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**For Immediate Release:**  
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### **DOWNTOWN CONNECTOR PAVEMENT MARKING AND SR 120 RECONSTRUCTION IN COBB MAJOR WORK THIS WEEKEND**

**ATLANTA** – An effort to improve traffic flow on the Downtown Connector and the continuing reconstruction of a busy Marietta road are the principal Georgia Department of Transportation construction projects scheduled to take place this weekend in Metropolitan Atlanta. Both are likely to result in traffic delays.

The Connector work will install large thermoplastic color Interstate Highway shields in left southbound general purpose lanes at intermittent locations between Northside Drive on Interstate-75 through its merge with I-85 and continuing to approximately the North Avenue exit. The work will begin at 9 p.m., Friday, continue until 10 a.m., Saturday; resume at 9 p.m., Saturday, continue until 10 a.m., Sunday; and resume once more at 10 p.m., Sunday, and end at 5 a.m., Monday. At times Friday and Saturday night, as many as four southbound lanes will be closed for brief periods. Sunday night's schedule anticipates no more than two lanes being closed at a time. Still heavy delays are probable each night and motorists are encouraged to avoid the area if possible. The work is not expected to impact homecoming activities at Georgia Tech University, however, as it will not begin until some two hours after Tech's kickoff against the University of Pittsburgh. On subsequent weekends, the shields will be installed southbound to the Interstate Highway 20 interchange and northbound between that interchange and Brookwood.

“In the short distance between Brookwood and Interstate Highway 20, there are some two dozen entrance and exit ramps on the Connector. This large number, added to the Connector's heavy through-traffic

volume, results in delays and more accidents as the through and local traffic intermingle and weave from lane to lane,” Georgia DOT Metro District Construction Engineer Shun Pringle explained. “We are installing the interstate shields on the pavement to complement the overhead signage in encouraging through motorists on the Connector to utilize the left general purpose lanes, leaving the right general purpose lanes to local traffic entering and exiting between Brookwood and I-20. If both groups of drivers will follow this guidance, weaving between lanes will be reduced and they will find their trips on the Connector to be safer and quicker.”

Work also will continue in Cobb County this weekend on State Route 120 Alternate/ North Marietta Parkway, also known as the North Loop. Beginning at 9 p.m., Friday, through 5 a.m., Saturday, and again Saturday night to Sunday morning (and reoccurring the next two weekends), Georgia DOT contractors will completely close the North Loop from US 41/SR 3 to Gresham Road/Wallace Road to replace concrete slabs. The closures will also include the Loop interchange at I-75. Detours will be in place; major delays are expected. The work is expected to be completed by November 11, weather permitting. **The closures will only be in place on the weekends. State Route 120 and the interchange will be open on the weekdays.**

Other closures are likely as well related to the continuing construction of the new northbound flyover ramps at the I-85/GA 400 interchange. Intermittent closures are planned on Sidney Marcus Boulevard in both directions from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., both Saturday and Sunday and also may occur during that same time in the inside (left) lanes of GA 400 both north and southbound for sign foundation construction. Motorists traveling in this area also should be aware that many surface streets will have sporadic lane closures for related work.

Finally, overnight bridge joint replacements will continue on State Route 13/Buford-Spring Connector southbound between Lindberg and Armour drives between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m., Friday and Saturday. One lane will be closed and backups are likely here as well.

All work and lane closures are weather permitting. Additional information is available via the following attachments:

Attachments (3):

- Complete list of Metro Atlanta weekend projects,
- List of weekend interstate projects outside Metro Atlanta,
- Metro Atlanta weekend special events list.

*Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators to 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. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, visit [511ga.org](http://511ga.org). For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>; you also may follow Georgia DOT on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) (<http://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT>) and [Twitter](http://twitter.com/qadepoftrans) (<http://twitter.com/qadepoftrans>).*

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