

# GEORGIA *Express Lanes* I-75 South Metro



# Frequently Asked Questions

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

### *What is the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes Project?*

The I-75 South Metro Express Lanes project will add two toll lanes along I-75 south of Atlanta. The project corridor extends 12 miles, from SR 155 / McDonough Road to SR 138 / Stockbridge Hwy. These new lanes will be built within the existing right of way along the I-75 corridor. Widening will take place primarily along the west side of I-75.

The express lanes are designed to improve traffic flow, increase options for motorists, transit and registered vanpool customers, provide reliable trip times, create jobs and bring economic benefits to the residents of this region.

### *How will the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes work?*

These newly constructed, barrier-separated toll lanes will be managed by dynamic priced tolling, with the cost rising as demand increases during morning and evening peak travel times and falling during off-peak travel times. To maximize benefit for all travelers of the corridor, these express lanes will be reversible, operating northbound in the morning toward job centers in and near the City of Atlanta and southbound in the evening. For special events such as NASCAR races or peak spring break travel, Georgia DOT will work to ensure the operation of the system has the lanes flowing in the direction with the greatest travel demand.

Vehicles will be able to access the lanes in the northbound direction at slip ramps located north of State Route 155 and State Routes 20/81 and via a dedicated ramp from Jonesboro Road. In the southbound direction, access will be available from slip ramps at I-75 and I-675.

In order to use the express lanes, drivers must register and have a Peach Pass transponder through the State and Road Tollway Authority (SRTA). Placed inside the car, the Peach Pass will automatically deduct the correct express lanes toll (fee) for each trip in the lanes.

### *Will there be signage directing motorists where to enter and exit the lanes?*

Yes, signage will be installed in advance of the northbound and southbound I-75 South Metro Express Lanes entrances. This signage will also notify motorists that once they enter the lanes there will be no exits to stop for

food, gas or other services for the 12-mile length of the Express Lanes. Drivers should choose not to enter the Express Lanes if they plan to stop at areas along the corridor.

### *What is the schedule for the project?*

Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2014, and the lanes are expected to open to traffic during the first quarter of 2017.

### *Who will be able to use the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes?*

All vehicles with two axles and six wheels or less will be able to use the express lanes if they register and obtain a Peach Pass. Regardless of the number of occupants in a car, (solo driver, or driver and two passengers, etc.) drivers who wish to access to the lanes will be required to pay a toll (fee).

However, registered transit, vanpools, and emergency vehicles are exempt from paying a toll. Clear signage on how to use the system will be displayed along the corridor.

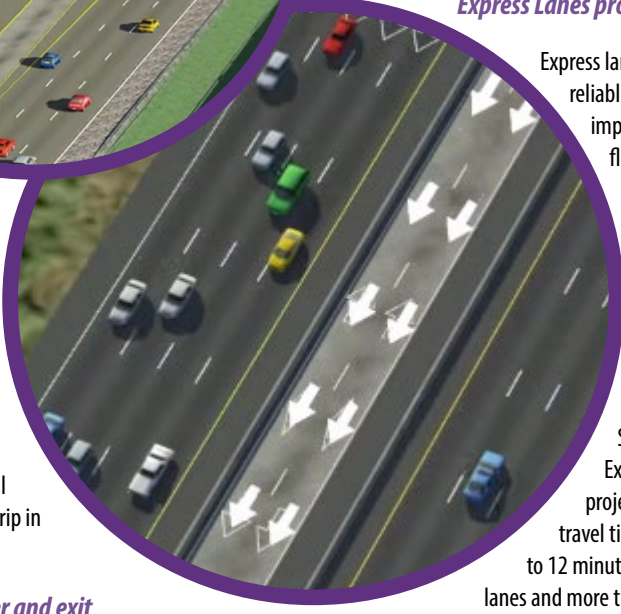
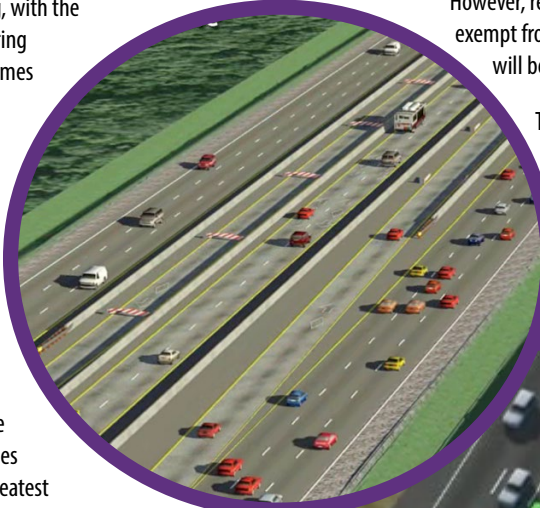
To pay the toll to use the lanes, vehicles will need a Peach Pass. Information on obtaining and using the Peach Pass is available at [www.PeachPass.com](http://www.PeachPass.com) or by calling the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at 1-855-PCH-PASS (724-7277).

### *What benefits will the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes provide?*

Express lanes offer more reliable trip times, improve traffic flow and provide another travel option for motorists and transit customers.

Based on 2035 data, the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes are projected to reduce travel time between 6 to 12 minutes in the express lanes and more than 3 minutes in the general purpose lanes.

In addition, the express lanes will enhance the economy in the corridor providing existing businesses with greater access to an expanded workforce including more than 5,500 individuals within the 15- to 30-minute travel



range and more than 49,000 individuals within a 45- to 60-minute travel range.

Transit riders and registered vanpools will be able to travel in the lanes for no additional fee, offering their customers a more reliable trip.

