

# Georgia Traffic Incident Management Program



## Q4 2025 NEWSLETTER



CHAMP Push Pull Training

### QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT

Recently, GDOT’s Coordinated Highway and Assistance Maintenance Program (CHAMP) was granted additional authority to make clearing roadway incidents more efficient. Existing Georgia Quick Clearance legislation states that *“State or local law enforcement officers and the department are further authorized, with or without the consent of the owner, to remove or have removed any obstruction, cargo, or personal property which is abandoned, unattended, or damaged as a result of a vehicle accident which the department determines to be a threat to public health or safety or to mitigate traffic congestion.”* (GA Code § 40-6-275) Based on the wording and the fact that a vendor manages the CHAMP Program on behalf of GDOT, operators typically sought authorization from law enforcement or department of transportation employees before moving vehicles and cargo involved in crashes or left abandoned along interstate roadways.

### WELCOME!

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- LMS Info

CHAMP Push Pull Training



# QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT CONT.

GDOT has now contractually authorized CHAMP to make decisions and immediately move vehicles and cargo obstructing roadways without having to seek concurrence from other agencies. This decision is a result of communication between public and private partners to continue GDOT's goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries and to make Georgia's roads safer for everyone.

To facilitate quicker clearance of roadway obstructions, CHAMP staff were recently trained on their updated authority along with being shown techniques to properly push, pull, and drag obstacles from travel lanes safely and efficiently. Training was developed, delivered, and is now part of the continuing education curriculum for CHAMP staff across the State of Georgia. This initiative reduces the time it takes to authorize quick clearance, which translates to more efficient clearance of roadway incidents, safer scene management by TIM personnel, and safer roadway management for the traveling public.

Agencies that assisted with this training:

<b>District 1</b> , Northeast Region	Seymour's Towing
<b>District 2</b> , East Central Region	Meadows Paint & Body Shop
<b>District 3</b> , West Central Region	Alexander's Towing
<b>District 3</b> , West Central Region	M&M Towing and Recovery
<b>District 4</b> , Southwest Region	ABC Wrecker and Recovery
<b>District 5</b> , Southeast Region	Landon's Towing & Recovery
<b>District 6</b> , Northwest Region	Matthews Garage Inc.

# TRAINING UPDATES

## HERO NATIONAL TIM RESPONDER TRAINING



*HERO National TIM Responder Training*

In December 2025, a new class of HERO trainees underwent an important step in their training: National TIM Responder Training. They received a highly interactive and engaging version of this training, delivered by the Statewide Traffic Incident Management Services team. This team is built to utilize personnel with extensive experience as sworn public safety responders, and this expertise is put to good use assisting the HERO program with training and graduating successful HERO operators.

In addition to this cornerstone TIM training, HERO trainees are further trained by experts and certified in Basic Life Support (CPR) and Emergency Medical Responder over a two-week period. These certifications are only part of the rigorous training schedule that HERO trainees must complete before becoming HERO operators.

These certifications and the other weeks of training they receive ensure that HERO operators are highly trained and prepared for whatever challenges greet them whenever they arrive on scene to assist motorists or responders.



*HERO National TIM Responder Training*

# TMC EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

## CONGRATULATIONS, MARZEE SHORT!

Marzee Short has spent much of her career in transportation operations and currently is the lead trainer at the Atlanta Transportation Management Center (TMC). In this role, she focuses on supporting staff, improving processes, and helping ensure everyone has the tools and information they need to be successful.

Marzee shared that her current role manifested through a combination of her own efforts and fortunate circumstances, detailing: “Whenever opportunities came up to assist with training or share information, I naturally stepped in. Over time, those experiences led me into my current role. In many ways, the position found me because it aligns with my strengths and my passion for supporting the team and helping others succeed.”



*Marzee Short, TMC Lead Trainer*

Recently, Marzee was instrumental in training the SR400 Peach Partners group, for which she developed the full training program to help prepare this team for operating within the SR400 corridor. SR400 Peach Partners is the new provider responsible for maintenance and operations along SR400, covering about 16 miles of roadway from Fulton County north of Abernathy Road into Forsyth County.

