



## GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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### **NEW RAMP METERS ON NORTHSIDE I-285 GO ON JUNE 16**

ATLANTA, Ga. – The Georgia Department of Transportation has installed 15 new meters on I-285 entrance ramps between Northside Drive (Exit 22) and Buford Highway (Exit 32). The first three meters will begin operating during afternoon rush hour on Monday, June 16. The remaining 12 will be activated thereafter at a rate of approximately three per day. The entire corridor should be operational by Friday, June 20. Sixteen additional corridors with 151 ramp meters will be phased in within the next year. **(See the attached sheet for details on hours of operation and turn-on dates for specific I-285 “top end” ramp meters.)**

Ramp meters are turned on before rush hour, and operate at different times of day depending on traffic patterns. Every 3-5 seconds, a cycle from red to green allows one vehicle at a time to merge onto the freeway. On two-lane ramps, the left and right lanes have alternating lights, so the left lane goes while the right is stopped, and vice versa.

“Although motorists will spend a little extra time on the ramp, they should see a decrease in overall travel time,” Georgia DOT Operations Director Steve Henry said. “We’ll monitor these new ramp meters very carefully. If traffic starts to back up on the ramp, sensors will speed up the meters to allow more vehicles to move through. If our cameras show traffic spilling out onto the surface streets, we can turn them off completely.”

Eight ramp meters currently operate in metro Atlanta: four on I-75 northbound between Midtown and Cumberland Mall, and four on I-75/85 southbound. They have reduced average rush-hour commute times in these corridors by 10 to 22 percent. Other benefits include reductions in fuel consumption, merging accidents, and vehicle emissions.

“There will be a short learning curve period in the first few days as the public adjusts,” Georgia DOT Media Relations Manager Mark McKinnon said. “We realize that we may need to tweak specific meters. Please bear with us, and keep in mind that there is no one ‘silver bullet’ solution to eliminate congestion. Ramp meters are just one of several tools that can help fight it.”

Ramp meters have been used for over 20 years in more than 20 cities across the country. They are placed on entrance ramps to help control the flow of traffic from the surface streets onto the freeway. Without metering, vehicles push their way all at once onto the interstate in a disorderly and potentially dangerous manner. Once these vehicles reach the merge point, they force their way into the travel lanes, causing additional congestion due to stop-and-go merging activity on the freeway. When this happens on already traffic-heavy freeways, there is a total breakdown of free-flow near the on-ramps, which has a ripple effect on traffic for many miles. Even with no stalls or accidents, heavy on-ramp traffic causes congestion that both extends and continues throughout the rush-hour.

Ramp meters are enforced just like a traffic signal. Motorists who fail to obey ramp meter signals will be fined as they would for violating an intersection traffic signal (Georgia Code Section 40-14-23).

The Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia's economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For general information on the Georgia DOT, please visit our Web site ([www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov)).

Editor's note: Ramp meter operations can be viewed via the Department's camera system and staff will be available to discuss the program at the Transportation Management Center between the hours of 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. Media must contact the TMC in advance; call (404) 635-8017 for more information.

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**Ramp Meter Turn-on Schedule**  
**(Note: EB/WB refers to the direction of I-285):**

- Monday afternoon June 16<sup>th</sup> :
  - Northside Drive WB, Riverside Drive WB, and Roswell Road WB.
- Tuesday morning June 17<sup>th</sup>:
  - Northside Drive EB, Riverside Drive EB, and Roswell Road EB
- Tuesday afternoon June 17<sup>th</sup>:
  - Glenridge Drive WB and Peachtree Dunwoody Road EB
- Wednesday morning June 18<sup>th</sup>:
  - Chamblee Dunwoody Road WB and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard WB
- Wednesday afternoon June 18<sup>th</sup>:
  - Ashford Dunwoody Road EB, Chamblee Dunwoody Road EB, and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard EB
- Thursday morning June 19<sup>th</sup>:
  - Buford Highway WB
- Thursday afternoon and all day Friday:
  - Continue to monitor all ramps

**Note:** The ramp meter from Ashford Dunwoody Road to I-285 westbound will be turned on at a later date pending the installation of an additional signal head.

**Operation Times Schedule**  
**(Note: Exact hours may be adjusted slightly based on the first week of operation):**

- Morning Rush Hour (approximately 6:15 – 9:45 a.m.)
  - Northside Drive EB
  - Riverside Drive EB
  - Roswell Road EB
  - Peachtree Dunwoody Road EB
  - Buford Highway WB
  - Peachtree Industrial Boulevard WB
  - Chamblee Dunwoody Road WB
- Evening Rush Hour (approximately 3:00 – 6:45 p.m.)
  - Chamblee-Dunwoody Road WB
  - Glenridge Drive WB
  - Roswell Road WB
  - Riverside Drive WB
  - New Northside WB
  - Roswell Road EB
  - Peachtree Dunwoody Road EB
  - Ashford Dunwoody EB
  - Chamblee Dunwoody EB
  - Peachtree Industrial Boulevard EB