

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Wednesday, April 25, 2012

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FOUR LANES TO OPEN MONDAY - SR 324 WIDENING GWINNETT COUNTY AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ROAD PROJECT

BUFORD, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation are planning to open all four lanes to traffic by 5 p.m. Monday, April 30. A new bridge was built as part of the one mile long widening of SR 324 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

“Monday after morning rush hour, work to open all the lanes will begin and it will be completed by 5 p.m. at the latest. Once all four lanes are open for use there is still work to be finished. Crews will install the permanent striping on the roadway, finish the concrete work in the median, complete dressing the shoulders and grassing as well as punch list details. Work will continue in the area until the end of May. Thank you for your patience as we’ve worked on this project. Opening all four lanes for you to use will improve the safety and traffic flow through the area. We look forward to finishing it for you,” explained Georgia DOT District Engineer, Bayne Smith.

The estimated construction cost is \$11.2 million. The project is 93% complete and on schedule for its completion date of May 31, 2012. Strickland and Sons Pipeline Inc., of Gainesville is the project’s contractor.

Georgia DOT is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia’s \$932 million in highway system ARRA funds. The remaining 30 percent is divided among the state’s 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and designated rural areas. The MPOs, in conjunction with the Department, are funding projects from these respective allocations. The state also received \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit and Georgia DOT has awarded related local grants totaling approximately \$39 million. Georgia is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America’s economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. Georgia DOT has created a Web page (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

All selected ARRA stimulus projects are fully funded by the federal government; no state or local matching funds are required.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone, web, and mobile service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be

used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. Additionally, 511 is available online or as a hybrid solution via a free download for your smart phone. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, its mobile application download, or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.511ga.org.