When asked about the development of this training, Marzee shared:

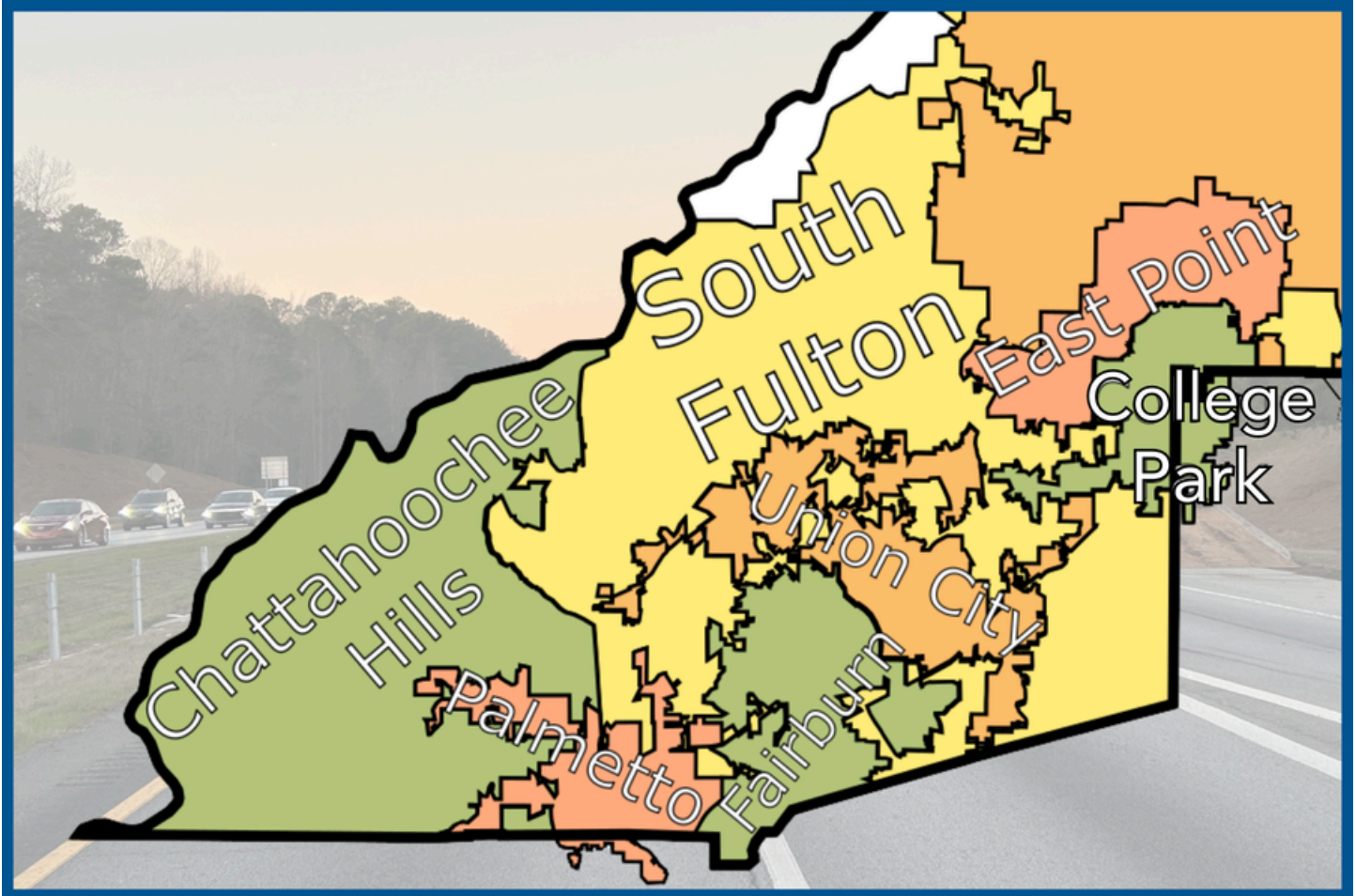
“I created the curriculum, standard operating procedures, and a training manual to ensure the staff had clear guidance and consistent processes to follow. The training lasted four weeks and included practice scenarios, quizzes, and a final certification to make sure everyone felt confident in their roles.

The goal of the program was to ensure their team was well prepared to support the corridor by focusing on faster response and clearance times, improving safety for responders and motorists, relocating incidents quickly when possible, and providing IRU services comparable to HERO operations. It was a great experience to help build a training program that supports such an important corridor.”

When asked about her career highlights, Marzee cited this project: “The SR400 Peach Partners project is one of my biggest accomplishments so far.... Being able to create resources, share knowledge, and support the professional growth of others has been very meaningful to me. It’s rewarding to know that the work I do helps strengthen the team and supports our overall mission.”

This accomplishment is a wonderful testament to the value Marzee adds to GDOT’s TMC. Congratulations, Marzee!

