

## Summer 2017 Project Update

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*Aerial view of project progress at the I-75/I-285 Interchange*

## Meet the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes Team: Greg Munna



*Georgia DOT Project Manager Stephen Lively and Greg Munna, Northwest Corridor Bridge Superstructure Project Manager*

Greg Munna joined the Northwest Corridor team in June 2014 as Bridge Superstructure Project Manager. An experienced construction project manager, Greg oversees the project's bridge superstructure activities, such as beam settings and deck pours. With 39 bridges on the Northwest Corridor project, Greg's work is a pivotal part of the construction process.

**Q. What makes the Northwest Corridor project unique from other projects you have worked on?**

**A.** This has been an awesome experience because in the 13 years I have been involved in construction



*Greg Munna and Stephen Lively discuss the current bridge construction at I-75 and Windy Hill Road.*

management, this is my first Design-Build project. I have enjoyed working with the design team and the GDOT review team to ensure that the bridge designs were submitted timely and comments addressed thoroughly. This has been a challenging and valuable project to be involved with, and I look forward to being involved with similar work in the future.

**Q. What do you like best about the project?**

A. Finding solutions to various challenges that have come up on the job. It sometimes feels like a big puzzle, and our team has developed various methods on how we can successfully put it all together. Also, without a doubt, going on the project site and seeing the completed work is very rewarding, and I am humbled to be a part of the process.

**Q. What is something you like to do or a hobby that you have when you are not working on the project?**

A. I spend most of my time with my wife, Melissa, and my three boys: Ethan, Luke and Nathan. We enjoy hanging out at the pool or visiting the Chattahoochee Nature Center - especially going out in the canoe on the Chattahoochee River.

**Q. What do you believe is the benefit the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes presents to the commuting public?**

A. Besides just a beautiful sight to behold, I believe the Express Lanes will provide commuters with a better option for bypassing congestion. This project will help them to get to their destination faster and hopefully in a better mood.

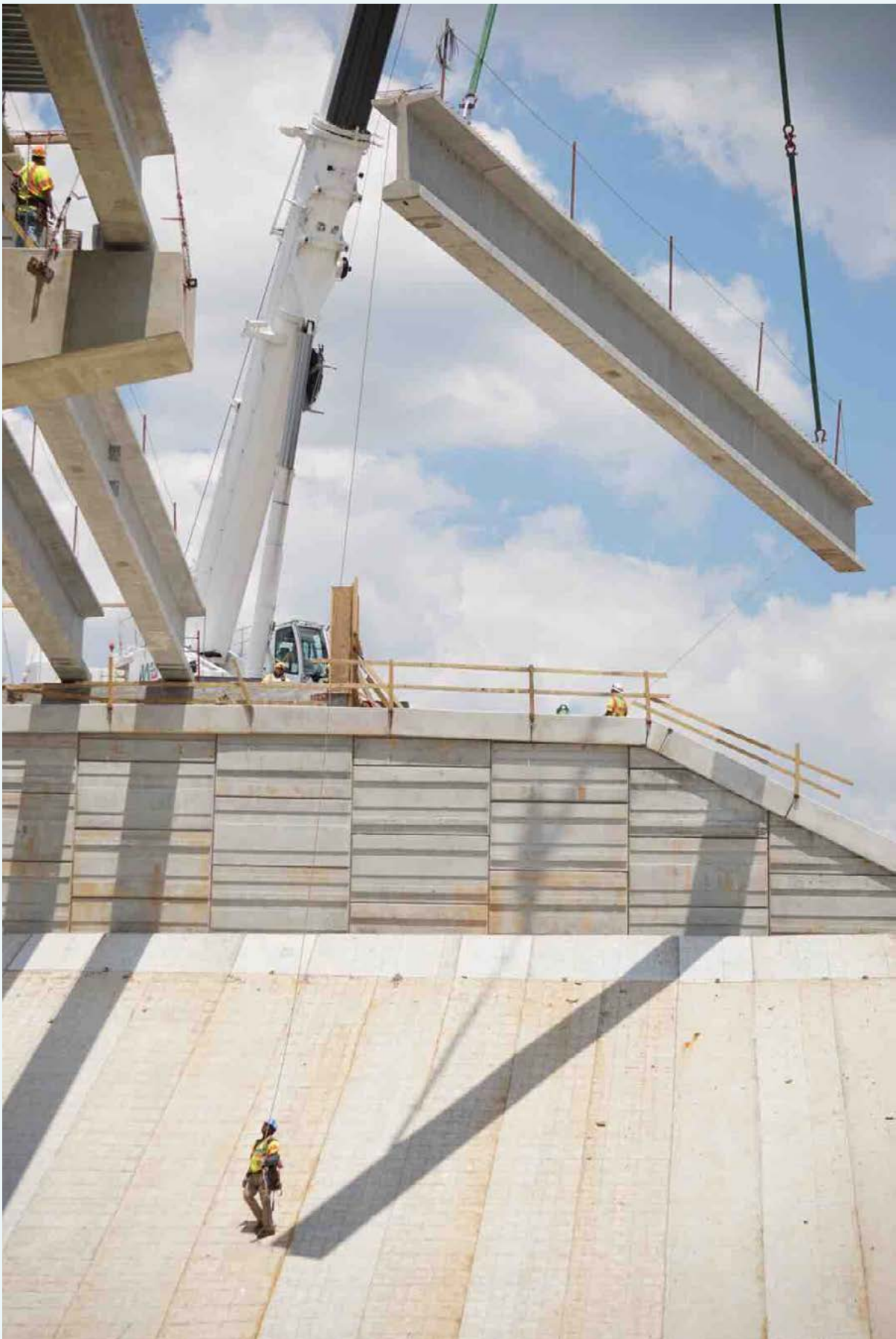
**Northwest Corridor Project Progress: Nearing the Home Stretch!**



