



I-85 EXPRESS LANES Partnership for Progress

www.PeachPass.com

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The "Peach Pass GO!" Mobile App is Here!



The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) has just made managing your Peach Pass account a little easier with the new "Peach Pass GO!" mobile application, or "app." Now available for iPhone®, iPad® and Android® (versions 2.3 or higher) devices, Peach Pass GO! allows Peach Pass customers to change their toll mode and check their balance without having to call the customer service center or go online.

The "Peach Pass GO!" app can be downloaded at no charge from the iTunes® App Store or Android® Market and PeachPass.com. Once downloaded, Peach Pass GO! provides customers with Peach Pass account access using the same username and password established for online account management. Account balances are automatically displayed when login is completed. A second click takes account holders directly to toll mode change options, allowing customers to update their vehicle occupancy status (tolled/non-tolled) before they use the I-85 Express Lanes. Through a simple splash screen feature, all motorists will be asked to "agree" that they are not using the application while they are driving. If they do not select "I Agree," the application will automatically shut down.

"We're extremely pleased and excited to provide our customers with this new and convenient way of accessing their Peach Pass account and changing their toll mode," said SRTA Executive Director Gena L. Evans, Ph.D. "Now changing your toll mode can be done with a few taps on your mobile device and confirmation of your toll mode change appears in seconds."

To learn more about the Peach Pass GO! app, go to www.PeachPass.com.

In This Issue

["Peach Pass GO!" Mobile App](#)

[New Southbound Access Point](#)

[Express Lanes Toll Rates
Reduced](#)

[Peach Pass Signage on GA 400](#)

[I-85 Express Lanes Update](#)

[FAQs Answered](#)

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New Southbound Express Lane Access Point On the Way

A new temporary southbound Express Lane access point located near the Boggs Road overpass on I-85 South is slated to open at the end of the month, weather permitting, to registered Peach Pass customers. Peach Pass customers traveling southbound in the I-85 Express Lanes will have earlier access to the roadway between Old Peachtree and Indian Trail Roads. The access point is about 3.5 miles south of the Express Lane entrance near Old Peachtree Road and Sugarloaf Parkway.



The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will conduct re-striping work for the access point entry zone will begin on Sunday, January 29, between 10:00 AM-12:00 PM (noon), weather permitting and if there are no delays due to equipment or materials. Motorists approaching the temporary access point will see a ground-mounted sign and changeable message sign side by side that display the toll rate for the nearest exit and the last exit in the 16-mile Express Lanes stretch. Construction on the permanent access point will begin later in the spring.

"We are pleased to announce this new access point as SRTA, GDOT and local federal highway administration officials have worked tirelessly to evaluate and select the safest and most viable southbound access point in that area," said SRTA Executive Director Dr. Gena L. Evans. "We will continue to monitor and make adjustments to enhance the performance of this temporary solution as we move toward implementation of the permanent access point later in the year."

For updates on the implementation of the temporary access point of www.peachpass.com.

Toll Rates Reduced on I-85 Express Lanes

The State Road and Tollway Authority Board approved a resolution to lower the current toll rate range from \$0.10 to \$0.90 per mile to \$0.01 to \$0.90 per mile for the Express Lanes, thus allowing for lower toll rates during off-peak hours.

The toll rate adjustment is currently in effect. Typical off-peak hours include, but are not limited to, the following timeframes, depending on traffic:

- Midday - 10AM - 3PM
- Evening/Overnight - 8PM - 6AM
- Friday 8PM - Monday 6AM

The new toll rates will impact both northbound and southbound lanes during off-peak hours.

In addition to the toll rate reduction, in the next few weeks, visitors who log on to www.PeachPass.com will be able to view live online streaming of key toll rates signs. Four new dedicated EarthCam cameras will be installed for the public to view toll rates on the I-85 Express Lanes at Chamblee Tucker Road and Pleasantdale Road going northbound and Old Peachtree Road and Sugarloaf Parkway going southbound. More details on this new offering coming soon.



Peach Pass Signage to be Installed on GA 400



Beginning Friday, February 3 at midnight, weather permitting, the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) will begin modifying existing overhead and ground mounted signage located near the GA 400 Toll Plaza area. Changes will consist of adding "Peach Pass" to various signs to visually reinforce the fact that motorists can use their Peach Pass or Cruise Card to access the all-electronic toll lanes on GA 400.

