



March 2013

Thank you for attending the public information open house for P.I. No. 110600, the proposed I-85 Express Lanes Extension Project. In this handout package you will find a fact sheet and comment card.

As you enter the room, you will notice displays of the proposed project and a video simulation of the I-85 Express Lanes Extension Project. Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) representatives, who can be identified by nametags, are available to discuss the project and answer your questions. Please take this opportunity to discuss the project with a GDOT representative. There will be no formal presentation.

A court reporter is available if you would like to make a verbal statement about the project. You may also complete a comment card and leave it in the comment box provided here, or send in written comments about the project until April 8, 2013. Written comments should be sent to Mr. Glenn Bowman, P.E., State Environmental Administrator, Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308. Comments can also be made via the web at www.dot.ga.gov. Click on **Public Outreach** from the **Information Center** dropdown menu at the top right side of the page. All comments will be made a part of the project record. We hope you will take advantage of one of these opportunities to let GDOT know your view of the proposal.

The displays and plans will be available for review for ten days after the public information open house at the 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. A copy of all comments received will be available for public review at these same locations and at the Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street NW, 16th Floor, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, as soon as compilation is completed.

Again, thank you for attending this public information open house and for giving us your comments. If you should have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact the GDOT Office of Innovative Program Delivery – Project Manager Loren Bartlett at (404) 631-1642 or Sam Pugh, NEPA planner at (404) 631-1167 of the Office of Environmental Services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn Bowman - 58".

Glenn Bowman, P.E.
State Environmental Administrator

GB/sp/chw

Attachments

I-85 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT

WINTER/SPRING 2013

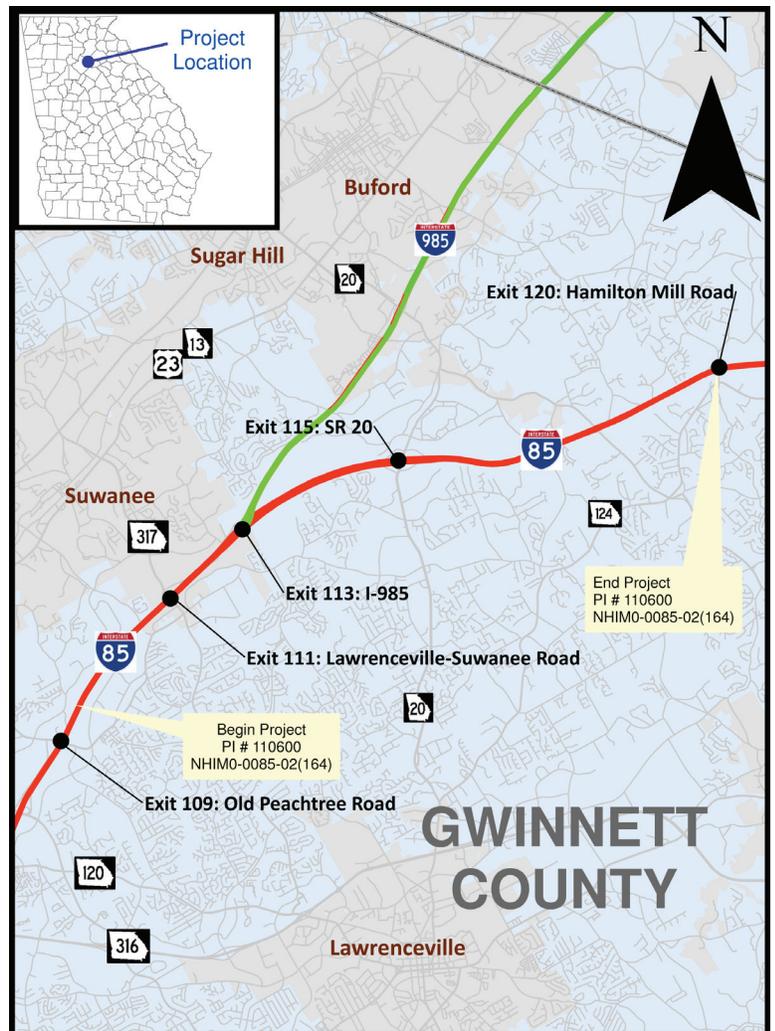
I-85 EXPRESS PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Interstate 85 (I-85) Express Lane extension project is being developed by the Georgia Department of Transportation in an effort to provide commuters with a more reliable, free-flow commute option that would complement the state’s multi-modal approach to managing traffic demand. This includes transit and roadway investments in the I-85 corridor that would establish the vision for a future system of Managed Lanes in the Atlanta region. The purpose of the proposed managed lanes is to provide travel time savings for motorists that choose to use the lanes.

