BACKGROUND

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is conducting a study of Atlanta’s Downtown Connector. The Downtown Connector, defined as the common section of I-75/85, is the primary north-south route through the Atlanta Central Business District. The Downtown Connector currently carries over 437,000 vehicles per day and provides critical access into the region’s core.

In addition to experiencing congestion during the AM and PM peak travel periods, the Downtown Connector experiences high levels of congestion outside of the peak periods during special events.

STUDY PURPOSE

Recognizing the Downtown Connector’s key importance to the City of Atlanta, the Metro Atlanta region, and the entire State of Georgia, the GDOT is undertaking an evaluation to:

- Explore options for managing congestion and improving safety and operations
- Identify practical, financially feasible solutions with demonstrated effectiveness and stakeholder support
- Evaluate broad possibilities; small-scale operational improvements to large-scale ideas

STUDY GOALS

- Improve Safety
- Improve Mobility
- Use Transportation Funds Efficiently
- Promote Economic Vitality
- Better Manage Accessibility
- Promote Context Sensitive Solutions

PROJECT UPDATES

- Planning and engineering study began January 2016
- Data collection, review of previous studies, and stakeholder outreach occurred throughout 2016
- Data analysis in 2017 / 2018
- Next steps: Development of alternatives, stakeholder outreach, evaluate and prioritize alternatives
- Study expected completion 2019

STUDY CONTACT

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LISTEN

- Identify issues
- Review existing conditions

CONSIDER

- Identify possible solutions
- Evaluate alternatives

ACT

- Prioritize solutions
- Implementation plan

CONCEPTUALIZE

- Additional Engineering
STUDY AREA
The complete study area may include the approaches to the Connector along I-75, I-85, and I-20 inside I-285; I-285 (east and west walls); and all interchange ramps, cross streets, and potential parallel routes in Metro Atlanta. However, the primary focus will be on the common section of I-75 and I-85 known as the Connector. Different study areas may be used for various needs throughout the process such as data collection, traffic modeling, environmental constraints, and policy implementation.