## TIM TEAM OF THE QUARTER: CONGRATULATIONS, FULTON SOUTH!



*Map of Southern Fulton County*

The fourth quarter of 2025 saw the addition of our newest TIM Team: the Fulton County (South) TIM Team. What was once one TIM Team for all of Fulton County, has been split between this newest team, and the City of Atlanta and Fulton County (North) TIM Teams. This restructuring of TIM Team meetings in Fulton County was initiated after an analysis of county geography, responder engagement levels, and the number of traffic incidents, which pointed to a new model of organization.

The process to start up a new TIM Team takes time and relies on the support of response agency leadership in the area. Union City Fire Chief Joe Maddox and South Fulton Fire Chief Chad Jones were instrumental in helping to organize the meeting, setting an agenda, and playing host for the approximately 20-person team that attended the inaugural meeting. Their assistance, as well as the active participation of responder attendees, made the first meeting a success.

We look forward to seeing what the Fulton County (South) TIM Team accomplishes in 2026.

# INNOVATION OF THE QUARTER

## EV Rescue Platform Application

### Critical Electric / Hybrid Vehicle Emergency Information

Each quarter, responders are informed of the TIM program's innovative technology that can support their work out on the roads. A growing concern for many responders across Georgia is electric vehicles, which can pose unique complications when involved in an incident. EVRescueApp.org created an app to help responders quickly access information on these vehicles should they encounter an unfamiliar situation, potentially helping reduce risk and clearance times at incidents.

#### EV Rescue Platform Provides First Responders with Critical Electric / Hybrid Vehicle Emergency Information

As electric vehicles (EV) continue to grow in popularity, emergency responders are increasingly encountering incidents involving high-voltage batteries, specialized vehicle construction, and unique rescue challenges. The EV Rescue platform, available through [EVRescueApp.org](http://EVRescueApp.org), provides first and secondary responders with a powerful mobile and web-based tool designed to quickly identify EVs and access critical vehicle manufacturers' emergency response information.

The EV Rescue application contains the largest collection of Emergency Response Guides for electric and hybrid vehicles, allowing responders to rapidly locate vehicle-specific safety information in seconds. These guides include detailed diagrams showing the locations of batteries, high-voltage cables, disconnect points, lifting and stabilization points, and other potential hazards that responders must be aware of during an incident.

In addition to vehicle hazard identification, the platform provides operational guidance for a wide range of emergency scenarios. Responders can quickly reference procedures for disabling vehicles, gaining patient access during extrication, managing fires involving EV battery systems, handling submerged vehicles, and safely towing or storing damaged vehicles.

Designed for fire departments, law enforcement, towing professionals, and other emergency personnel, the EV Rescue platform helps ensure responders have immediate access to the information they need to operate safely and effectively when seconds matter most. With hundreds of vehicle-specific guides available and new models continually added, the platform is helping set a new standard for EV incident response.

To learn more about the EV Rescue platform or to access the application, visit [EVRescueApp.org](http://EVRescueApp.org), or scan the QR code.

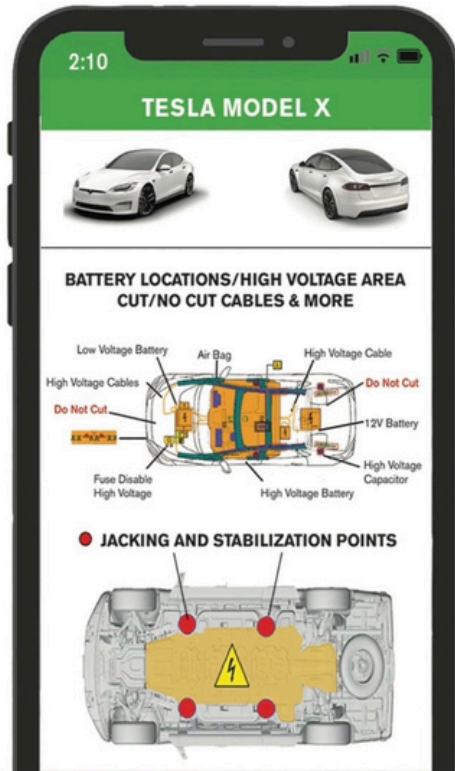
Email: [EvRescue@EvrescueApp.org](mailto:EvRescue@EvrescueApp.org)

