



STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Press Release

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Contact: David Spear or Jill Goldberg
(404) 631-1825 or (404) 631-1828

Transportation Board Advances Vital Northwest Corridor Project

ATLANTA – The Northwest Corridor – Georgia’s first Public Private Partnership (P3) transportation venture – got a major boost today as the State’s Transportation Board agreed to a financing methodology for the 30-mile managed lane project along Interstate Highways 75 and 575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties.

Under terms of a pending agreement between the Board and the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), the Georgia Department of Transportation will make available up to \$536 million for the project’s estimated \$950 million cost. Other funding will come from a combination of State bond sales, a low-interest loan from the federal government and an equity investment by the private partner chosen to design and build it. The bond and loan debt will be retired by tolls SRTA collects from the new roadway’s users.

The NWC project will build two new managed lanes along the west side of I-75 between its interchanges with I-285 and I-575. The lanes will be separated from the existing interstate and will be reversible so that both will carry traffic southbound during morning commute hours and northbound in the evenings. Above the I-575 interchange, one new reversible lane will be added in the I-75 center median to Hickory Grove Road and a similar new I-575 lane will extend to Sixes Road. A variable-rate toll, based on traffic volume, will be assessed for access to the lanes.

Meanwhile, Georgia DOT staff continues informational meetings with the four organizations under consideration as the project private partner:

- C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc., and the Michael Baker Corp.;
- Fluor-Lane LLC;
- Georgia Transportation Partners – comprised of Bechtel Infrastructure Corp., Kiewit Infrastructure South Co., Dewberry and Davis, LLC, and STV Inc.; and
- Northwest Express Road Builders – comprised of Archer Western Contractors, The Hubbard Group and Parsons Corp.

The Department expects to issue its NWC Request for Proposals in December and select its “best value” design/build contractor next July. Construction activities tentatively would begin in the summer of 2014 and the Northwest Corridor would open to traffic in the spring of 2018.

The State Transportation Board determines policy for and exercises general governance of Georgia’s Department of Transportation. The Board’s 13 members, representing each of the state’s congressional districts, serve staggered, five-year terms. Board members are elected by those state senators and representatives whose legislative districts fall within all or part of the relevant congressional district. In January, the Board will expand to 14 members as Georgia’s population growth results in the addition of a 14th member to the state’s U.S. House of Representatives delegation.

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