

## FACT SHEET

### ***SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON I-85 SOUTHBOUND EXPRESS LANE @ SR 316***

Georgia DOT is improving safety and traffic flow along Interstate 85 Express Lane southbound in Lawrenceville by widening the buffer and adding a flex tube barrier between the Express Lane and the General Purpose Lanes. This change is only for I-85 south from the State Route 316 west Express Lane merge to the Old Norcross Road Overpass.

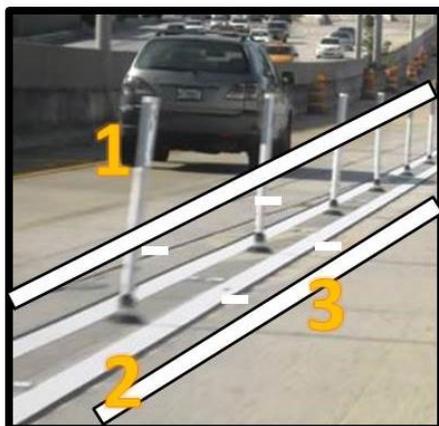
#### **Purpose of the Project/Background**

- Safety is Georgia DOT's highest priority
- Georgia DOT and the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) have studied the weaving movement in and out of the Express Lane southbound between the State Route 316 merge and Old Norcross Road. This has led to the decision to install the flex tube barriers along this section of the Express Lane.
- We are adding 425 flex tube barriers and widening the buffer area to prevent changing lanes or weaving along this 0.8 mile long section of the Express Lane. Motorists weaving between lanes cause friction and impacts the free flow of traffic in the Express Lane.
- Installation of the flex tube barrier will result in a more consistent flow of traffic and safer movement in and out of the Express Lane.

#### **New Barrier description**

- Increasing width of buffer between Express Lane and general purpose lanes from 24 inches to 50 inches (additional width coming from inside shoulder) on I-85 Southbound from SR 316 to Old Norcross Road
- Adding 425 flex tube barriers which will be bolted into the interstate every 10 feet. There are similar delineators used in Texas, Virginia and Florida.
- A row of five raised pavement markers across the striping between flex tube barriers
- Four white stripes, doubling the reflective striping separating the Express Lane from General Purpose Lanes

## Graphic of Express Lane Safety Improvements



1. Adding flex tube barrier with reflective tops
2. Doubling the white reflective striping
3. Adding 3 white raised pavement markers

Overall doubling the area between the Express Lane and adjacent lanes



### **Construction and Lane closures**

- Contract awarded to Peek Pavement Marking of Columbus for \$159,337.50
- Work scheduled to begin June 8 and scheduled for completion by June 17
- The southbound Express Lane and adjacent lane closed from the SR 120 access point to the Old Norcross Road Overpass as work occurs
- The SR 316 west Express Lane merging with I-85 south will be closed as work occurs
- Lane closures allowed :
  - Sunday through Thursday overnight work hours are 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next day
  - Friday and Saturday overnight work hours are 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. the next day
- Only the Express lane and adjacent lane southbound will be closed during work hours

### **Express Lanes Usage During Construction**

- During lane closures, vehicles will be prohibited from entering the I-85 Express Lanes southbound at the access point south of SR 120 and from SR 316 west.
- Toll rate signs associated with the Old Peachtree Road entrance and SR 316 ramp will display "CLOSED" messages during lane closures. The remainder of the Express Lane will continue to operate normally. Each morning, the Express Lane will resume normal operations with pricing adjusting based on demand in the lanes.