



July 21, 2015

Mr. Don Grantham
Chairman of the State Transportation Board
P.O. Box 3145
Augusta, GA 30914

Re: 2015 Biennial P3 Project Candidate List

Dear Mr. Grantham:

Pursuant to Section 32-2-79 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the Georgia Department of Transportation ("Department") is required to identify and report to the State Transportation Board ("Board") a list of public private partnership (P3) projects that afford the greatest gains in congestion mitigation or promotion of economic development every odd year. In creating this list, the Department has considered the investment policies identified in Section 32-2-41.1(a) of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

This list is not a commitment to procure these projects as a P3 but merely a list of projects that meet eligibility requirements for procurement under P3. If other projects are determined to be feasible before the next formal opportunity to present a biennial list (in July 2017), the Department may present to the Board additional candidate projects for P3 consideration.

The P3 project candidate list as generated in 2013 was developed by including projects on previous lists as well as project suggested by Department staff, Board members, P3 advisors, and/or stakeholders.

Since 2013, the landscape for managed lanes in Metro Atlanta and P3 projects in general has continued to evolve with several important events affecting project implementation including but not limited to the following:

- Updating of ARC's Plan2040;
- Continuous increases in the use of the I-85 Express Lanes in DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties;
- Issuance of the Notice to Proceed and start of construction for the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes;
- Issuance of the Notice to Proceed and start of construction for the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes;
- Procurement underway for the I-285 & SR 400 Reconstruction project with expected selection of a Best Value Developer by December 2015;
- Passage of the Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (HB 170);
- Short-term extension of the Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

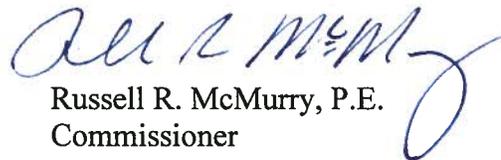
GDOT has again taken a conservative approach regarding the recommendation for P3 candidates for 2015 with an emphasis on managing the expectations of the program. Below is a list of the recommended P3 projects for 2015.

2015 Candidate P3 Project List	
Project	Description
I-285 Top End Improvements (Revive 285)	The Revive 285 project extends 12 miles along I-285 from I-75N to I-85N. Managed Lane implementation along this corridor was a Tier 2 priority in the Managed Lane System Plan (MLSP) adopted by the Board in 2009 and is included as part of Plan 2040. The project would involve the addition of two (2) managed lanes in each direction along the outside of the existing general purpose lanes. As the project development activities continue, GDOT will determine whether P3 is an appropriate delivery mechanism.
SR 400 Managed Lane Improvements	The SR 400 project extends 20 miles along SR 400 North from I-285N to SR 20 and would involve the addition of managed lanes. The MLSP recommended two (2) managed lanes in each direction from I-285 to Kimball Bridge Road and one (1) lane in each direction from Kimball Bridge Road to south of Peachtree Parkway. The MLSP adopted by the Board in 2009 recommended managed lanes along SR 400 as a priority Tier 2 project and the project is included as part of Plan 2040. A managed lanes feasibility study was completed for the Project in 2013. No project activities are currently ongoing.
I-85 North Widening to the Georgia/South Carolina Border	The I-85 North project extends approximately 60 miles and would include the addition of one General Purpose (GP) lane in each direction along I-85 North from Hamilton Mill Road to the South Carolina Line. The corridor is currently comprised of 11 individual projects that are in various stages of development.
I-285/I-20 West Interchange Reconstruction	The interchange project would consist of varying lane widening improvements on I-20 eastbound and westbound to improve the existing lane balance on sections between Thornton Road and the I-285 Interchange (approximately 6.5 miles). A list of improvements was recommended as part of the I-285/I-20 West Interchange Reconstruct Feasibility Report completed in November 2011. All concept/preliminary engineering work as well as the NEPA document will need to be completed for the project. Recommendations exist along both I-285 and I-20 as part of the ongoing Managed Lane Implementation Plan (MLIP). Although the system-to-system connection is not included as part of the MLIP recommendations, any redesign of this interchange should either include managed lane connections, or at a minimum, not preclude the ability to construct managed lane connections in the future. Additional project development activities would need to occur to help provide guidance on delivery strategies including a potential P3 delivery.

I-285/I-20 East Interchange Reconstruction	The interchange project would include improvements to the directional ramps including the reconstruction of the I-20 eastbound to I-285 southbound ramp and the I-285 southbound to I-20 westbound ramp. A feasibility study for managed lanes was completed in January 2013 and included the I-285/I-20 East interchange. All concept/preliminary engineering work as well as the NEPA document will need to be completed for the project. Recommendations exist along both I-285 and I-20 as part of the ongoing Managed Lane Implementation Plan (MLIP). Although the system-to-system connection is not included as part of the MLIP recommendations, any redesign of this interchange should either include managed lane connections, or at a minimum, not preclude the ability to construct managed lane connections in the future. Additional project development activities would need to occur to help provide guidance on delivery strategies including a potential P3 delivery.
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The Department will continue to update the Board regarding the next steps for possible implementation of these projects or other projects should they arise. The P3 program provides an alternative delivery, finance and procurement mechanism to help address the need for critical transportation projects while remaining consistent with the goals and priorities of the Department. Please contact Darryl VanMeter or Chip Meeks, Office of Innovative Delivery, 404-631-1300 should you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,



Russell R. McMurry, P.E.
Commissioner

RRM:dvm

cc: State Transportation Board Members
Meg Pirkle, P.E., Chief Engineer
Jay Roberts, Director of Planning
Darryl VanMeter, P.E., State Innovative Delivery Engineer
Chip Meeks, Innovative Delivery P3 Administrator