

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Press Release

For Immediate Release:

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Monday, January 10, 2011

### **GEORGIA DOT CREWS STAND READY TO BATTLE ICE AND SNOW THROUGH THE NIGHT** ***MOTORISTS CAUTIONED TO USE EXTREME CAUTION AS TEMPERATURES DROP***

ATLANTA—Georgia DOT crews continue to fight icy conditions across Georgia. Tractor trailers are experiencing a particularly difficult time maneuvering the slick roadways through the state.

“Our maintenance crews continue the hard work of clearing the lanes, but the continuing weather pattern has made the process more difficult.” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr.

The Department has also been working diligently to try and notify major trucking firms and trucking associations of the dangerous conditions still on Georgia roadways. Much of the current delays and backups are a result of tractor trailers’ inability to successfully maneuver the icy conditions on bridges, overpasses and interstates around Atlanta. We are encouraging our trucking partners to delay travel through the state until at least Tuesday afternoon to allow for improvement and stabilization in the current road conditions. Due to freezing rain and sleet south of I-20; the following areas of the roadway are experiencing especially icy conditions.

Despite the fact that GDOT crews have treated and retreated all areas, freezing rain continues to fall on the roads. Incidents are taking much longer than normal to clear due to the magnitude of accidents involving tractor trailers locking the roadway. Large trucks are asked to stay off the roadways, if at all possible. Those on the southern side of the state, especially in the Macon area, heading toward Atlanta, are requested not to come into the Atlanta area unless absolutely necessary.

Significant trouble spots include:

- I-575 north and south in Cobb County which has been closed for the remainder of the evening
- I-20 EB at West Avenue in Rockdale County
- I-20 east and westbound at Thornton Road
- I-285 at I-675 continues to be blocked by big rigs unable to move on the more than one-inch of ice
- I-285 EB at I-75 (just below the Airport) jackknifed tractor trailer blocking the roadway
- I-75 NB at Mount Zion road; Southlake Mall area. Extreme delays and extreme icing in the area
- I-75 NB at the 120 Loop/Marietta-Roswell
- I-285 EB at Clifton Springs, Bouldercrest Road area

Many areas have tractor trailers stopped and blocking the roadway so we are unable to get to the icy spots. Our

spreader trucks are trying to come from the southern areas and back into it---but it is a slow and laborious process.

Weather reports call for more freezing rain south of metro Atlanta and so we encourage truckers and all motorists to stay off the roadways if possible, and if they must be on the roads, please exercise extreme caution when moving through the area. Motorists are also still asked to refrain from taking any unnecessary risks on the roads due to icy conditions.

· **The Transportation Management Center (TMC) Emergency Operations Center (EOC):**  
**Media Phone Lines – (404) 635 8093 and 8094. Karlene Barron and Jill Goldberg will alternate 12-hour shifts at the EOC.** (Note - This is the Department’s statewide command center and the clearinghouse for real-time conditions; it is your best source for current status of roadways.

· **Cheshire Bridge Road (Metro Atlanta) Maintenance Facility:**  
**Mark McKinnon at (404) 326-6672 and David Spear at (404) 326-6668 will alternate 12-hour shifts at this site.**

· **District One (Northeast Georgia) Gainesville Headquarters:**  
**Teri Pope and Rick Parham, both at (404) 274-6436, will alternate 12-hour shifts at this location.**

· **District Two (East Central Georgia) Tennille Headquarters:**  
**Cissy McNure at (478) 232-3331 will be available as needed.**

· **District Three (West Central Georgia) Thomaston Headquarters:**  
**Kimberly Larson at (706) 741-3439 will be available as needed.**

· **Districts Four (Southeast Georgia) and Five (South Georgia):**  
**Craig Solomon at (229) 309-9706 in Tifton D4 Headquarters will be available as needed.**

· **District Six (Northwest Georgia) Cartersville Headquarters:**  
**Mohamed Arafa at (770) 359-9523 will be available.**

Georgia DOT urges travelers to call 511 for updated information about this or any other construction project on interstates and state routes. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More information is available at [www.511ga.org](http://www.511ga.org).

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