### *Who owns and operates the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes?*

The roadway is owned and operated by the State of Georgia, and Georgia DOT is responsible for the design, construction, and maintenance. Operation of the tolling aspects of the lanes, including collecting revenue and customer service functions related to the Peach Pass tolling system, is managed by Georgia's State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA).

### *Are there other express lanes projects?*

Yes, the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes will be part of the larger Georgia Express Lanes system, a network of toll lanes that run alongside existing interstates in some of the most congested corridors around metro Atlanta. These lanes provide a choice for drivers to pay a toll to bypass congestion when they desire, offer a clear path for transit operators, and provide more reliable trip times within these corridors.

Additional Georgia Express Lanes include the existing I-85 Express Lanes and the Northwest Corridor (NWC) Express Lanes project. The NWC project is scheduled to open in 2018. An extension to the I-85 Express Lanes is in the planning stages.

### *How will toll rates be determined?*

Toll rates will be dynamic, rising as demand increases during peak travel times and falling at off-peak times. Dynamic rate pricing ensures express lanes provide more reliable trip times for those who choose to pay and for transit systems using the lanes. This allows as many travelers as possible to use the lanes while still meeting expectations for free-flowing travel.

### *How can I stay informed about the project?*

Georgia DOT will provide regular updates through [www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes](http://www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes), Georgia Navigator 511, social media posts, media announcements, newsletters and community outreach events. To sign-up to receive more information about the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes project, send an email to [managedlaneinfo@dot.ga.gov](mailto:managedlaneinfo@dot.ga.gov).

Project representatives are also available to speak to groups. A speaker's request form is available on the Georgia Express Lanes web page.

## PROJECT DELIVERY METHOD

### *How is the project being delivered?*

The project is following a Design-Build delivery method. Design-Build combines preconstruction services with construction services into a single contract. Design-Build projects allow the contractor to participate in the project's design in an effort to reduce costs, improve communication and expedite project delivery.

### *Who is the Design-Build team for I-75 South Metro Express Lanes?*

The Design-Build team for the project is C.W. Matthews Contracting Co. and ARCADIS. The project contract was awarded in July 2013.

## PROJECT FUNDING

### *What is the cost of the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes Project?*

The total project cost estimate is \$176 million.

### *How is the project being funded?*

The project is funded through an 80 percent federal and 20 percent state match. The project cost also includes toll revenue bonds.

### *How will money raised through tolling be used?*

Toll revenue will pay for the project's capital costs and tolling operation, maintenance, renewal and replacement costs.

### *What will be done with any excess revenue?*

Once all debt repayment is complete, any toll revenue above and beyond the amount required to fund ongoing operation and maintenance of the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes.

## CONSTRUCTION

### *What construction impacts should the traveling public expect?*

As with most road construction projects, lane changes and closures will be required during construction. Georgia DOT works diligently to minimize impacts to the traveling public as much as possible. Most of the work for this project will occur on the roadway shoulder and in the median.

The project team will be proactively communicating any lane changes and closures in advance of construction activity. These construction notices will be communicated through the Georgia Express Lanes website, Georgia Navigator 511, social media and traditional media.

Georgia DOT will also be working closely with our partners including city and county governments, transit agencies, businesses and community groups to ensure that construction updates are readily available and widely communicated.

### *When will construction start?*

Construction is scheduled to begin in October 2014. We will continue to keep the public up-to-date on our progress.

## USING THE EXPRESS LANES

### *How are tolls collected?*

Express Lanes will not use toll booths. Instead, all tolls are collected electronically through the Peach Pass tolling device, a small electronic sticker that adheres to a vehicle's windshield. This technology, already in use on the I-85 Express Lanes, allows travelers to maintain highway speed at all times. Complete information on Peach Pass is available at [www.PeachPass.com](http://www.PeachPass.com).

### *How do drivers obtain a Peach Pass to use express lanes?*

All Georgia Express Lanes users, including the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes, can visit [www.PeachPass.com](http://www.PeachPass.com) or call the Peach Pass Customer Service Center at 1-855-PCH-PASS (724-7277) to open a Peach Pass account and register their vehicle(s). The Pay n Go Peach Pass can also be obtained at local retailers including Walgreens and CVS.

Each vehicle in a household must be registered for a separate Peach Pass transponder. However, households with multiple vehicles can list up to ten vehicles on one Peach Pass personal toll account.

### *Is there an option to obtain a Peach Pass without a credit or debit card?*

Yes, the Pay n Go Peach Pass is available for customers who wish to open a Peach Pass account with cash rather than an assigned debit or credit card. No personal or vehicle information is required for this purchase. Much like a prepaid calling card, the Pay n Go Peach Pass can be purchased and reloaded with cash for toll credits (\$20-\$500) at participating CVS and Walgreens stores. The Pay n Go Peach Pass Starter Kit includes a Peach Pass transponder and a Reload Card. There is a one-time fee of \$2.50 when purchasing the starter kit. Each time money is applied to the reload card, a \$1.50 convenience fee will be included.

### *How much does a Peach Pass cost?*

The Peach Pass transponder is free when obtained from SRTA. A minimum prepayment of \$20.00 and a credit or debit card for future payment is required to set up a Peach Pass account.

Walgreens and CVS will charge a convenience fee for the Pay n Go Peach Pass.

## TRANSIT

### *What transit systems will be able to use the I-75 South Metro Express Lanes?*

Public transit providers that operate in this corridor, including GRTA Xpress and state-registered vanpools will be able to use express lanes free of charge. Any additional state or county transit agencies that expand or introduce operations within the area and register will also have access to the lanes.

### *Will transit riders be required to pay anything beyond normal fares on routes that access express lanes?*

No, there will be no additional costs to access the lanes for public transit riders, state-registered vanpools or the public transit providers.

*For more information and general FAQs about the Georgia Express Lanes system, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes](http://www.dot.ga.gov/expresslanes).*