*This machine, called a "slip form," installs or "slips" into place permanent concrete barrier walls near I-75 and Bells Ferry Road. These walls will serve to divide Express Lane traffic from the existing general purpose lanes.*



*This bridge is located at the north end of the I-75/I-285 interchange next to the I-285 westbound collector-distributor (CD) lanes. Regular detours are scheduled in this area throughout the summer to accommodate the removal of the old bridge, making way for the installation of the new bridge.*



*Northwest Corridor construction workers guide one of the last beams into place on an Express Lanes bridge at the I-75/I-285 interchange.*

The Northwest Corridor project is **80% complete** - with just a year of construction left! Of the 39 bridges on the project, 21 are complete, 17 bridges are under construction and estimated to be completed by the end of 2017, and one bridge will begin construction soon.

### Progress for July 2017:

- 92% of all bridge foundations are completed - including columns and deck spans.
- 15 out of 33 ramps are completed.

- 10.4 miles of new Express Lanes have been paved on I-75; approximately 81% of paving on I-75 is complete.
- Summer construction will continue at the I-75/I-285 interchange, with regularly scheduled lane closures and nighttime detours.
- Motorists traveling along I-75 southbound at Windy Hill Road, Delk Road and South Marietta Road will continue to experience nighttime lane closures and occasional detours as construction crews complete deck pours and other bridge work.

## Accessing the Express Lanes: Slip Ramps vs Access Points

Ever been baffled by the term “slip ramp”? Read on.



*This I-575 slip ramp access point at Big Shanty Road will allow northbound motorists to “slip” out of the Express Lanes and back into the general purpose lanes.*

A slip ramp is a short connector ramp between roadways - a section of road that lets vehicles “slip” into or out of a controlled access highway, instead of using a traditional intersection with traffic signals. Slip ramps for the Northwest Corridor project will be located along I-575 for access from Barrett Parkway, Big Shanty Road, Shallowford Road and Sixes Road.

On the I-75 leg of the project, however, motorists will access the Express Lanes through dedicated access points rather than slip ramps. Vehicles will only be able to access the Express Lanes system from these interchanges: Hickory Grove Road, Big Shanty Road, Roswell Road, Terrell Mill Road and I-285.

