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Northwest Corridor Project Gains Environmental Green Light

Georgia DOT and SRTA to move forward with acquiring rights-of-way and construction

Atlanta - The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) in partnership with the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) today announced that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has given final environmental approval on the Northwest Corridor (NWC) Project. Through the signing of the Record of Decision (ROD), FHWA has given the Department the authority to move forward with the implementation of the project. The NWC Project includes the extension of tolled managed lanes along Interstate 75 from Interstate 285 to Hickory Grove Road and along Interstate 575 to Sixes Road in Cobb and Cherokee counties.

"We are excited about this decision; and I appreciate the hard work and determination of the transportation partners to move this project forward –it is a vital part of a system-wide transportation effort to address congestion, mobility and livability concerns in metropolitan Atlanta and the state," Georgia Governor Nathan Deal said.

The signing of the ROD clears the way for the rights-of-way acquisition and construction phases of the project to move forward. In December 2012, Georgia DOT issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and will receive proposals from private entities in June 2013 for the design, construction and partial finance of the project.

The project is the first in the state to be built using the Public Private Partnership (P3) model which allows for private participation in the financing as well as risk-sharing in building the project. It also allows for a new streamlined delivery process. The private sector will be responsible for the design, construction and limited financing during construction, to be repaid by the state after the facility is open.

"We appreciate FHWA's guidance and their partnership with us as we have moved this project along. This project's success so far is based on the strong support from the Governor, General Assembly, the State Transportation Board and our local stakeholders," said Georgia DOT Commissioner Keith Golden.

"I am proud of the work our staff at SRTA has contributed to this important project," State Road & Tollway Authority Executive Director Chris Tomlinson added. "We will continue to partner with GDOT to identify and develop projects that empower motorists with more options and choices in their daily commutes."

The Northwest Corridor project will begin the design process later this year with construction scheduled to begin in 2014 and is scheduled to open to traffic in 2018.

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 or subscribe to our Press Release RSS feed. You also may follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT) and Twitter (<http://twitter.com/gadeptoftrans>).

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