

PRESS RELEASE

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Two Projects to Create One Smooth Ride for Midtown and Downtown Commuters

Pardon Our Progress; Your Dollars Building a Better Georgia

ATLANTA – Two major resurfacing projects are set to begin in a matter of days on I-75 and I-75/I-85 (Downtown Connector).

Resurfacing of approximately 4.4 miles on I-75 northbound and southbound from just north of SR 54/Jonesboro Road to the I-285 interchange in Clayton County will begin on **Monday, July 11**.

Resurfacing of approximately 6 miles on I-75/I-85 (Downtown Connector) northbound and southbound from just south of University Avenue to the Brookwood Interchange in Fulton County will begin on **Sunday, July 17**.

To limit delays and inconvenience to motorists, lane closures will be limited to nights and weekends.

“We strongly advise motorists to be prepared, plan ahead and know before you go,” said Georgia DOT Metro District Engineer Kathy Zahul. “These are major resurfacing projects – two of many that are ongoing this summer. We ask motorists to please pardon our progress – your dollars are maintaining a better Georgia.”

The Downtown Connector - last resurfaced in 2008 - handles nearly 350,000 vehicles a day, which results in deterioration to the roadway. Resurfacing I-75 and the Downtown Connector will create a smoother ride for commuters and visitors who travel to and through Georgia, and less wear to vehicles.

Resurfacing will start on the interstate shoulders, the gore areas between the lanes and ramps, and the entrance and exit ramps. Resurfacing on ramps will require complete ramp closure; only emergency vehicles will be allowed to use closed ramps. Lane closures - when required - will take place weeknights from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. and weekends from 9 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday, excluding major holidays. Additional restrictive hours may occur for special events, such as, but not limited to, the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta Braves, Music Midtown Festival and Georgia Tech

football games due to the proximity of work to these known events. These times are subject to change due to weather, incident management and construction schedule needs.

The HOV lane will become a general-purpose lane when necessary, throughout active work zones.

The I-75 resurfacing is valued at \$9.5 million and completion is expected by February 2017. The I-75/I-85 (Downtown Connector) resurfacing project, valued at \$13.8 million, is expected to be completed by April 2017. The contractor for both is C.W. Matthews Contracting Company, Inc.

These are high volume routes. Motorists are cautioned to reduce their speed while traveling through work zones, pay attention and watch for workers.

“Work zones serve as the workplace for GDOT workers and contractors. It is vitally important that they are safe and able to return home to their families as they carry out their duties,” Zahul added.

Before heading out, get real-time information on work status and traffic conditions. Call 511, visit 511ga.org , or download the Georgia 511 app.

For specific information about the Downtown Connector and I-75 resurfacing projects click the following link:

www.dot.ga.gov/BuildSmart/Projects/Documents/DowntownConnector/DowntownConnector2016-FactSheet.pdf

Every day Georgia DOT employees work on roadways in close proximity to travel lanes. Whether they're maintenance, construction or HEROs, it's dangerous. Fifty-eight Georgia DOT personnel and many more motorists, passengers and contractors' workers have been killed in work zone crashes since 1973. When you drive in a work zone, obey the rules: Pay Attention - Slow Down - Watch for Workers. It can make the difference between life and death. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/Workzone.

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