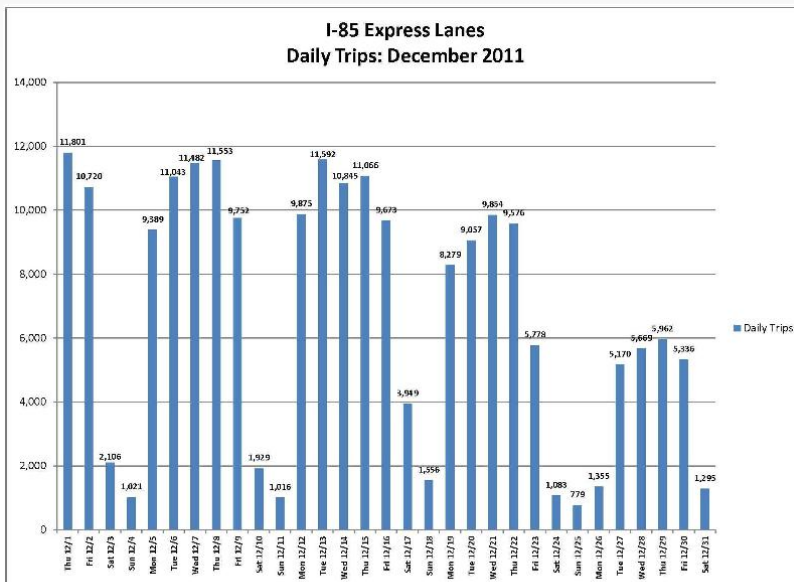
The work plan requires that southbound and northbound lanes be closed intermittently while the work is underway, significantly impacting traffic flow. Advanced signage will be placed throughout the corridor starting on Monday, January 23 to prepare motorists for the upcoming construction events.

Construction will take place from midnight on Friday, February 3, through 5:00 AM on Monday, February 5 (Friday, February 10, through Monday, February 12, in case of inclement weather). Southbound and northbound all-electronic toll lanes, as well as some cash-only and cashier lanes at the GA 400 Toll Plaza, will be closed at various times, which could impact traffic flow while the work is underway. Motorists should choose alternate routes during the construction timeframe.

In 2011, new electronic readers were installed giving motorists the convenience of using their Peach Pass or Cruise Card transponders at both the GA 400 Toll Plaza and the new I-85 Express Lanes. The new Toll Plaza signage will visually alert motorists of their ability to use either the Peach Pass or the Cruise Card to pay GA 400 tolls in the all-electronic toll lanes.

Continue to check the SRTA web site (www.georgiatolls.com) for updated information on GA 400 lane closures or delays.

Over 120,000 Peach Passes Assigned, 12,000 Trips on the I-85 Express Lanes



Source - DPH Revenue Report: 1/3/12 @ 9:00am

Daily trips taken in Express Lanes for the month of December 2011

It's been three months since the I-85 Express Lanes opened to Metro Atlanta motorists, with

reliable trip times being provided to more and more registered users. Traffic data indicates that the Express Lanes are reaching capacity during the morning peak hours and coming closer to that mark at times during evening peak.

"Capacity" is the maximum number of vehicles per hour during peak hours in the Express Lanes that can successfully move at the targeted speeds of 45 mph if there are no incidences, accidents, anomalies, etc., in the corridor.

"We are encouraged and excited by the level of demand and the Express Lanes' performance thus far and will continue to monitor the performance of the lanes and work with GDOT and local federal highway officials on operational improvements," said SRTA Executive Director Gena L. Evans.

Since the first commute day for the Express Lanes on Monday, October 3, usage has climbed to a high of over 12,000 trips, with more than 120,000 Peach Pass transponders assigned. The 100,000th Peach Pass was assigned to a Buford commuter during the month of October!

FAQS Answered

Each issue of this newsletter will include questions received from 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/faq/.

Question: I've noticed the increase in the Express Lanes toll rates. Why is this happening?

Answer: Over the past several weeks more and more motorists are choosing to use the I-85 Express Lanes. With the steady increase in usage, the lanes are consistently reaching capacity during morning peak hours with over 1,200-1,400 registered vehicles in the lane per hour for the past several weeks. In many instances we've seen volumes as high as approximately 2,000 vehicles per hour during peak hours.

As the goal of the Express Lanes is to provide reliable travel times, "capacity" is the maximum number of vehicles per hour during peak hours in the Express Lane that can successfully move at the targeted speeds of 45 mph if there are no incidences, accidents, anomalies, etc. in the corridor.

With the increased demand of the Express Lanes, the system is designed to manage demand through pricing, thus motorists are seeing higher toll rates. Registered users in the Express Lanes are steadily climbing as people are getting used to the roadway and experiencing the time savings. Again the goal of the Express Lanes is to provide reliable travel times and moving at 45mph on average.