To download the App, visit your app store and search: EV RESCUE

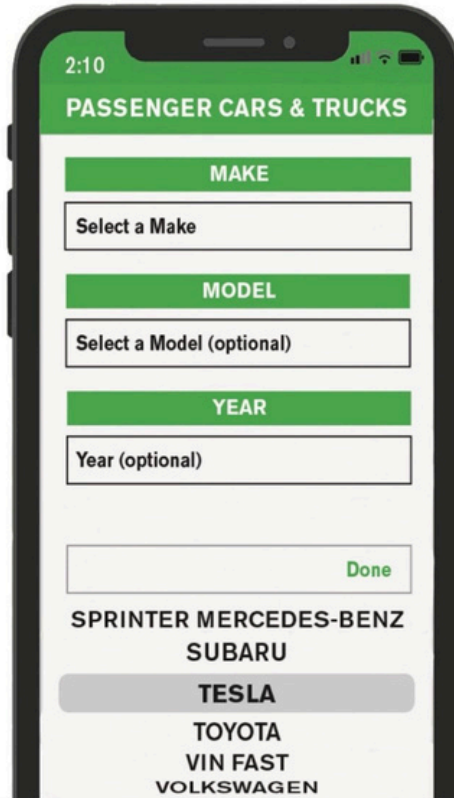


# EV RESCUE APP

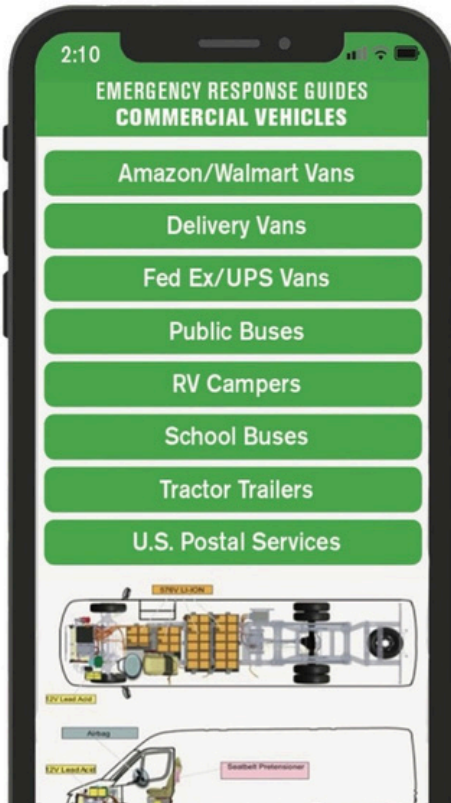
**Battery Locations/High Voltage Area  
Cut/No Cut Cables  
Jacking & Stabilization Points & More**



