

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

For Immediate Release:
Monday November 23, 2009

Contact: Erica Fatima
(404) 631-1836

GEORGIA DOT TO SUSPEND LANE CLOSURES; REMINDS HOLIDAY TRAVELERS TO EXPECT DELAYS, PLAN AHEAD AND CALL 511

ATLANTA— The Thanksgiving holidays are among the busiest travels days of the year and the Georgia Department of Transportation is advising motorists to expect delays, plan ahead and be patient. Georgia DOT will suspend construction-related lane closures on all interstates and major state routes from 5 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 25, until midnight, Sunday, Nov. 29, to accommodate travelers.

“Even with construction curtailed, we anticipate heavy traffic and some delays throughout state, certainly in the metropolitan Atlanta area, beginning Wednesday around 1 p.m.,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr. “On Friday, Saturday and Sunday we expect areas near shopping malls to be very congested. Additionally, many travelers will be returning home over the weekend.”

In metro Atlanta, high congestion areas include, but are not limited to the following areas:

- I-75/85 southbound (Downtown Connector)
- I-285 on the top end
- SR 400 in both directions
- I-85 in Gwinnett County
- I-75 in Cobb County
- I-75 Southbound in Clayton and Henry counties

Permanent lane closure may be in place on I-85 in Meriwether and Coweta counties, I-75 in South Georgia and I-95 on the coast. Also, incident management or emergency maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary on any route.

In 2008, the Georgia DOT’s 511 call center logged 31,000 calls on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. This was the record number of calls during a 24 hour period until the September flood event in Middle and North Georgia.

Check the maps on www.georgia-navigator.com for current road conditions, or call 511 on any phone for free, real-time traffic information. Traveler information is also available at www.511ga.org and a toll-free number for callers from outside the state, 1-877-694-2511. Georgia 511 provides statewide traffic conditions, route-specific information and estimated travel times within metro Atlanta. Additionally, 511 callers can access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, Georgia tourism information and 511 systems in neighboring states. For those preparing to fly, 511 connects callers to airports in Atlanta and Savannah for information on parking, delays or connections to carriers. An automated voice recognition system guides the service, but callers can also transfer to operators to report accidents or congestion, request HERO assistance or obtain additional information.

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).

###