



September 29, 2014 & October 2, 2014

Thank you for attending the Public Information Open House for the proposed I-85 Express Lanes Extension Project, PI Number 110600. Our goal is two-fold: 1) to provide you with information on the proposed project and 2) to provide an opportunity for you to give us your comments on the proposed project. In this handout package, you will find a description of the project, fact sheet, frequently asked questions, and a comment card.

As you enter the room, please take a look at the project display. Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) representatives, wearing nametags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. There will be no formal presentation.

We hope you will take the opportunity to tell Georgia DOT what you think. Listed below are several ways to comment on the project. Your comments are important to us and, should you provide comments by one of the methods noted below, we will respond to you in writing usually within the next 45 days. All comments will become part of the project's official record.

While you are attending the open house, you can **provide your comments today** by filling out the comment card provided with this handout and dropping it in the comment box, or you may choose to provide your verbal comments to the court reporter who will transcribe your comments.

You can also **provide your comments by Sunday, October 13, 2013** by using either of the following methods:

- Online at www.dot.ga.gov.
 1. Click *Information Center* on the upper right side of the page;
 2. Click *Public Outreach* in the Public Events block;
 3. From the menu, select the county in which the proposed project is located and click *Go*;
 4. Then select *I-85 Express Lanes Extension*;
 5. Lastly, click *Comment* and follow the instructions to leave your comments.
- Mail in your comment card to Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308.

The project displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after this open house at the *Information Center* at www.dot.ga.gov, described above. Hardcopies will also be available at the Georgia DOT Georgia Department of Transportation Office of Environmental Services located at 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308 and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, District 1 Office, 2505 Athens Hwy SE, Gainesville, GA 30507. Following the ten-day public comment period, a copy of all comments received will be available by request at the Atlanta address listed above.

Again, thank you for attending this open house. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the project manager, Andrew Hoenig, P.E., at 404-631-1757 or the environmental analyst, Zachary Adriaenssens, at 404-631-1650 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

Hiral Patel, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation

Project Description

This project proposes the addition of 10 miles of newly constructed toll lanes north of the existing I-85 Express Lanes. Located entirely within Gwinnett County, one northbound and one southbound toll lane will operate north of the existing express lanes on I-85 at Old Peachtree Road and will extend to Hamilton Mill Road. These lanes will be designed to improve traffic flow, increase options for motorists and transit and registered vanpool customers, provide reliable trip times, create jobs and bring economic benefits to the residents of this region. These lanes will be managed by a variable priced tolling system similar to the existing I-85 Express Lanes. In addition to the toll lanes, new auxiliary lanes are proposed for construction to keep traffic moving in the congested areas of the corridor. Auxiliary lanes are constructed between on- and off-ramps to allow drivers a safe way to merge into traffic while also preventing bottlenecks caused by drivers attempting to enter or exit the freeway.

