

PROJECT OVERVIEW

What is the I-85 Express Lanes Extension Project?

I-85 Express Lanes Project will add one lane in each direction on I-85 from just north of Old Peachtree Road in Gwinnett County to Hamilton Mill Road. The additional lanes will be variably priced managed lanes. South of I-985, the new lane will be constructed outside the existing eight-lane mainline. North of I-985, the new lane will be installed within the median along the four-lane I-85 section. In addition to the express lanes, new auxiliary lanes will be built to help keep traffic moving in the congested areas of the corridor. The project is approximately 10 miles in length.

How will the I-85 Express Lanes Extension work?

This project will add a new capacity lane from just north of Old Peachtree Road to Hamilton Mill Road with a limited-access managed lane that allows eligible carpoolers, transit, and motorcycles to use the lane for free, while allowing vehicles with one or two passengers to use the managed lane for a fee.

In order to use the express lanes, drivers must register and have a Peach Pass transponder through the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA). Placed inside the car, the Peach Pass will automatically deduct the correct express lanes toll (fee) for each trip in the lanes.

Will there be signage directing motorists where to enter and exit the lanes?

Yes, motorists in the general purpose lanes will be directed to express lane entrance points in the same manner as the existing express lanes. Motorists already traveling in the express lane will be directed to local exits in the same manner as the existing express lanes.

What is the schedule for the project?

Construction began in July 2016, and the lanes are expected to open to traffic in 2018.

What vehicles will be able to use the I-85 Express Lanes Extension?

All vehicles with two axles and six wheels or less will be able to use the express lanes if they register for and obtain a Peach Pass.

Registered transit, vanpools, and emergency vehicles may use the express lanes and are exempt from paying a toll. Clear signage on how to use the system will be displayed along the corridor.

To pay the toll to use the lanes, vehicles will need a Peach Pass. Information on obtaining and using a Peach Pass is available at www.PeachPass.com or by calling the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at 1-855-PCH-PASS (724-7277).

What benefits will the I-85 Express Lanes Extension provide?

Express lanes offer more reliable trip times, improve traffic flow and provide another travel option for motorists and transit customers.

The I-85 Express Lanes Extension will also accommodate the rapid growth in the region.

Transit providers and registered vanpools will be able to travel in the lanes for no additional fee, offering riders a more reliable trip.

Who owns and operates the I-85 Express Lanes Extension?

The roadway is owned and operated by the State of Georgia, and Georgia DOT is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance. Operation of the tolling aspects of the lanes, including collecting revenue and customer service functions related to the Peach Pass tolling system, is managed by Georgia's State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA).

Are there other express lanes projects?

Yes, the I-85 Express Lanes Extension will be part of the larger Georgia Express Lanes system, a network of toll lanes that run alongside existing interstates in some of the most congested corridors around metro Atlanta. These lanes provide a choice for drivers to pay a toll to bypass congestion when they desire, offer a clear path for transit operators, and provide more reliable trip times within these corridors.

Additional Georgia Express Lanes include the existing I-85 Express Lanes, the Northwest Corridor (NWC) Express Lanes project and the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes project.

How will toll rates be determined?

As demand for use of the Express Lanes increases, the toll amount will rise to ensure the optimal number of cars can continue utilizing the lanes. Motorists can see the posted toll amount before they enter the Express Lanes and will be able to decide whether or not they want to use them. Tolls on the I-85 Express Lanes will be collected electronically (no toll booths) so drivers will not have to slow down or stop to pay tolls. SRTA will set toll rates and collect tolls. For more information, please visit www.PeachPass.com.

How can I stay informed about the project?

Georgia DOT provides regular updates through www.dot.ga.gov, Georgia NaviGator 511, social media posts, media announcements, newsletters and community outreach events. To sign up to receive more information about the I-85 Express Lanes Extension project, send an email to managedlaneinfo@dot.ga.gov.

Project representatives are also available to speak to groups. A speaker's request form is available on the Georgia Express Lanes web page: www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL.

PROJECT DELIVERY METHOD

How is the project being delivered?

The project is following a Design-Build delivery method. Design-Build combines preconstruction services with construction services into a single contract. Design-Build projects allow the contractor to participate in the project's design in an effort to reduce costs, improve communication and expedite project delivery.

