



For Immediate Release:

Friday, March 31 2017

Contact:

Natalie Dale – 404.772.2836

Statement From Georgia DOT Commissioner Russell R. McMurry, PE I-85 near Piedmont Roadway Collapse

Georgia DOT Bridge Inspectors were on scene at the location of the I-85 bridge collapse overnight. Earlier this morning, a determination was made that the southbound sections of I-85 received damage from the fire requiring the replacement of those sections, as well as the collapsed section on the northbound bridge and possibly other adjacent sections.

The extent of the fire-related damage necessitates extensive reconstruction activities to ensure the safety of motorists. We began design of the known damaged sections last night and continue designs as information is received. At this time, we do not have an anticipated duration for the repairs as we have not been able to fully access the site due to hotspots, but we do know that it is expected to be a time consuming event.

The area in which the fire originated is part of the state's right of way that was utilized as a storage location for construction materials, equipment and supplies. The site was a secured area containing materials such as PVC piping which is a stable, non-combustible material. We are as eager to learn the cause of this fire as anyone, which is why we will continue to work closely and in full cooperation with fire investigators to determine exactly how the fire was started.

We ask for your continued patience as we gather more information and details on the required repairs and reconstruction activities needed to bring this roadway back to operational levels. Please visit www.dot.ga.gov, call 511 or follow us on Facebook for the latest updates.

###