

# GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## Press Statement

For Immediate Release:  
Monday, January 31, 2011

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### **Statement Regarding Highway Emergency Response Operator (HERO) Fatality**

By Commissioner Vance C. Smith., Jr.:

*It is with great sadness that I announce that we have lost one of our Georgia DOT family members today. HERO Unit One operator Spencer Pass was fatally injured this morning while performing his duties on I-85, just south of Atlanta. Spencer, 45, of Jonesboro, had been a HERO for less than three years, dutifully serving the travelling public and the Department.*

*Please join me in extending our thoughts and prayers to Spencer's family and friends during this very difficult time. I pray that his family gains comfort and strength from the caring sympathy of the entire Georgia DOT family. Spencer's death is the HERO Unit's first fatality and our prayers go out to his Unit co-workers as well.*

*As a HERO, Spencer spent long hours, often in hazardous roadside conditions, to keep Georgia's traveling public safer. He will be missed.*



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