



I-85 EXPRESS LANES Partnership for Progress

www.peachpass.com

MARCH 2011

I-85 Express Lanes Newsletter

This is the sixth issue of the I-85 Express Lanes newsletter, which is designed to keep our partners and those interested in the project informed on the progress of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) to High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane project. The 16-mile Express Lanes will run along I-85 from Chamblee Tucker Road just south of I-285 to Old Peachtree Road in Gwinnett County. Readers are encouraged to forward the newsletter to others that may be interested in the project.

Coming Soon Near You: Peach Pass Community Outreach Events

On March 5, the State Road & Tollway Authority began a series of educational outreach events designed to provide commuters with more information about Peach Pass and how it provides access to the new I-85 Express Lanes that will open in August 2011.



The first outreach event was held at Gwinnett Place Mall as part of the annual "Book Blast" Children's Literature Expo. During the event, visitors viewed a table display that provided information on the I-85 Express Lanes project, the Peach Pass tolling device, and provided key information on how to use the lane. Additionally, various handouts were distributed ranging from "Frequently Asked Questions" to "How To Register For A Peach Pass" and "Rules of the Road".

There will be hosts of other informational sessions planned throughout

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Karlene Barron

Director of Communications
Georgia Department of Transportation
(404) 631-1824
kbarron@dot.ga.gov

Malika Reed Wilkins

Director of Marketing &
Communications
State Road and Tollway Authority
(404) 893-6103
mwilkins@georgiatolls.com

William Mecke

Deputy Director of Communication
Georgia Regional Transportation
Authority
404-463-3011
wmecke@grta.org



the spring and summer months. ([See a listing of future events.](#)) Community outreach efforts range from information kiosks at local malls to live radio broadcasts at special events. The information distributed and displayed will focus on how to use the I-85 Express Lanes and the Peach Pass and where and when motorists can sign up for the program.

All events are free and open to the public. For a calendar of Peach Pass outreach events or more information on the I-85 Express Lane project, visit the Peach Pass web site at: www.peachpass.com.

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Express Lanes Video Released

A short video detailing how the I-85 Express Lanes will operate was just released on the Peach Pass web site. ([View video](#))



The video examines the impact of congestion on a typical Atlanta family, following them through their daily routine and then explains how the I-85 Express Lanes work. It also looks at how the Express Lanes will provide all motorists with a new mobility option.

The video illustrates how using the Peach Pass electronic windshield sticker to automatically pay for congestion-based tolls will eliminate the need to stop at a toll booth. It also references the benefits experienced in other US cities where Express Lanes have been successfully implemented.

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Express Lanes Fiber & Signs Being Added Along I-85

The installation of 16 miles of fiber and signs for the Express lanes along I-85 between Chamblee Tucker Road and Old Peachtree Road is continuing and the work is expected to be completed by this summer.



Office of Governor
Nathan Deal



Georgia Department of Public
Safety





The \$11.7 million project was awarded to Alpharetta's World Fiber Technologies, Inc., which is doing the installation under the supervision of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

The contractor is working weeknights and avoiding the peak hours to keep disruption to a minimum. Thus, most lane closures will happen overnight and on the weekends. As work progresses on the I-85 corridor, construction updates are regularly emailed by GDOT to inform travelers of the traffic impacts to expect.

Motorists can call 511 for updated information about these and other construction projects in Georgia. Georgia 511 is a free phone service that provides real-time traffic and travel information statewide, such as traffic conditions, incidents, lane closures, and delays due to inclement weather. Callers also can transfer to operators to request assistance or report incidents 24 hours per day, seven days per week. More information is available at www.511ga.org.

For additional information and construction updates on this project, please email Teri Pope at tpope@dot.ga.gov.

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Web Site Explains I-85 Express Lanes and Peach Pass

Commuters wanting more detailed information about the 16-mile stretch of I-85 Express Lanes and the new Peach Pass window sticker can go to the web site www.peachpass.com for additional information.



The new site contains a variety of information about the project including construction activities and new park-and-ride lots.

Motorists can view a map of the I-85 Express Lanes corridor and read how they are designed to keep commuters moving forward, enhance transit, and give single-occupant drivers an option of paying to avoid congestion. The site explains how congestion pricing works as well as how to set up a Peach Pass account.

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FAQs Answered

Each issue of this newsletter will include questions received by the public and the corresponding responses. A full list of frequently-asked-questions can be found on the Peach Pass Web Site at www.peachpass.com/about/fag/.

Question 1: How will toll collection be enforced on the I-85 Express Lanes?

Answer 1: A combination of video enforcement, invisible barriers, and Georgia State Patrol visual enforcement will be used on the Express Lanes, which are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. SRTA violations are \$25, plus the toll amount. Some violations include:

- Entering or exiting the Express Lane improperly by crossing the double white pavement striping. Violators will be issued a \$25 violation and could receive an additional citation from law enforcement if they are pulled over (see photos).
- Using the Express Lane without a registered Peach Pass transponder.
- Changing your Peach Pass account to indicate that you have more than three occupants in a vehicle (thus qualifying to use the Express Lane for free) and then driving in the Express lane with less than three occupants.



Question 2: If there is a traffic incident in the vicinity of the Express Lanes, will drivers be able to use the Express Lanes to get around it?

Answer 2: To ensure safe travel in the I-85 corridor, tolls in sections of the Express Lanes may be disabled to accommodate special circumstances. This will be done on a case-by-case basis by SRTA in cooperation with the law enforcement and GDOT on the scene.

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Express Lanes in the News*

In recent months, HOT lanes like the I-85 Express Lanes have generated local and national news stories and editorial comment around the country, including the following two articles.

I-85 HOT Lanes

By Michael R. Holt, PE, PTOE
The Georgia Engineer
December 2010/January 2011 Issue

In the Dec 2010/Jan 2011 issue of The GeorgiaEngineer, Michal Holt of World Fiber Technologies describes the ongoing construction activities in the I-85 corridor, including the installation of underground conduit, fiber optic cable, and overhead sign structures and gantries.

[\(Read Article\)](#)

Florida's Turnpike add off-road cash reload points as all-electronic toll looms in Miami

TOLLROADSnews
January 22, 2010

A January 22, 2010, article in TOLLROADSnews details the Florida Turnpike's transition to an all-electronic toll collection system in the Miami area. For those motorists still wanting to use cash, thousands of retail locations will allow individuals to use cash to add funds to their SunPass accounts.

[\(Read Article\)](#)

**The above links provide information about successful HOT lane implementations in other states. The ideas and concepts discussed are being shared as information only and do not necessarily represent or reflect the policies, practices, plans or operations of Georgia's proposed I-85 Express Lanes project.*

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