

For Immediate Release:

Wednesday, May 25, 2016

New Mt. Carmel Bridge Opens in Henry County

Construction of I-75 South Metro Express Lanes Clears a Significant Project Milestone



ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) announced the completion of the Mt. Carmel Bridge replacement project in McDonough, Georgia. The new bridge, an infrastructure improvement that replaces the previous bridge built in 1957, opened to traffic starting today, Wednesday, May 25, 2016.

"The completion of the Mt. Carmel Bridge is a significant milestone for the South Metro Express Lanes project," said Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell McMurtry, P.E. "The existing bridge had to be replaced to accommodate the Express Lanes, and I am very excited that we are able to open this new and improved bridge for the public to begin using ahead of schedule."

The new Mt. Carmel Bridge is an important element in the [I-75 South Metro Express Lanes Project](#) scheduled to open in early 2017. It allows for the construction of the Express Lanes that will travel under the bridge.

Construction of the new bridge was completed 10-days ahead of schedule and features two 14-foot travel lanes and sidewalks for pedestrians. The new bridge connects thru-traffic between the Mt. Carmel Road intersection at Jonesboro Road and Mill Road. A traffic signal was added at Mt. Carmel Road and Jonesboro Road as part of the project and is also in operation today.

“I am pleased with the progress being made on the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes, and today we are able to open the new Mt. Carmel Bridge much earlier than promised,” said Congressional District 13 State Transportation Board Member Dana Lemon. “The timely completion of the bridge returns complete access to the people that live and work in the area, and I look forward to the opening of the whole Express system early next year so everyone can take advantage of this mobility option.”

The I-75 South Metro Express Lanes project will add two reversible managed lanes along I-75 south of Atlanta. The project corridor extends 12 miles, from exit 216 (SR 155/McDonough Road) to exit 228 (SR 138/Stockbridge Hwy). The Express Lanes will operate northbound in the morning, moving toward the City of Atlanta and southbound in the evening. In coordination with Express Lanes program partner the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), Georgia DOT will work to ensure the lanes are flowing in the direction with the greatest travel demand.

About Georgia Express Lanes

Georgia Express Lanes are managed lanes that run alongside existing interstates in some of the most congested corridors around metro Atlanta. These lanes provide a choice for drivers to choose to bypass congestion when desired, offer a clear path for transit operators and add an alternative to the roads that exist today. Express Lanes are intended to provide a mobility choice and more reliable travel times in peak periods for motorists and bus patrons. All Georgia Express Lanes rely on dynamic pricing to maintain free-flowing travel even during peak travel times. Express Lanes are already open on I-85, and more corridors are in development. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL>.

For more information on the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes project, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/I75ExpressLanes>.