



For Immediate Release:
Monday, April 10, 2017

Contact:
Natalie Dale
404-772-2836

GDOT Analysis: Commuters Chose Alternatives for Monday Morning Commute

Motorists Heeded Recommendations, Planned Ahead; Encouraged to Continue New Commuting Options

ATLANTA – Commuters in the metro Atlanta area planned ahead, heeded the recommendations of state and city officials and looked for alternate routes to work during the Monday morning rush hours. With the end of spring break, state and city leaders along with businesses implored commuters to telework, use public transit like [MARTA](#) or [GRTA Express Bus Service](#) and to utilize flexible work schedules due to potential increases in average travel times.

Commuters in Atlanta clearly heeded those warnings. An analysis by Georgia DOT’s traffic operations engineers of the 5 am to 9:30 am peak traffic rush hour showed comparable volumes across the Metro area on most major interstates; however, the congestion formed much earlier than typical indicating a shift in commute patterns due to flex scheduling.

Georgia DOT State Traffic Operations Engineer Andrew Heath said that the I-85 corridor from SR 316 to I-285 saw the most significant change—an 18 percent increase in travel time over last Monday. In most locations, the travel times were approximately the same, which means that commuters are choosing to utilize flex hours, telework or take alternative commute options to work.

“The most important take away from this morning’s commute is that drivers must continue doing what they started today, and not become complacent by falling back into old commuting patterns too soon,” Heath continued. “The goal, of course, is to relieve the extreme congestion on the interstate and arterials as we work to quickly rebuild and replace the I-85 bridge over Piedmont Road. We thank businesses and other major employers for offering commute alternatives to employees and encouraging others to join this effort.”

Georgia DOT is highlighting the efforts of many of those employers who are using innovative approaches to overcome the temporary closure of I-85 in a video series beginning today and released via social media channels. See the latest message from Emory University President Claire Sterk [here](#).

The following resources will help motorists plan their commutes:

- Visit www.dot.ga.gov for the most up-to-date maps and information on road closures and alternate routes
- Visit www.511ga.org or dial 511 for routing information or to speak to an operator who can assist
- Visit [Georgia Commute Options](#) for additional resources and information about available cash incentives for using commuting options
- Visit www.itsmarta.com for MARTA routes and schedules
- Visit www.grta.org for information on GRTA express routes

The Atlanta Regional Commission is providing [alternate route options](#) to commercial vehicles and large trucks to help them get through the region. These types of vehicles are also encouraged to only travel through the metro area during overnight hours and take advantage of I-285 to bypass the city.

