



PRESSRELEASE

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Georgia DOT holds town hall meeting for the I-285 at Flat Shoals bridge project

SR 155/Flat Shoals Bridge Reconstruction in Dekalb County

ATLANTA – On Monday, Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) joined with local officials in a town hall meeting to discuss developments and next steps for the ongoing I-285 at Flat Shoals Road bridge reconstruction project.

The meeting was held to provide updates to area business owners and residents regarding the I-285 Flat Shoals project and to answer attendees' questions regarding its status. The project has been delayed due to unforeseen utility issues which have affected the initial timeline for the delivery of the project, originally slated for September 2017.

"We are sincerely apologetic for the lack of information and for the inconvenience caused by the delay of this project," said State Transportation Board member Stacey Key, who represents Congressional District 5. "We are truly committed to proactively sharing regular updates, engaging more with the community and working together to find solutions to help move this project forward as quickly as possible."

Kathy Zahul, District Metro Atlanta Engineer, briefed the audience in detail about the delays caused primarily by the unexpected obstacles Georgia DOT has encountered. "The most complex issue is related to a live water line just west of the Panthersville Road

crossing at I-285,” said Zahul. “It wasn’t until after excavating did we realize that the water line rises up at approximately a 45 degree angle, impeding into the road bed. However, once the line was discovered Georgia DOT developed a plan to replace it.” She explained that the processes of redesigning the water line, acquiring environmental approvals to replace it and the method of micro-tunneling the waterline under I-285 have added approximately 18 months to the timeline.

While construction on the project continues, Georgia DOT has committed to regularly pick up litter and mow areas surrounding the project site. Also, to help motorists avoid further delays, the Department will work to adjust signal timing to alleviate existing congestion in this area, and will add signage and striping to help improve pedestrian safety.

The current project completion date has been extended to February 2019, but Georgia DOT hopes to find ways to accelerate the progress. “We have a team of constructability experts at Georgia DOT reviewing the project plans and working with the contractor to identify opportunities to expedite construction,” said Zahul. “Currently, nothing is off the table.”

The ongoing bridge project will provide two through lanes in each direction, bike lanes on both sides, and dual left-turn lanes from SR 155 northbound and southbound onto I-285 eastbound and westbound. In addition, the interstate exit will also be widened to provide dual left-turn and dual right-turn lanes onto SR 155/Flat Shoals. The Interstate entrance ramps will be widened to provide three lanes at the ramp intersections with SR 155. Lanes will taper down to one lane prior to the ramp nose point with I-285; and walls will be constructed under the Panthersville Road Bridge at I-285 to allow the ramps to be extended under the bridge.

For more information and continuous updates, visit www.FlatShoals285.org our statewide 511 travel system and our social media channels— Twitter (<http://twitter.com/GDOTATL>) and Facebook (www.facebook.com/GDOTMETROATL).

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