

I-75 at Akers Mill Road New Express Lanes Direct Access Ramp

P.I. Number: 0015051 | Cobb County/Cumberland CID

Frequently Asked Questions

Project Details

What is the I-75 at Akers Mill Road New Express Lanes Ramp Project?

To improve access, The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) added a new reversible ramp to the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes from Akers Mill Road, located between I-75 northbound and I-75 southbound, providing a direct connection to the managed lane system.

The ramp serves as an exit ramp from the express lanes in the morning when the direction of travel is southbound and serves as an entrance ramp to the express lanes system in the evening when the direction of travel is northbound.

- The Akers Mill Ramp provides safe and direct access into the I-75 Northwest Express Lanes System. Users must have a Peach Pass or interoperable toll transponder in a vehicle as the toll collection device.
- Previous access to Northwest Corridor Express Lanes was a slip ramp/merge access point just north of Akers Mill Road.
- The project begins approximately 400 feet south of the existing Akers Mill Bridge over I-75 and ends approximately 275 feet south of the existing Windy Ridge Parkway bridge over I-75 for a total project mainline length of 0.7 miles.
- The new access ramp features gates at both the entry and exit point, which alerts drivers when a direction of the express lanes is closed. The ramp is 24-feet wide for the reversible lanes plus break-down shoulders and widens to 50 feet at Akers Mill. It includes a barrier separated entrance to the northbound managed lanes.

What are the benefits of the I-75 at Akers Mill Road New Express Lanes Ramp?

Improves mobility and the reliability of commutes facilitating direct, safe access to the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes for daily commuters traveling to and from the Cumberland area. Cumberland serves as Atlanta's fifth largest job center and a major culture and entertainment destination with a \$26.6 billion annual economic impact on Georgia's economy. Over 3,700 businesses and 31,000 residents call Cumberland home, and the access ramp improves traffic flow to and from popular destinations.

Where is the Project?



What is the design configuration for the direct access ramp at Akers Mill Road?

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Project Delivery Information

How was this project delivered?

The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes project was previously delivered through the Georgia DOT P3 Division, first Design-Build-Finance project. The I-75 at Akers Mill Road New Express Lanes Ramp was designed by the Georgia DOT Office of Program Delivery (OPD)/Parsons. Construction is being managed by Georgia DOT's District 7 and contractor, C.W. Matthews. Now that the Akers Mill ramp is operational,



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State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) will continue to be responsible for the tolling and operations of the access ramp/Northwest Corridor Express Lanes.

What's the schedule?

The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes opened to traffic on September 8, 2018.

Construction of the I-75 at Akers Mill Road New Direct Access Express Lanes Ramp started in October 2021. On January 24, 2025, the new Akers Mill Road access ramp opened to traffic. Final completion is currently scheduled for spring 2025.

Who is able to use the new Akers Mill Road Access Ramp?

All drivers are able to use the express lanes if they register and obtain a Peach Pass. Regardless of the number of occupants in a car (e.g. solo driver, or driver and two passengers, etc.), commuters who wish to access the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes are required to pay a fee. However, registered transit, vanpools, and emergency vehicles are exempt from paying a fee. Clear signage on how to use the system will be displayed along the corridor. Information on obtaining and using the Peach Pass is available at www.PeachPass.com or by calling the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at 1-855-PCH-PASS (724-7277).

Georgia Express Lanes

What are express lanes?

The express lanes are optional, dynamical priced manage lanes that provide a choice for drivers to bypass congestion, have a predicable and reliable trip and improve mobility for express lanes users and transit riders along a express lanes corridor.

How have the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes benefited the region?

The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes are at times 18 mph faster than the general purpose lanes during peak travel times. Travel in the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes are also up to 27% faster than the general purpose lanes during peak travel times.

The Cumberland area has an annual economic impact of \$26.6 billion on Georgia's economy, and this new access point will provide safe and easy access to the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes for those who live and work in the area.

How do the Express Lanes work?

Motorists have a choice to use the express lanes, but must pay a toll to bypass congestion in the general purpose lanes. Users must have a Peach Pass or interoperable toll transponder in a vehicle as the toll collection device. The toll rates vary based on real-time traffic conditions on the corridor to ensure that the express lanes provide reliable travel times. Advanced signage will display the current toll rate prior to entering the express lanes. Information on obtaining and using the Peach Pass is available at www.PeachPass.com.

Project Funding

What is the cost of the Akers Mill Road Access Ramp Project?

The approximate construction cost is \$26.5 million.

How is this project being funded?

The Atlanta Regional Commission partnered with the Cumberland CID to allocate funding for this project. The collective investment by all of the local, state, and federal funding partners contributes to Atlanta's Regional economic development making the project extremely impactful to the area.

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