



# STATE ROAD & TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

STATE OF GEORGIA

Nathan Deal, Governor  
Chairman

Christopher Tomlinson  
Executive Director

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## **GA 400 Toll Booth Demolition Contract Awarded to Southeastern Site Development**

*Tolls End in November; Major Demolition Work to Begin in January 2014*

ATLANTA – The planned removal of tolls on GA 400 took a significant step forward today with the award of the toll booth demolition construction contract to low bidder Southeastern Site Development Inc. of Newnan. The firm, which specializes in transportation, civil, site preparation, underground utilities and concrete flatwork projects, will complete the nearly year-long project at a cost of \$3.5 million.

“I acted as quickly as the state’s contractual obligations allowed to bring down the GA 400 toll,” said Gov. Nathan Deal, who serves as chair of the board of the State Road & Tollway Authority. “I pledged during my campaign for governor that I’d bring down the toll as the state promised commuters it would do when it opened the toll more than two decades ago. Today’s announcement is a big step toward making that happen.”

In July 2012, Gov. Deal announced that the state would pay off its bond debt and end tolls on GA 400 by December 2013. The ending date for toll collection has been tentatively set for Thursday, November 21, weather permitting. This date was selected to lessen the impact on Thanksgiving holiday travel. In the case of inclement weather, the ending date will be moved to November 22 or 23. SRTA is funding the project costs, while the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will oversee construction and traffic management. Southeastern could set up site operations as early as September.

“This contract award marks another step in the fulfillment of Gov. Deal’s commitment to GA 400 motorists,” Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden, a member of the SRTA board, said. “In the coming weeks, the Department will work with the selected contractor and with SRTA staff to make certain that when the toll plaza removal process begins later this year, it will not unduly impede traffic flow.”

Southeastern will determine the final construction timeline for the demolition of the toll booths and other aspects of the project are still being finalized. However, preliminary plans call for traffic to shift into three general purpose lanes where motorists currently use the electronic tolling lanes. Preliminary construction activities to prepare for that lane shift will likely begin in October 2013.

Once traffic is shifted, there is no heavy demolition work expected to take place during the winter holidays. Toll booth demolition is expected to be completed between January 2014 and the following May. Once the cash booths and the structure overhead are removed, traffic will shift over so that the rest of the toll plaza can be taken down. Once that happens, traffic will shift back over and remain there permanently. For drawings and more detail on the project, go to <http://www.georgiatolls.com/programs/ga-400/>.

“Thanks to Gov. Deal’s leadership, SRTA is excited to fulfill the promises made to motorists to end the tolls while also funding additional projects in the GA 400 corridor,” SRTA Executive Director Chris Tomlinson said.

**MORE**

## GA 400 Toll Booth Demolition Contract Awarded – pg. 2

“The long-needed ramps between GA 400 and I-85 will be complete by the end of the year, and many other critical projects for daily commuters are either already complete or well underway,” Tomlinson added. “These projects are helping drivers navigate this corridor every day and providing tremendous value for their fifty-cent trip.”

A total of eight firms submitted bids ranging from \$3.5 million to \$5.3 million. Southeastern submitted the lowest bid of \$3,509,348.64.

Traffic patterns and travel times could shift during construction. Georgia’s transportation agencies — GDOT in partnership with The Clean Air Campaign, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), MARTA and GRTA (Georgia Regional Transportation Authority)—are working closely to ensure drivers know about other GA 400 transportation options that could help with their commute both during construction and after completion.

“The Atlanta Regional Commission will work with SRTA, Georgia DOT and our other partners to make sure commuters on Georgia 400 are aware of the upcoming construction and that they know to use Georgia Commute Options to find alternatives to driving alone,” said ARC Executive Director Doug Hooker.

MARTA General Manager and CEO Keith T. Parker also asserted his agency’s continued commitment to assisting GA 400 commuters. “As a vital part of metro Atlanta’s transportation network, MARTA will continue to offer an excellent commuting option for those who live and work in this important corridor during the toll booth demolition project and beyond,” he said.

Xpress coach routes also transport GA 400 commuters to local MARTA stations and to downtown Atlanta. “Xpress has been a popular and successful transportation option for commuters on GA 400 for nearly a decade, providing more than 65,000 passenger trips per year and improving the experience for everyone who travels along this vital economic corridor during the peak weekday commuting periods,” said Jannine Miller, GRTA Executive Director. “We look forward to working closely with SRTA and our other transportation partners both during and after the demolition to keep our current customers informed of progress as well as to encourage more commuters to take advantage of the convenient, cost-effective alternative to driving alone.”

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### **About the State Road and Tollway Authority**

The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) is a state-level, independent Authority created by the Georgia General Assembly to operate tolled transportation facilities within the State and act as Georgia’s transportation financing arm. Tracing its history back to 1953, SRTA has enabled user fees to be directed to important mobility links, including the original Sidney Lanier Bridge over the Brunswick River, the F.J. Torres Causeway “gateway” to the St. Simons’ community, the GA 400 Extension, the I-85 Express Lanes and future optional toll lanes offering Metro Atlanta motorists a choice for more reliable travel times.

### **About the Georgia Department of Transportation**

The Georgia Department of Transportation is committed to providing a safe, seamless and sustainable transportation system that supports Georgia’s economy and is sensitive to both its citizens and its environment. For more information on Georgia DOT, please visit [www.dot.ga.gov](http://www.dot.ga.gov) or subscribe to our Press Release [RSS feed](#). You also may follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) ([www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/gadepoftrans) ([http://twitter.com/gadepoftrans](https://twitter.com/gadepoftrans)).

### **About the Atlanta Regional Commission**

The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) is the official planning agency for the 10-county Atlanta region, including Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry and Rockdale counties as well as the City of Atlanta and 69 other cities. ARC also staffs the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. ARC serves as a catalyst for regional progress by focusing leadership, attention and planning resources on key regional issues.

### **About MARTA**

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), founded in 1965, is the ninth largest transit system in the United States, operating rail, bus and paratransit services that provide more than 430,000 passenger trips every week day. MARTA provides rail service near the GA 400 corridor along its Red Line between Lindbergh Center Station and North Springs Station, as well as bus and Mobility (paratransit) service to surrounding communities.

### **About GRTA**

The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) collaboratively leads Georgia’s effort to set clear expectations and specific goals for the performance of the state’s transportation network and works to improve Georgia’s mobility, air quality and land use practices. GRTA operates the Xpress Commuter Coach Service, providing a stress-free, affordable commute option for metro Atlanta workers.