



For Immediate Release:

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Drive Alert. Arrive Alive.

ROAD WORK TAKES A BREATH THIS LABOR DAY WEEKEND

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. – To ease Labor Day weekend traffic congestion, the Georgia Department of Transportation is suspending construction-related lane closures on interstate highways and heavily traveled state routes in Northwest Georgia from 5:00 a.m. on Friday, September 2 until 5 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5.

“The only exception would be for emergency maintenance work in the case of traffic accidents, and other unpredictable types of transportation incidents,” said DeWayne Comer, district engineer at the Georgia DOT in Cartersville. “We understand that a lot of people are hitting the road for the Labor Day holiday and we would like to make it a little easier for them to go through northwest Georgia,” Comer explained. “We typically see an increase in roadway fatalities during heavy travel holidays,” Comer added. “We cannot overemphasize the need to slow down, drive alert and take every pre-caution to protect yourself and your passengers.”

The Department reminds travelers that crews may still be working in proximity to highways and state routes; and safety concerns may require some long-term lane closures to remain in place. Also, incident management or emergency, maintenance-related lane closures could become necessary at any time on any route.

For updated information about travel conditions on Georgia’s interstates and state routes, GDOT advises travelers to call 511 or consult www.511ga.org before heading out. Georgia 511 is a free service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Georgia DOT also advises motorists that - in the event of a crash or breakdown - to never get out of the car on a freeway, unless your life is in imminent danger. Pull onto the nearest shoulder as far from the travel lanes as possible and call 511 for HERO assistance in Metro Atlanta, or 911 for medical emergency service anywhere in Georgia.

Also note that Georgia’s Move-over Law requires drivers to move-over one lane when a law enforcement, emergency vehicle or construction crew is on the side of the road and displaying flashing emergency lights. If it is unsafe to move over, then slow down below the posted speed.

DriveAlert ArriveAlive calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. *DriveAlert ArriveAlive* implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA

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