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**For Immediate Release:**

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### **First Phase of Spring Street Bridge Complete** *Second Phase to begin in 2016*

ATLANTA—The Georgia DOT announces the opening of the Northern phase of the Spring Street viaduct bridge today, September 1, 2015. The Northern phase of the bridge is on Spring Street from the end of the new viaduct construction north of Alabama Street to Marietta Street. The opening signifies a major push in the Department's effort to restore and replace Georgia's deteriorated bridges. To allow much needed access to the area during construction, the project was separated into a Northern and Southern phase.

The Northern phase of the project is complete and the Department reopened Spring Street from Marietta Street to Mitchell Street, allowing traffic to flow in both directions between Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Mitchell Street and in the northbound direction from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to Marietta Street. Due to advanced deterioration of the deck and concrete beam structure on Spring Street between Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Mitchell Street, the bridge load capacity has been reduced to five tons. Trucks and buses, including school buses, are not allowed on the structure. Only passenger vehicles will be allowed on Spring Street between the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Construction of the Southern phase of the bridge, which encompasses Spring Street from Mitchell Street to the start of the existing new viaduct construction at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from Forsyth Street to the intersection with Spring Street, has been delayed due to the Department's need to obtain right of way agreement with the General Services Administration (GSA). Completion of the GSA utility relocation activities, security fence installation and emergency egress installation is expected to occur June 2016. As a result, the detour associated with the Southern Phase is scheduled to occur between May 2016 and September 2016. The current schedule for construction completion of the southern section is tentatively August 2017. A definitive date for implementing the Southern Phase detour will be established once a relocation date for the GSA steam line has been agreed upon.

The ramp bridge structure on the south side of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive from Forsyth Street to Spring Street is currently closed and will remain closed due to continued deterioration of the deck, concrete columns and concrete beams. As the Department prepares to replace the currently closed southern ramp of Martin Luther King, Jr Drive due to its structural deficiency, and to ensure the safety of motorists, vehicles are no longer allowed to park on or under the ramp structure.

In October 2013, the Georgia DOT and the City of Atlanta let the project to replace the bridge structures at the following locations: Spring Street north of Alabama Street to Marietta Street; Spring Street from Mitchell St to MLK Jr. Drive; and MLK Jr Drive from Forsyth Street to Spring Street. The replacement of these bridge structures were the result of significant deterioration of the steel and concrete elements of the bridge structures. In addition to enhancing safety, replacing the bridge structure sections will enhance regional economic development efforts by improving accessibility and connectivity in the downtown corridor—keeping motorists, transit riders and freight deliveries flowing efficiently throughout the city.

"The Spring Street viaduct has served the City of Atlanta for nearly 91 years," said Albert Shelby, State Program Delivery Engineer. "Built in 1922, the Spring Street viaduct has been and remains a gateway to Downtown Atlanta. It

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is a major connector for residents, visitors, commuters and businesses. However, its current status indicates that the bridge is structurally deficient with advanced steel and concrete deterioration—requiring replacement.”

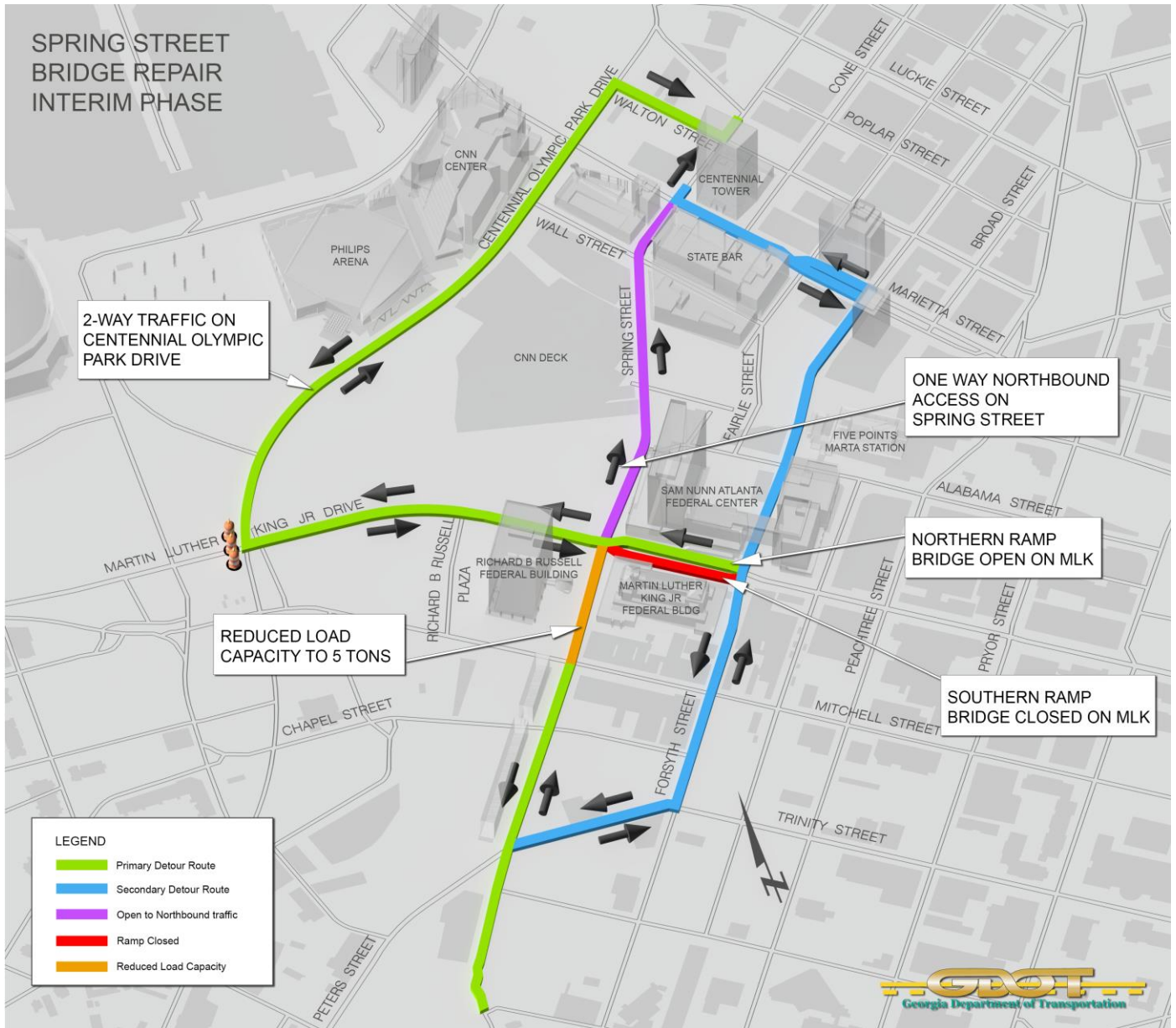
It is important to note that the Department reduced the load capacity of the Spring Street bridge between Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Mitchell Street as a result of progressive deterioration of the deck and concrete beams. The deck area between the Richard B. Russell Federal Building and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Building has deteriorated to the point it is no longer safe for truck traffic, and buses, including school buses. It is the responsibility of drivers of school buses, and all Commercial Drivers Licenses holders, to abide by all applicable laws regarding load restrictions on any bridge structure.

For more information and maps on the Spring Street bridge replacement project; visit [www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/SpringSt](http://www.dot.ga.gov/BS/Projects/SpringSt).

**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](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA). #ArriveAliveGA  
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