

PRESS RELEASE

Visit us on Facebook or Twitter.



For Immediate Release:

Tuesday April 26, 2016

Contact:

Natalie Dale
404.631.1814

Georgia DOT's Planned Major Projects Good for All of Georgia

ATLANTA— Georgia is growing and quality transportation infrastructure is key to continued growth. The State is, currently, the 8th largest based on population, 24th largest based on land mass, the 10th largest transportation network in the nation, and has the 10th largest annual gross domestic product (GDP) of \$507 billion. As a result, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the State Transportation Board have worked with the Governor and the General Assembly to ensure that GDOT is strategically positioned to implement a comprehensive set of projects to maintain the state's economic competitiveness and be the number 1 state for business, work and play.

The recent passing of the Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 provides needed investment that will help improve the quality of life for Georgians in many ways. Taking care of the 10th largest transportation system is job one. Maintaining our roads in a state of good repair and replacing our deficient bridges are a must. And continuing to advance safety projects and capitalize on innovations and efficiencies such as roundabouts, diverging diamond interchanges, and deploying other new technologies will benefit Georgia.

With Atlanta ranked 9th most congested city in the U.S. by INRIX, Georgia DOT must address the current mobility challenges and begin to proactively address future needs. The Department is now underway to advance 11 major mobility improvement projects across the state that will yield significant reduction in congestion along these key freight and mobility corridors. The use of the Design, Build, Finance (DBF) contracting—the same method used on the I-285/GA 400 project has resulted in almost \$400 million in cost savings. Other public private partnership models will continue to provide resourceful solutions to address the state's transportation needs.

"Georgians will be happy to know these 11 projects will help reduce congestion across the entire transportation network," said Commissioner Russell R. McMurry. "We appreciate the support of the Governor and the Georgia General Assembly whose efforts played a significant role in ensuring our state remains competitive and meets the needs of all residents here."

The 11 major mobility improvement projects will be under contract over the next ten years. The projects include the reconfiguration of I-285/I-20 east side and west side interchanges to include additional lanes; auxiliary lanes; Collector-Distributor (CD) lanes; new Express Lanes on GA 400, I-285 top end, and I-285 on the east side and west side, north of I-20; and new general purpose lanes on I-85 from Hamilton Mill Road to US 129 in Gwinnett, Barrow and Jackson counties. Outside the metro Atlanta area, there will be new general purpose lanes on I-16 from I-516 to I-95; significant improvements to the I-16/I-95 interchange in Savannah and the building of dedicated lanes for trucks on I-75 northbound from Macon to McDonough.

"These projects will be transformational and will help to significantly move the needle on congestion in the metro area," Commissioner McMurry added. "Statewide these projects will improve mobility for the growing freight and logistics industry."

The combined projects will provide an additional 331 lane miles of new lanes that include 79 general purpose lane miles; 176 Express lanes miles and 76 truck only lane miles. Once these projects are built and operational, they will lead to travel time savings, compared to the option of doing nothing in the year 2030. Some examples of savings include:

- 19,000 hours of delay reduction each day in the GA 400 corridor;
- 6,700 hours of reduced delay each day on the top end of I-285;
- Over 1,600 hours of time savings each day on I-285 west wall;

PRESS RELEASE

Visit us on Facebook or Twitter.



- 69 percent reduction in delay on I-85 from SR 211 to US 129; and a
- 32 percent reduction in delay on I-16 from I-516 to I-95.

For more information about these major projects see the Planned Progress Fact Sheet at www.GAroads.org (click on View Fact Sheet). For additional information on the Transportation Funding Act and “How to Do Business” with Georgia DOT, visit <http://www.GAroads.org>.

In their 2015 legislative session, Georgia lawmakers addressed the state’s critical transportation infrastructure needs with passage of House Bill 170, Georgia’s transportation funding bill. The Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015 is expected to generate an estimated \$870 million in the first fiscal year. This sustained annual revenue will be used to fund much-needed routine maintenance and capital improvements. GDOT is planning now so that projects can advance quickly once funds are received starting in July 2016.

###