Quick Facts

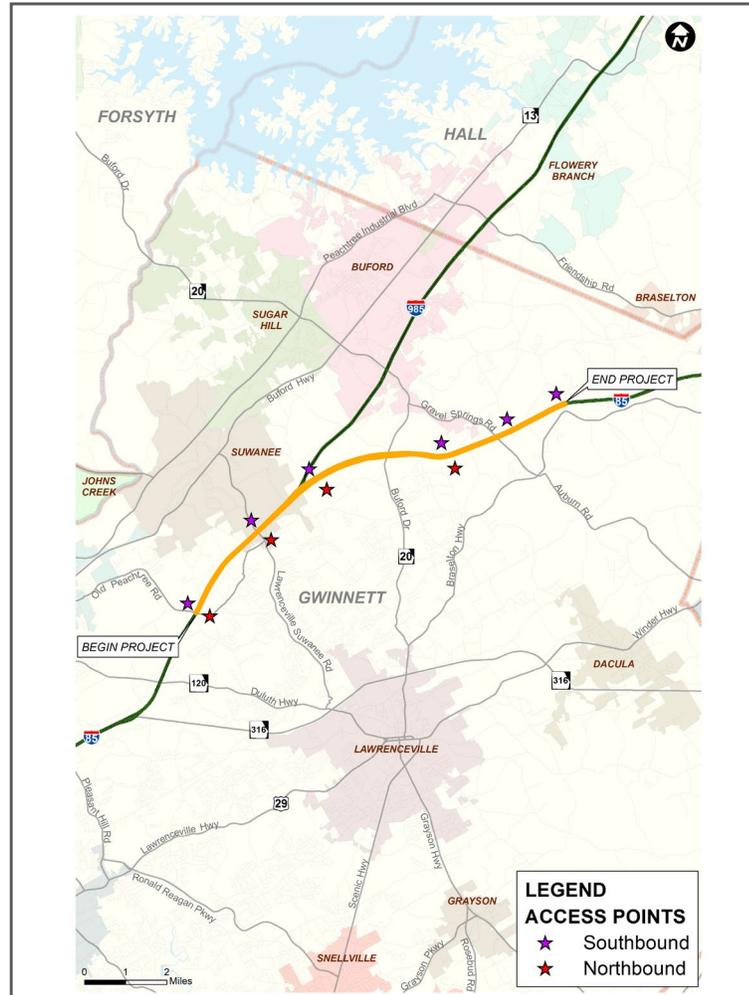
- Project length is 10 miles
- Project cost estimate: \$110 million
- Project includes one new northbound express lane and one new southbound express lane
- Project delivery method: Design-Build-contractor and designer working together to design and construct the project
- South of I-985, the project proposes new capacity along I-85 outside of existing mainline; north of I-985, the new capacity would be on the inside shoulder along the four-lane section
- Proposed auxiliary lanes will provide better traffic flow between key interchanges: I-85 southbound from SR 20 to SR 317/Lawrenceville Suwanee and I-85 northbound from SR 20 to SR 324/Gravel Springs Road overpass

Contact

Andrew Hoenig, P.E.

I-85 Express Lanes Project Manager
Georgia Department of Transportation
One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, GA 30308
404.347.0185 (Managed Lanes Hotline)
managedlaneinfo@dot.ga.gov

Project Area



Current Phase

Environmental / Design

Project Schedule*

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| • Fall 2014 | Public Information Open Houses |
| • Winter 2015 | Request for Proposal Advertisement |
| • Spring 2015 | Final Environmental Document |
| • Winter 2016 | Construction Begins |
| • 2018 | Open to Traffic |

*Many project elements are dependent upon the review and approvals of state and federal partner agencies and may be subject to change based on their feedback.

What is the I-85 Express Lanes Project?

The project involves the addition of one managed lane in each direction along I-85 in north metro Atlanta from Old Peachtree Road to Hamilton Mill Road in Gwinnett County, and an additional auxiliary lane southbound from SR 20/Buford Drive to SR 317/Lawrenceville Suwanee Road and northbound from SR 20/Buford Drive to SR 324/Gravel Springs Road. The purpose of this new managed lane project is to provide commuters with a more reliable, free-flow commute option that will complement the state's multi-modal approach to managing traffic demand. This includes transit and roadway investments in the I-85 corridor that will be a part of a future system of managed lanes in the Atlanta region. The project is approximately 10 miles in length.

Is it an extension of the I-85 Express Lanes?

Yes. This project will begin at the end of the current I-85 Express Lanes to Hamilton Mill Rd.

What is the purpose of the managed lane?

The purpose of the proposed managed lanes is to create realistic travel time through the use of variable priced tolling to manage volume in the lanes and maintain a minimum average speed.

How does the express lane work?

In order to keep traffic moving even during rush hours, the toll would increase to ensure the optimal number of cars utilize the lanes, allowing a smooth flow of traffic in the lanes. Motorists can see the posted cost and be able to decide whether or not to move into the managed lane. Through the use of Electronic Toll Collection, toll plazas would not be necessary, allowing traffic to maintain highway speeds.

Will everyone have to pay to use the express lanes?

No. Vanpools, transit, on-call emergency vehicles, alternate fuel vehicles (AFV) and motorcycles would be able to use the express lanes without paying if they have an active Peach Pass account with a Peach Pass transponder in the vehicle. Three person carpools may also use the system free of charge if they have a registered Peach Pass and have declared their travel status as "non-toll" mode at least 15 minutes before using the lanes. Single and double occupant vehicles would be able to use the lanes for a fee.

Are express lanes only for the wealthy or will they be affordable for everyone?