The additional lanes are proposed to be newly constructed express lanes. The project, approximately 10 miles in length, located entirely within Gwinnett County, would begin north of the existing high occupancy toll lanes on I-85 at Old Peachtree Road and would end at Hamilton Mill Road. South of I-985, the project proposes to add the new capacity lanes along I-85 outside of the existing eight-lane mainline, while north of I-985, the new capacity lanes would be constructed on the inside shoulder along the four-lane I-85 section. Tolling and operations would be managed by the State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA).

Input from the public about the proposed I-85 Express Lanes extension project is crucial. Please visit the project website to learn more about the project, keep up with the progress, dates for public meetings, and give us your feedback.

www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes



Project Location Map

I-85 EXPRESS PROJECT MILESTONES

Concept Team Meeting	Dec 2012
Concept Report Approval	Spring 2013
Public Information Open House	March 2013
Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)	Dec 2013
Public Hearing Open House	Spring 2014
RFP Advertisement	Fall 2014
Final Environmental Document	Fall 2014
Project Letting	Spring 2015
Begin Construction	Fall 2015
Open to Traffic	2017

CONTACT US

Get involved with and stay informed about the I-85 Express Lanes Project:

ManagedLaneInfo@dot.ga.gov
 (404) 347-0185 Voice Mail Hotline
www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes

LOREN BARTLETT
 I-85 Express Lanes Project Manager
 Georgia Department of Transportation
 One Georgia Center, 600 West Peachtree Street
 Atlanta, GA 30308

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Public Information Open House Comment Card

I-85 Express Lanes Extension Project - Gwinnett County, P.I. No. 110600



Please print responses

Name _____

Address _____

Do you support the project? For Against Conditional Uncommitted
Comments _____

Additional space provided on back

Have you ever used a managed lane or toll lane? Yes No

Why did you use it?

- To save time for a work issue
- To get home quicker

- Excessive traffic delay
- Other _____

Would you use a managed lane again? Yes No

Would you like further information on Managed Lanes? Yes No

If Yes – please leave your preferred contact information _____

What is the best way to provide education on how to use managed lanes?

- Direct Mail
- Radio
- TV
- Email

- Website
- Social Media
- Community Meetings
- Public Meetings

- Newspaper
- Other _____

How did you hear about this meeting? Radio Newspaper Signs Word of Mouth
 Other _____

Was the location of the meeting 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 way GDOT conducts public meetings:

Additional Comments:

What is the I-85 Express Lanes Project?

The proposed I-85 Express Lanes Project would add one lane in each direction on I-85 from just north of Old Peachtree Road in Gwinnett County to Hamilton Mill Road. The additional lanes would be tolled managed lanes. South of I-985, the project proposes to construct new travel lanes on I-85 outside the existing eight-lane mainline. While north of I-985, constructing the new managed lane would occur on the inside along the four-lane I-85 section. The number of general purpose lanes would remain the same. The project is approximately 10 miles in length.

Is it an extension of the HOT lanes on I-85?

This project will begin at the end of the current HOT lanes. This project would construct one new lane in each direction from the end of the existing system to Hamilton Mill Rd. At this time we do not know what the tolling parameters will be.

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. Three person carpools may be able to use the system depending on the outcome of the environmental document. Vehicles not meeting occupancy requirements would be able to use the lanes for a fee that would be set to ensure free-flowing traffic and reliable trip times in the express lane.

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.

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. 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 and on GA 400. 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?

The Department is unsure of construction impacts until a contractor has been selected to build the project, and a construction plan is in place. More details will be shared as it becomes available.

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

A noise study is being conducted and the results will be available in the Summer 2013. If potential noise impacts are identified those locations will be evaluated for mitigation.

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 the optimal number of cars can continue utilizing 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. SRTA will determine toll rates and collect tolls. For more information please visit www.peachpass.com