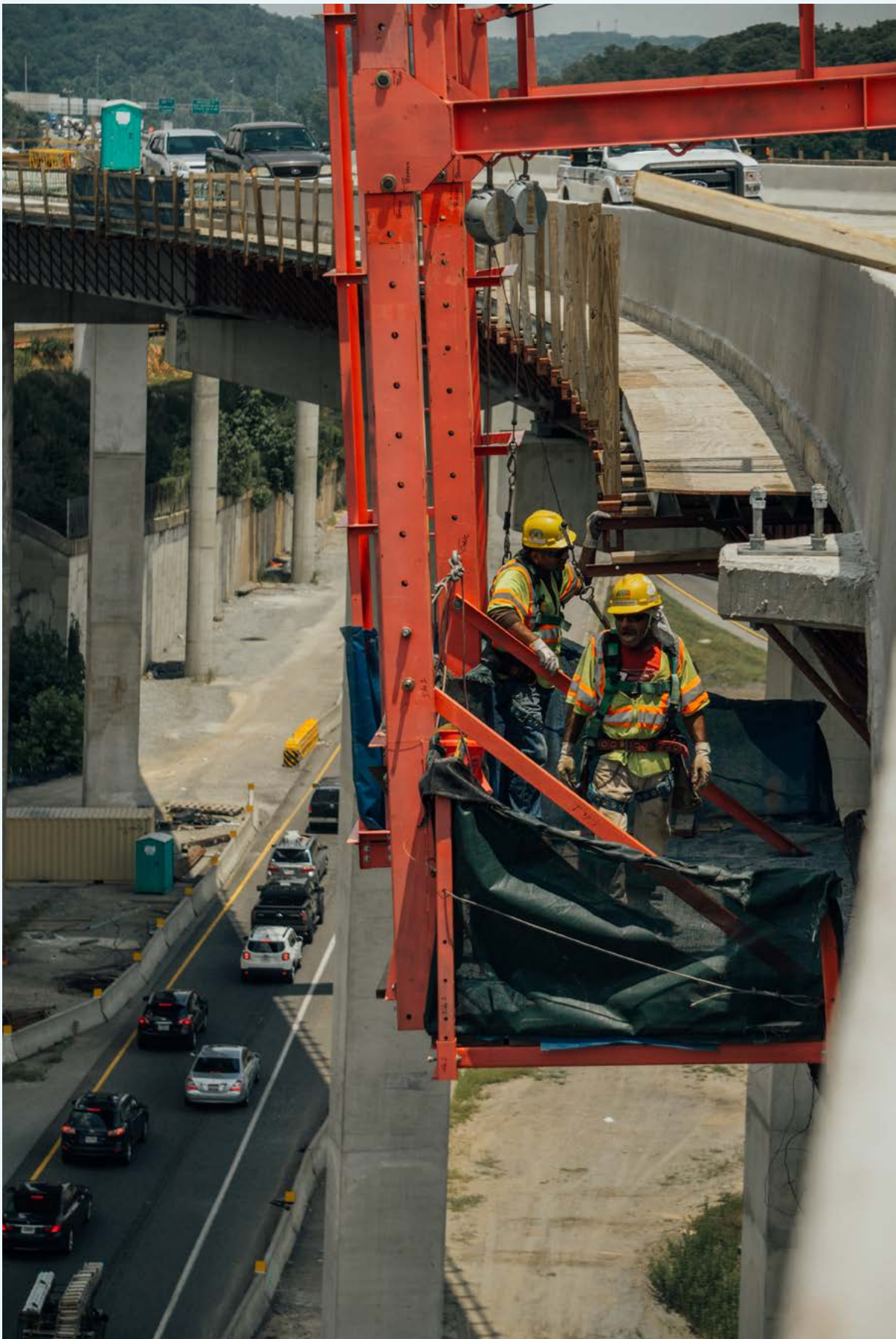
**Don't forget:** You will need a Peach Pass to use the Express Lanes - slip ramp or otherwise!  
[Get yours today at PeachPass.com.](http://PeachPass.com)

## Summer Construction and Safety Reminders

Georgia DOT's summer construction season is in full swing! With more than 539 road improvement projects in the works - our busiest season in years - it's important to be alert and use extra caution in any work zone, whether there's active construction or not.

In metro Atlanta, summer projects include ongoing construction on the Northwest Corridor and the I-85 Extension, which

extends the existing I-85 Express Lanes 10 miles further north into Gwinnett County. Another significant project is the resurfacing and restriping of Peachtree Road, which will improve traffic flow by enabling dedicated left turns at some signalized intersections.  
[Click here to learn more about this summer's construction projects.](#)



*Just above the I-285 eastbound CD lanes, a crew installs protective decking around the edge of the Express Lanes bridge.*

## Safety First at the Northwest Corridor Project

Regardless of where your travels take you this summer, please keep the following safety driving tips in mind:

- **Expect the Unexpected:** With ongoing construction, things may change.
- **Don't Speed or Tailgate:** Always obey the posted speed limit and keep a safe distance from the car ahead of you.
- **Stay Alert:** Keep distractions at a minimum; always give your full attention to the roadway.
- **Keep Up with the Flow of Traffic:** Do not slow down to gawk at road work.
- **Know Your Schedule Before You Go:** Give yourself plenty of travel time to drive safely.
- **Be Patient and Stay Calm:** Construction crews are working to improve the road for you.