Who is the Design-Build team for I-85 Express Lanes Extension?

The Design-Build team for the project is C.W. Matthews Contracting Co. and ARCADIS. The project contract was awarded in July 2015. Project construction started in July 2016.

PROJECT FUNDING

What is the cost of the I-85 Express Lanes Extension Project?

The total project cost estimate is \$178 million.

How is the project being funded?

The project is funded through an 80 percent federal and 20 percent state match. The project is also being funded through toll revenue bonds.

How will money raised through tolling be used?

Toll revenue will pay for the project's capital costs and tolling operation, maintenance, renewal and replacement costs.

What will be done with any excess revenue?

Once all debt repayment is complete, any toll revenue above the amount required to fund ongoing operation and maintenance of the I-85 Express Lanes Extension will be available for other

transportation purposes.

CONSTRUCTION

What construction impacts should the traveling public expect?

As with most road construction projects, lane changes and closures will be required during construction. Georgia DOT works diligently to minimize impacts to the traveling public as much as possible. Most of the work for this project will occur on the roadway shoulder and in the median.

The project team is proactively communicating any lane changes and closures in advance of construction activity. These construction notices are communicated through the Georgia Express Lanes website, Georgia Navigator 511, social media and traditional media.

Georgia DOT also works closely with our partners including city and county governments, transit agencies, businesses and community groups to ensure that construction updates are readily available and widely communicated.

USING THE EXPRESS LANES

How are tolls collected?

Express Lanes will not use toll booths. Instead, all tolls are collected electronically through the Peach Pass transponder, a small electronic sticker that adheres to a vehicle's windshield. This technology, already in use on the existing I-85 Express Lanes, allows travelers to maintain roadway speed at all times. Complete information on the Peach Pass is available at www.PeachPass.com.

How do drivers obtain a Peach Pass to use the express lanes?

Users of all Georgia Express Lanes, including the I-85 Express Lanes Extension, can visit www.PeachPass.com or call the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at 1-855-PCH-PASS (724-7277) to open a Peach Pass account and register their vehicle(s).

One Peach Pass account can have up to 10 registered vehicles. However, each vehicle must have its own Peach Pass transponder.

As an added benefit, Georgia has also partnered with Florida and North Carolina to allow travelers to use the Peach Pass with tolling systems in these states. In the coming years, the number of states in which the Peach Pass is interoperable will continue to expand.

How much does a Peach Pass cost?

The Peach Pass transponder is free when obtained from SRTA. A minimum prepayment of \$20.00 and a credit or debit card for future payment is required to set up a Peach Pass account.

Is there an option to obtain a Peach Pass without a credit or debit card?

Yes, the Pay n Go Peach Pass is available for customers who wish to pay with cash rather than an assigned debit or credit card. No personal or vehicle information is required for this purchase. Much like a prepaid calling card, the Pay n Go Peach Pass can be purchased and reloaded with cash for toll credits (\$20-\$500) at participating CVS and Walgreens stores.

The Pay n Go Peach Pass Starter Kit includes a Peach Pass transponder and a Reload Card. There is a one-time fee of \$2.50 when purchasing the starter kit. Each time money is applied to the reload card, a \$1.50 convenience fee will be included.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

What happens if a vehicle stalls, breaks down or has an accident in the I-85 Express Lanes Extension?

A shoulder adjacent to the express lane will be available in designated locations along the corridor so that drivers can safely pull out of the lanes in the event of a vehicle stall, break down, or crash.

Cameras that communicate with NaviGator and the Traffic Management Center (TMC) will also be located along the express lanes. TMC operators will monitor both the express lanes and general purpose lanes in the corridor for incidents. Georgia DOT HERO vehicles will patrol the lanes at all times.

TRANSIT

What transit systems will be able to use the I-85 Express Lanes Extension?

Public transit providers that operate in this corridor, including GRTA Xpress and state-registered vanpools, will be able to use express lanes free of charge. Any additional state or county transit agencies that expand or introduce operations within the area and register will also have access to the lanes.

Will transit riders be required to pay anything beyond normal fares on routes that access express lanes?

No, there will be no additional costs to access the lanes for public transit riders, state-registered vanpools or the public transit providers.

For more information and general FAQs about the Georgia Express Lanes system, please visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL.