

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MEDIA RELEASE

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OPENING OF ALL LANES DELAYED SR 324 WIDENING AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ROAD PROJECT

BUFORD, GA – The planned opening of the new lanes to traffic on SR 324/Gravel Springs Road Monday, April 30 is now delayed. Earthwork in the median and along the shoulder of the roadway must be completed before all lanes can be opened for use. A new opening date will be scheduled as the necessary work is completed.

A one mile section of SR 324 from Ivy Creek Road to Kirkstone Drive was widened to a four lane divided highway including a wider bridge over Interstate 85 funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

The estimated construction cost is \$11.2 million. The project is 93% complete and is on schedule for its completion date of May 31, 2012. Strickland and Sons Pipeline Inc., of Gainesville is the project's contractor.

Georgia DOT is responsible for 70 percent of Georgia's \$932 million in highway system ARRA funds. The remaining 30 percent is divided among the state's 15 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and designated rural areas. The MPOs, in conjunction with the Department, are funding projects from these respective allocations. The state also received \$144 million in stimulus funds for public transit and Georgia DOT has awarded related local grants totaling approximately \$39 million. Georgia is eligible for additional highway, rail and aviation grants from funds totaling \$12.1 billion.

The ARRA is a national effort to create jobs and transform America's economy to compete in the 21st century. Nationwide, some \$48 billion in stimulus investments are being made in transportation infrastructure, including highways, public transit, high speed rail and aviation. Georgia DOT has created a Web page (www.dot.ga.gov/gastimulus) devoted to stimulus activities to provide specific program information and promote transparency of the process.

All selected ARRA stimulus projects are fully funded by the federal government; no state or local matching funds are required.

Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone, web, and mobile service. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators 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 or as a hybrid solution via a free download for your smart phone. Georgia DOT partners with sponsors for assistance in funding 511, preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, its mobile application download, or to learn how to become a sponsor, visit www.511ga.org.