



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Press Release

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OVERNIGHTS WORK ONLY THROUGH WEDNESDAY WORK PLAN FOR I-85 EXPRESS LANES IN DEKALB AND GWINNETT

DULUTH, Ga. – Construction of the new Express Lane System along Interstate 85 continues. As weather permits, lane closures are scheduled to occur overnights only next week until Thursday morning on the Interstate 85 Express Lanes project in DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties. Work will require triple and quadruple lane closures and traffic pacing overnights.

To enable Georgia motorists to more easily enjoy Labor Day weekend's figurative end of summer, the State Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures beginning at 5 a.m., next Friday, September 2, and extending until 5 a.m., Tuesday, September 6.

The Department reminds travelers to exercise caution nonetheless as heavy holiday traffic is expected throughout the state; crews may be still be working in proximity to highways; and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency, maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.

The work plan requires **nightly** lane closures northbound and southbound. High Occupancy Vehicle lane or left lane will close overnight at these locations if weather permits. Northbound lane closures will begin at 10 p.m. and continue overnight to 5 a.m. the next day. Southbound lane closures will begin at 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. the next day. Up to four lanes will be closed nightly. These quadruple lane closures will only occur after midnight. Traffic will be paced one to three times as needed for that night's work between 12 a.m. and 4 a.m. for the installation of antennas and cabling. This work is to install and test the conduit, cabling, antennas, cameras and other equipment that will operate the tolling network for the State Road and Tollway Authority.

Sunday, 28th a work zone on I-85 north and south from SR 316 to Old Peachtree Road. A second work zone is planned on I-85 north only from Northcrest Road to I-285 and after midnight, will close four lanes and pace traffic.

Monday, 29th two work zones are planned along I-85 northbound only. The first northbound work zone begins south of SR 378/Beaver Ruin Rd. and will include closing four lanes and pacing traffic after midnight. The second work zone is also on I-85 north from SR 140/Jimmy Carter Blvd to Pleasant Hill Road. Each lane closure begins with one lane closed in each direction. At 11 p.m. a second left lane in

each direction will close. At 12 a.m. a third left lane in each direction will close and traffic will be paced from 11 p.m. to 4 a.m. several times an hour.

Tuesday, 30th a work zone is planned to close one lane on I-85 north and south. The northbound work zone is from Northcrest Road to SR 378/Beaver Ruin Road. The southbound lane closure begins at Chamblee Tucker Road to SR 140/Jimmy Carter Blvd.

Wednesday, 31st a work zones is planned on I-85 northbound only and will close one lane from south of Pleasant Hill Road to SR 316.

The existing High Occupancy Vehicle lanes on Interstate 85 will continue in operation allowing vehicles with 2 or more people, motorcycles and alternate fuel vehicles to use the lanes until the Express Lane System is opened.

The I-85 Express Lanes Project includes installation of 16 miles of fiber and signage along Interstate Highway 85 between Chamblee Tucker Road and Old Peachtree Road and along State Route 316 between I-85 and Riverside Parkway.

When completed, registered transit buses, motorcycles, alternative fueled vehicles and vehicles with three or more passengers will be allowed to use the inside (left) HOT lane for free, while single- and double-occupant vehicles will be allowed to use the lane if they choose to pay a variably priced toll. For more information on using the I-85 Express Lane please visit www.peachpass.com operated by the State Road and Tollway Authority.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone, web, and mobile service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. Additionally, 511 is available online or as a hybrid solution via a free download for your smart phone. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, its mobile application download, or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.511ga.org.

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