

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GEORGIA DOT ANNOUNCES 14TH STREET BRIDGE OPENING IN MIDTOWN ATLANTA

ATLANTA –The new 14th Street Bridge in Midtown Atlanta will open to traffic before afternoon rush hour today, nearly four months ahead of schedule. The southbound I-75 and southbound I-85 entrance ramps to 14th Street and Techwood Drive will also open today.

“Delivering such a project in Midtown Atlanta requires a tremendous collaborative effort by Georgia DOT, Federal Highway Administration, Atlanta Regional Commission, the City of Atlanta, our contractor, utility companies, neighborhoods and the thousands of motorists who have been disrupted on a daily basis for more than two years,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr.

The new wider and longer bridge features dedicated turning lanes with additional storage capacity, raised landscaped medians, and sidewalks. Pedestrian improvements on 14th Street begin at Fowler Street continuing across the bridge to West Peachtree Street.

Susan Mendheim, President and CEO, Midtown Alliance, said, “The Midtown Alliance could not be more complementary of GDOT and the strong collaborative community-based partnership that has defined the 14th Street bridge project and led to a signature gateway that provides an elegant solution to balancing traffic, pedestrian safety and good urban design.”

Residents in the surrounding neighborhoods have eagerly awaited the opening, noted Atlanta City Council member Kwanza Hall who serves the 2nd District. “The 14th Street Bridge is a crucial east-west connector for Atlanta’s creative class, joining the Georgia Tech and Home Park neighborhoods with Midtown. We are thrilled that the bridge is back.”

Work on the \$88.5 million 14th Street Improvement Project began spring 2007 with utility relocation taking nearly two years to complete. Crews began removing the 14th Street Bridge over the Downtown Connector in spring 2008, while simultaneously building two new exit ramps from the interstate: southbound to 10th Street, which opened in June, and northbound to 17th Street, expected to open in early 2010.

Resurfacing the northbound side of the Downtown Connector from 10th Street to where I-75/I-85 split will resume the weekend of Sept. 11 – 13 to continue through mid October.

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).

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