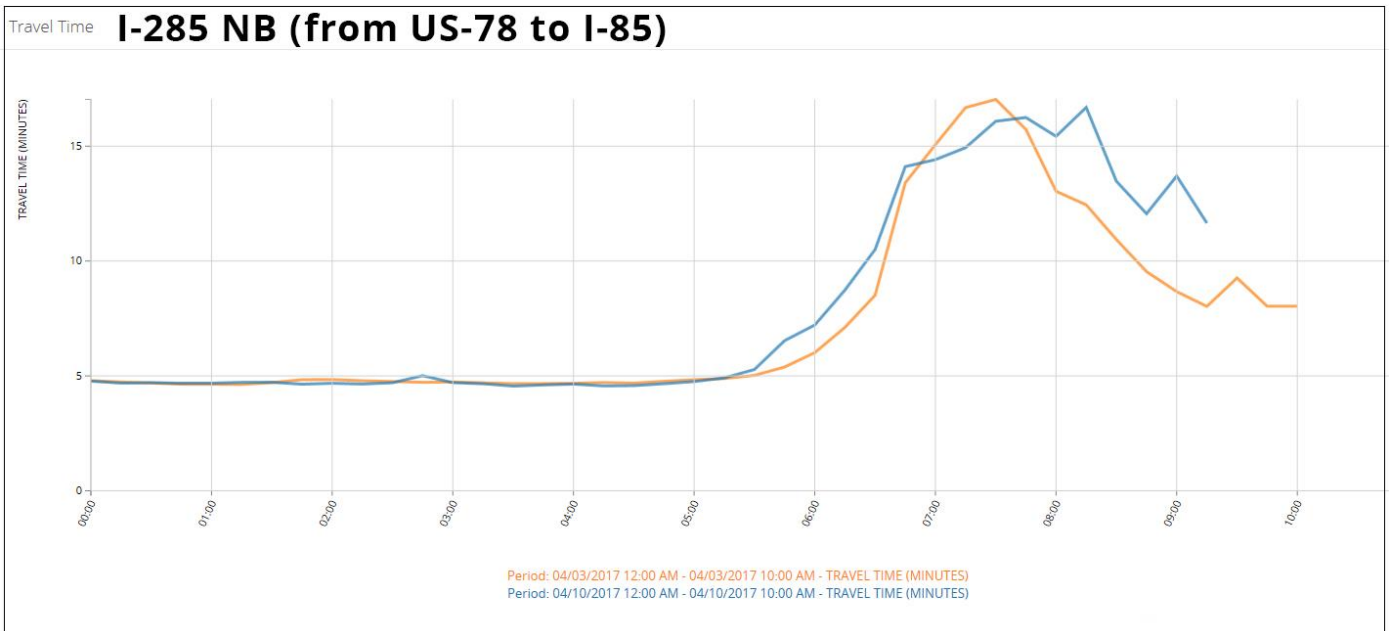
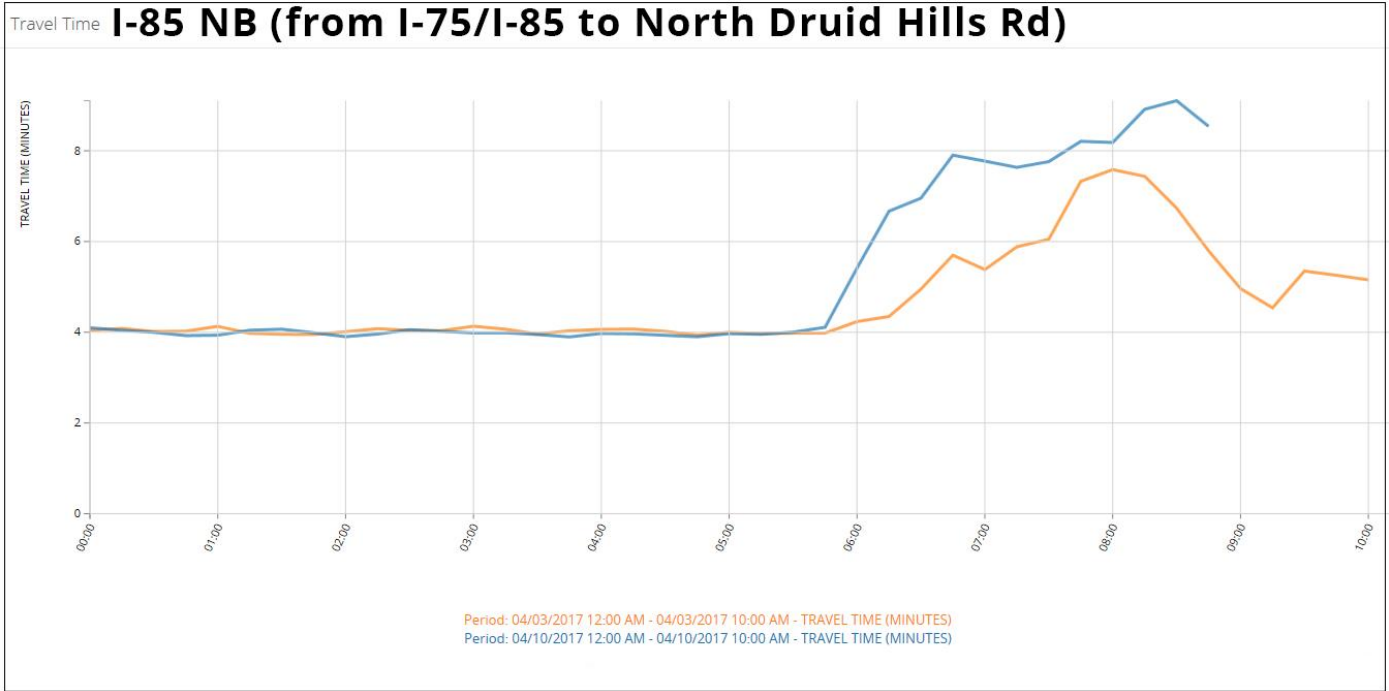
Georgia DOT’s goal is to ensure replacement of the I-85 bridge as quickly as possible. The Department has committed to a delivery date of June 15 to reopen this critical section of infrastructure to traffic.

PRESS RELEASE

Visit us on Facebook or Twitter.



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 more information on Georgia DOT, please visit www.dot.ga.gov. You also may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/GADeptofTrans>).



PRESS RELEASE

Visit us on Facebook or Twitter.