Research from other states with tolled managed lanes has shown that they are used by people of all income levels. Decisions to use the tolled managed lane are based more on individual needs and traffic conditions rather than on income levels. For example, tolled managed lanes provide reliable trip time for parents picking up their children from daycare or workers late for a meeting or getting to a job more efficiently.

How will users pay to use an express lane?

Tolls would be collected on the I-85 Express Lanes using the Peach Pass, an electronic toll collection device that is attached to your vehicle windshield (or bumper mount for select vehicles). The Peach Pass is connected to an account established with the Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) that automatically deducts the proper tolls when used in any of the tolled managed lane systems. It is a safe, secure, and convenient option that eliminates the need to stop at a tollbooth.

What price do I pay if the price changes while I'm in the lane?

The price you will pay is the price indicated on the sign at the time you enter the lane. If the price changes while you are in the lane it will not impact you.

What is the impact of travel during construction?

GDOT will not know construction impacts until a contractor has been selected to build the project, and a construction plan is in place. More details would be shared as they become available.

Was a noise study conducted for the proposed area of impact? If so, what are the findings?

The noise study is currently being revised based on new traffic data. In accordance with 23 CFR Part 772, all impacts identified would be studied to determine if abatement measures in the forms of, acquisition of rights-of-way, traffic management, alteration of horizontal and vertical alignments, and structural barriers are feasible and reasonable. Additional public involvement would be conducted in the areas where noise barriers would be recommended.

How much will it cost to use the express lane?

As demand for use of the Express Lanes increases, the toll amount will rise to ensure reliable travel times in the lanes. Motorists can see the posted toll amount before they enter the Express Lanes and will be able to decide whether or not they want to use them. Tolls on the I-85 Express Lanes will be collected electronically, meaning no toll booths and drivers will not have to slow down or stop to pay tolls. The tolling system managed by SRTA will calculate toll rates and collect tolls. For more information please visit www.peachpass.com

Updates since March 2013 Public Information Open House

Addition of non-tolled lanes:

After additional traffic analysis, GDOT has determined that tolled lanes are not the only improvement needed in this corridor. In order to ensure reliable trip times, additional non-tolled lanes would also be added in the form of auxiliary lanes. These lanes are being added southbound from SR 20/Buford Drive to SR 317/Lawrenceville Suwanee Road and northbound from SR 20/Buford Drive to SR 324/Gravel Springs Road.

Gravel Springs Road Interchange:

Gwinnett County is in the process of developing the design and environmental studies for an interchange at Gravel Springs Road and I-85. This project is being funded through the local Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). The timing for construction is approximately 2 years after the completion of the I-85 Express Lane Extension project.

Out of state drivers:

Georgia's Peach Pass will work on Florida and North Carolina toll roads by the end of 2014. In addition, Florida's Sun Pass and North Carolina's Quick Pass will work on Georgia's Express Lanes by the end of 2014. However, if a customer has multiple transponders (Peach Pass, Sun Pass or Quick Pass), they will need to select one transponder to use and remove any others from their vehicle.

Currently, motorists must open a Peach Pass Personal Toll Account prior to using any toll road in Georgia. If a motorists purchases a Pay n GO! Peach Pass at a participating retailer in Georgia, they will need to convert their Pay n GO! Peach Pass to a personal toll account in order to use in Florida or North Carolina once they become interoperable with Georgia. For more information, go to www.peachpass.com.



Comment Card

Please print responses.

Name _____

Address _____

Email: _____

Do you support the project? (check your response)

- For**
- Against**
- Conditional**
- Uncommitted**

General Comments _____

Meeting Attended: Monday, September 29, 2014 Thursday, October 2, 2014 _____

How did you hear about this Open House? (check) **Radio** **Newspaper** **Signs** **Word of Mouth**
 Other _____

Was the location of the Open House convenient for you to attend? **Yes** **No**

If no, please suggest a general location that is more convenient to your community.

Was the time of the meeting convenient for you to attend? **Yes** **No**

If no, please suggest a time frame that is more convenient for you.

Were your questions answered by GDOT personnel? **Yes** **No**

Do you understand the project after attending this meeting? **Yes** **No**

Please share your suggestions on improving the ways GDOT conducts Open Houses:

Mail to:
Ms. Hiral Patel, P.E., State Environmental Administrator
Georgia Department of Transportation
600 West Peachtree Street, NW – 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Or scan and email to: zadriaenssens@dot.ga.gov