

I-285 Eastside Express Lanes

A Major Mobility Project – PI 0013914

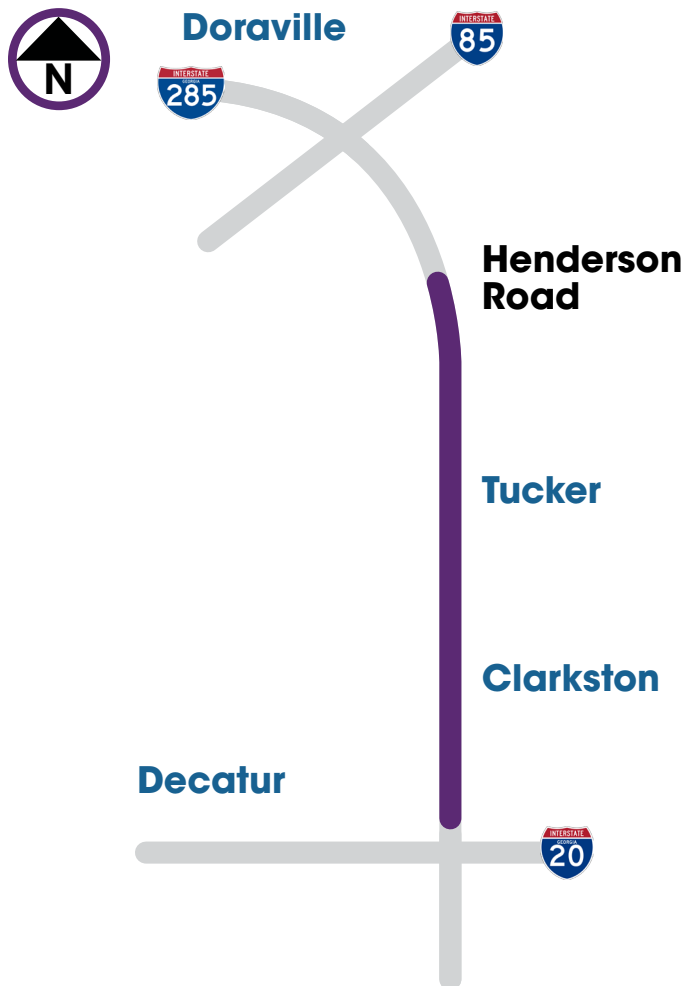
Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview

What is the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes Project?

To improve mobility on I-285, Georgia DOT plans to add new, optional buffer-separated express lanes in each direction on I-285 between I-20 and Henderson Road in DeKalb County. The I-285 Eastside Express Lanes will be part of the larger Georgia Express Lanes network. The I-285 Eastside Express Lanes is one of the 11 initial Major Mobility Investment Program projects.

Where is the Project?



What is the MMIP?

The Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) is a grouping of 11 initial projects expected to yield a significant reduction in congestion along key freight

and passenger corridors. The projects will create additional capacity, improve the movement of freight, provide operational improvements and efficiencies, enhance safety, and decrease travel times. More information on the MMIP is located at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/MMIP>.

Express Lanes

What are express lanes?

Express lanes are designed to offer drivers a choice to bypass traffic congestion and provide more reliable trip times. Motorists using the express lanes pay to use the lanes and transit riders and state registered vanpools can utilize the express lanes at no additional cost.

Who will be able to use the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes?

All drivers with two axles and six wheels or less will be able to use the express lanes if they register and obtain a Peach Pass. Freight vehicles and trailers are not allowed. Regardless of the number of occupants in the vehicle, motorists who wish to access the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes will be required to pay a fee; however, transit vehicles, registered vanpools, and emergency vehicles are exempt from paying a fee.

Information on obtaining and using a Peach Pass is available at www.PeachPass.com or by calling the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at **855-PCH-PASS**.

How will motorists use the express lanes?

These newly constructed lanes are optional and will be managed by dynamic pricing, with the cost to access the lanes rising as demand increases during peak hours and decreases during non-peak hours. The cost to access the lanes will be clearly displayed on electronic overhead signs so drivers will know the trip cost prior to entering the lanes.

Where will motorists be able to access the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes?

Access points from the general purpose lanes to the proposed I-285 Eastside Express Lanes are currently being evaluated.

Project Delivery Method

What is the project schedule?

Georgia DOT is performing environmental field work and traffic analysis for the Project. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 2022 and anticipated to complete in 2026.

What are the benefits of using the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes?

The proposed express lanes offer regional benefits including:

- More reliable trip times
- Improved traffic flow
- More travel options for motorists and transit customers
- A more free-flowing trip
- Cost-free trips for transit riders and registered vanpools

Will there be impacts to private property?

The proposed project is expected to require some right-of-way acquisitions; however, the project is being designed in such a way as to minimize right-of-way acquisition and avoid displacements and major encroachments to the extent possible. Additional information will be available as the project develops.

Noise

What is considered a noise impact?

Noise impacts occur when sound levels approach or exceed the federal Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) for each land use category. In Georgia, “approach” is defined as one decibel lower than the NAC. The NAC for an outdoor area of frequent human use at a residential home is 67 decibels, meaning 66 decibels or higher is considered an impact. The NAC for an outdoor area of frequent human use at a business (such as a pool) is 72 decibels, meaning 71 decibels or higher is considered an impact. An impact also occurs if the proposed project increases sound levels by 15 decibels.

Will noise barriers be included/replaced as part of the project?

Noise impacts and the need for noise barriers will be evaluated as part of this project, in accordance with the Georgia DOT noise policy and Federal Highway (FHWA) noise regulations. As the environmental field work and roadway design move forward, property owners and renters who are eligible for a proposed noise barrier will be notified of the opportunity to participate in noise barrier voting. It is expected that proposed noise barrier materials will be available for the public to view prior to voting.

When will a private sector partner be selected for the Project?

A private sector design-build developer is anticipated to be selected in 2021.

Project Funding

How is the Project being funded?

The 11 initial Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) projects, including the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes, funding has been made possible by the General Assembly's passage of the state Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA). This state funding is allocated for roadway and bridge improvements only.

What will be done with any excess revenue from the Express Lanes?

Once all debt repayment is complete, any revenue above and beyond the amount required to fund ongoing operation and maintenance of the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes will be available for other transportation needs.

Transit

What transit vehicles will be able to use the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes?

Public transit providers that operate in this corridor including Xpress, MARTA, and state-registered vanpools will be able to use the express lanes free of charge. Transit and registered vanpool riders will only need to pay their standard transit rider fee.

Will transit riders be required to pay anything beyond normal fares on routes that access the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes?

No, there will be no additional costs to access the lanes for public transit riders, state-registered vanpools, or public transit providers. For more information about the Georgia Express Lanes system, please visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL>.

Stay Connected

How do I stay informed about the Project?

Georgia DOT will provide regular updates through the project website, social media, newsletters, media announcements, and community outreach events. By bookmarking the project webpage to phones/tablets and computers, travelers can stay updated throughout the project duration. Project representatives are also available to speak to groups. A speaker's request form is available at the Project webpage. To be added to the Project distribution list to receive updates, please email EastsideExpressLanes@dot.ga.gov.

Stay Connected

eastsideexpresslanes@dot.ga.gov (sign up for updates)

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