanta to Savannah or Macon to North Dakota and back. Good luck taking a boat from Macon to North Dakota!

**Captain Rail-O-Tron:** Well, chuck the truck! Who has time to drive on a highway from Macon to North Dakota? That would take forever. You are slow and outdated. Traffic jams, traffic lights, speed limits and roads washing out make driving a total drag. And how much stuff can you really fit in a truck or car anyway? Heck, one of the things I haul is trucks.

**Narrator:** You make some valid points there Captain Rail-O-Tron. Now tell us what you have to offer.

**Captain Rail-O-Tron:** Railroads built this country. You can string together 50 or 60 rail cars and pull freight just about anywhere. I don't get stuck in traffic. Traffic stops for me.

**Highway Man:** Tell me Captain Rail-O-Tron, can you transport goods to towns that have no rail lines?

**Oceanic Girl:** Can you transport goods from Georgia to England?

**Air Empress:** Or get a package to China in 22 hours?

**Captain Rail-O-Tron:** Maybe not but there are railroads all over North America that bring a lot of goods to Georgia each and every day. Transporting goods by rail is much less expensive than transporting goods on airplanes and we can take goods to all 50 states unlike Oceanic Girl here.

**Narrator:** Well, all of you bring up very good points. How about this? Can we just say that all four of you play equally important roles in driving the economy of Georgia?

**ALL superheroes:** Agreed.

**Narrator:** Good, now let's go find Horse Man and Buggy Boy. They are feeling a bit down because nobody thinks they are cool anymore.