**Quickly Locate Guides  
For ALL Electric Vehicles**



**Commercial Vehicles  
Emergency Response Guides**



**ERG For Charging Stations  
Home & Commercial Use**



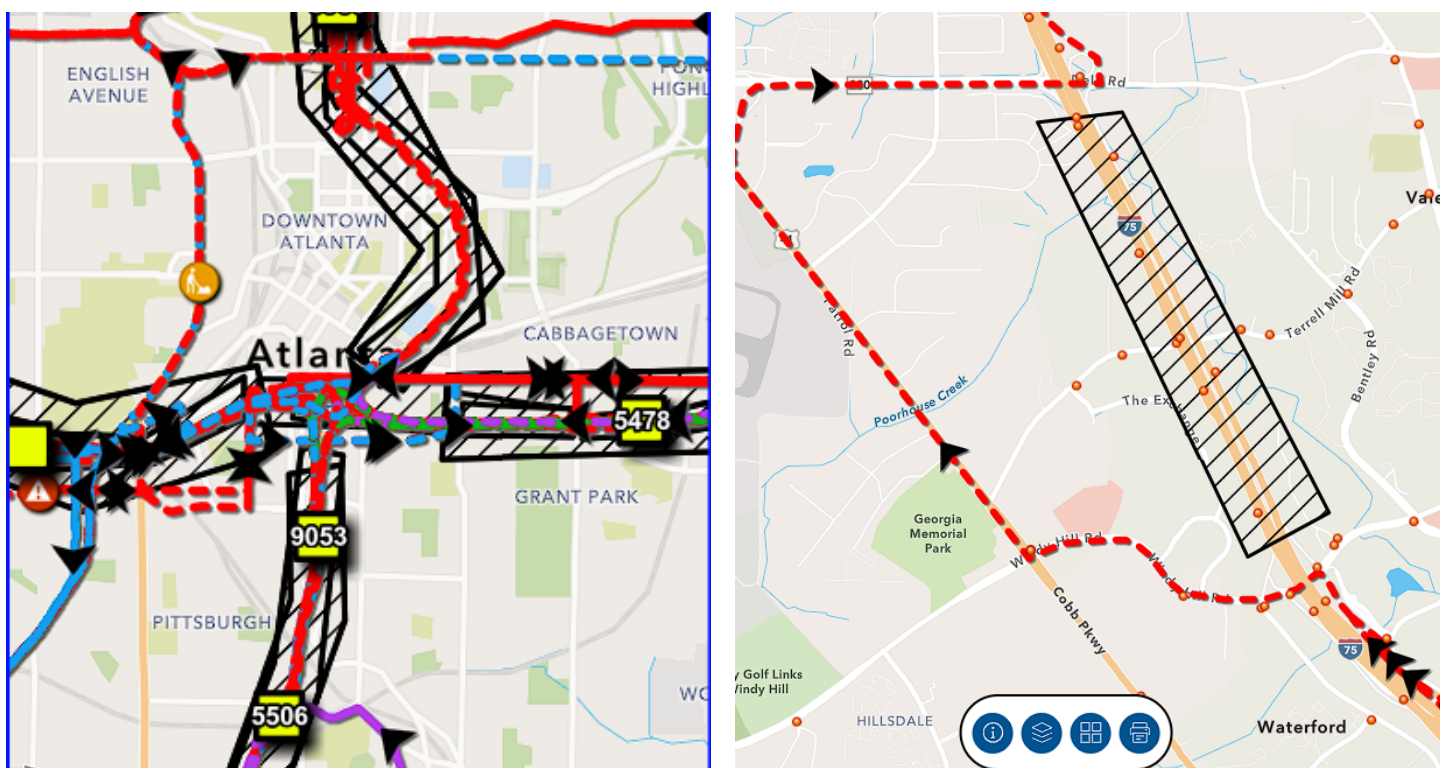
# GDOT'S STRATEGIC DETOUR ROUTE PLANNING INITIATIVE

To improve safety and mobility across Georgia's roadways, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has launched a comprehensive Strategic Detour Route Planning initiative. This effort is designed to address the increasing frequency of road closures caused by crashes, construction, and natural disasters—events that can significantly disrupt traffic flow and emergency response.

This initiative establishes a consistent, statewide framework for identifying, evaluating, and implementing detour routes along Georgia's busiest corridors. By leveraging geographic information system technology and cross-disciplinary collaboration, GDOT is creating pre-approved paths that can be quickly activated during major incidents. These routes are designed with input from traffic engineers, transportation management center operators, district staff, and signal operations teams to ensure they are both practical and responsive to real-world conditions.

A key feature of the program is its ability to streamline decision-making during emergencies. Operators can access pre-mapped routes and dynamic message sign templates, allowing for rapid deployment of clear, coordinated guidance to motorists. This reduces confusion, minimizes secondary crashes, and supports quick clearance efforts.

As planning continues across additional districts, GDOT's Strategic Detour Route Planning initiative represents a forward-thinking approach to traffic incident management, one that prioritizes safety, efficiency, and statewide consistency.



Examples of Detour Route Plans



Heavy Wrecker Technical Rescue Training for Responders

## UPCOMING EVENTS

For the latest information on training in your area, please check the [TIME Task Force calendar](#) or scan the QR code below to visit the website. NOTE: All dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Register for the event to receive email updates and monitor the website calendar to verify before travelling to a meeting.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN A TIM TEAM



Interested in TIM Team meetings or TIM training? Visit [the TIME Task Force website](#) or scan the QR code to learn more. Questions? Contact [TIMteams@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIMteams@dot.ga.gov).



National TIM Responder Training

## INTERESTED IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE NEWSLETTER?

[Share](#) an innovation your agency is implementing in your local community or a notable effort in traffic incident management.

## LMS INFORMATION

GDOT's STIMS learning management system (LMS) provides a free online centralized hub for registered users to have full access to and management of their training content. You can do things like view the course catalog, enroll in courses, track progress, and view and download your course completion certificates.

The LMS portal has training content in the areas of NIMS, National TIM Responder Training, TIM, professional development, and much more. These will be readily accessible to you by a quick login to the LMS platform after your user profile has been created. Happy Learning!

To enjoy user benefits and create your account, please email us at [TIM\\_Training@dot.ga.gov](mailto:TIM_Training@dot.ga.gov).

Want to stay up to date with transportation news and trends from GDOT? Check out their [Ahead of the Curve Podcast!](#)