### What else can you do?

Follow these easy steps to Drive Alert and Arrive Alive:

1. **Buckle Up:** Always wear a seat belt; whether you're driving or riding - no matter how far you're going.
2. **Stay off the phone and other electronic devices:** No texting. If possible, shut off the phone to avoid temptation - even hands-free devices can be distracting.
3. **Drive Alert:** Do not drive when you're drowsy or impaired.

## Outreach Update

On July 12, Northwest Corridor project team members presented a detailed project update to Cobb County Department of Transportation staff and city officials representing Marietta, Kennesaw, Powder Springs, Smyrna and Austell. In August, the team is excited to present to real estate industry professionals at the Atlanta Realtors Trade Show. [Attending that event?](#) Look for our presentation beginning around noon on Thursday, August 24, at the Cobb Galleria.

Want a Northwest Corridor presentation for your group? Request a speaker! [Click here](#) to fill out our speaker request form.

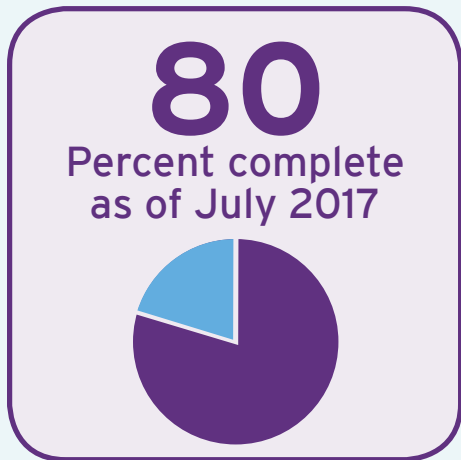
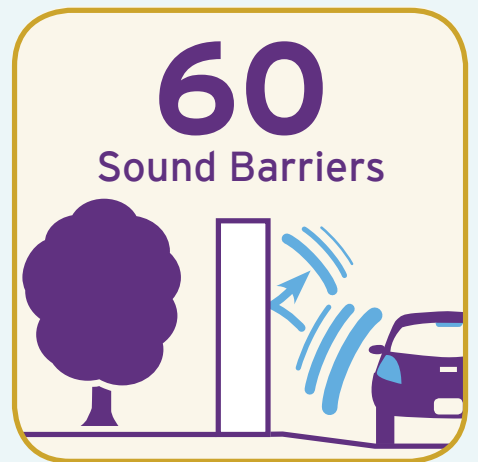
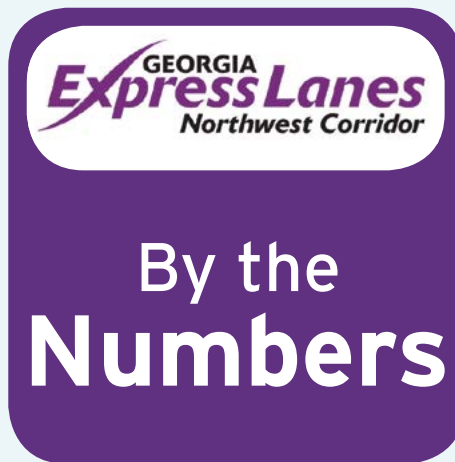
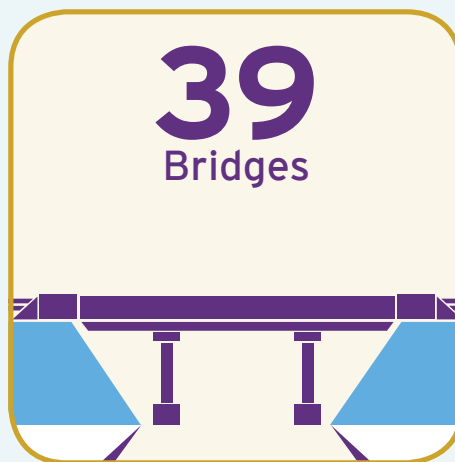


For more information and safety tips on driving in a construction zone, [click here](#).



*Tim Matthews, Senior Project Manager at Georgia DOT, provided updates on the Northwest Corridor project to transportation staff and city officials at the Cobb DOT quarterly transportation update forum.*

## Northwest Corridor by the Numbers



<http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/NWC>

### Stay Connected!

To learn more about the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes project or receive regular construction and traffic interruption updates, please visit: [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/NWC](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/NWC)

Questions? Call us: 678-486-3767 | email: [northwestcorridor@dot.ga.gov](mailto:northwestcorridor@dot.ga.gov)

For regular project updates visit: <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL>

Find Georgia DOT on Facebook and Twitter: 