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AUGUST 2013

## I-85 Express Lanes Project Wins Awards for Customer Service, Project Management

by Erica Ehiwe



*Pictured (L to R): SRTA Executive Director Christopher Tomlinson, SRTA Project Executive Mary Dowling Sallach, PMI Atlanta's Somya Chaudhary and SRTA Process Improvement Director Gena Major*

The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) recently received the International Bridge Tunnel and Turnpike Association's (IBTTA) 2013 Toll Excellence Award in Customer Service for the authority's focus on customers since the I-85 Express Lanes opened in

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2011. In addition, the I-85 Express Lanes project was named government "Project of the Year" by the local chapter of Project Management Institute, PMI Atlanta.

The IBTTA Toll Excellence Award distinguishes SRTA as one of the industry's five most innovative, creative and positive tolling agencies. For its award winning efforts in public relations, marketing and public outreach, SRTA has now earned an opportunity to compete against four other category winners (administrative, technology, operations, and social responsibility) for the President's Award for Excellence, which will be awarded later this year.

The project team was honored with the PMI Atlanta government "Project of the Year" award for their superior performance in managing the I-85 Express Lanes project and exhibiting innovative technology and cross-agency collaboration.

"I am extremely proud that SRTA's talented staff is being recognized for their hard work in planning, launching and operating the I-85 Express Lanes," said SRTA Executive Director Christopher Tomlinson. "They have done an incredible job of collaborating with our project partners to bring this new mobility option to Metro Atlanta motorists and focusing on making our customers' experience as positive as possible."

## GA 400/I-85 Interchange Construction Update: Lindbergh HOV Ramp and Buford Connector Lanes Reopened



Archer Western Contractors

GADOT  
GA400 / I-85 Interchange D/B

Print #130525168  
Date: 05/25/13  
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Aerial Photography, Inc. 954-568-0484

*Aerial photo of I-85/GA 400 Connector Ramp construction in progress*

The HOV ramp on I-85 South at Lindbergh Drive has reopened after a six-month closure to accommodate construction of the new I-85/GA 400 connector ramps. In addition, major lane closures on the Buford-Spring Street Connector have ended nearly two months ahead of schedule.

The closures were in effect during construction of bridge supports for the GA 400/I-85 Interchange project. That work is complete and now motorists can again access the Lindbergh MARTA Station directly from the exit. Intermittent one-lane closures on the

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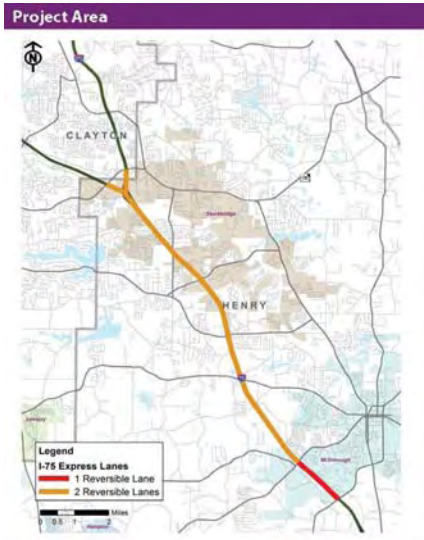
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Buford-Spring Connector may be needed, but long-term closures are complete.

In addition to construction of connector ramps from GA 400 southbound to I-85 northbound and from I-85 southbound to 400 northbound, the project also includes construction of a pedestrian trail from Cheshire Bridge Road to Lenox Road, which includes a bridge across North Fork Peachtree Creek.

The project, which is funded through toll revenues from GA 400, has a completion date of December 2013. [Click here](#) to view more photos of project in progress.

## Contractors Selected for I-75 South, NWC Reversible Lane Projects



*I-75 Express Lanes Project*



*Northwest Corridor Reversible Lanes Project*

Two projects designed to keep Georgia moving are moving forward. Contractors have been selected for reversible lanes projects along I-75 in Henry and Clayton counties and the I-75 and I-575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) has awarded a \$176.2 million contract to C.W. Matthews Contracting Co., Inc., of Marietta, to build variable-rate optional toll lanes along I-75 between State Route 155 and State Route 138 in Henry and Clayton counties.

Two lanes will be added in the center median of I-75 from State Route 138 in south Clayton to just north of State Route 20 and one reversible lane, also in the center median, will extend from that point to State Route 155 in Henry. The lanes will be barrier-separated and reversible - carrying traffic northbound in the mornings and southbound in afternoons and evenings. Initial work is likely to begin later this year, and the lanes are expected to be open to traffic by the end of 2016.

Northwest Express Roadbuilders (NWER) has been identified as the potential private sector partner for the 30-mile Northwest Corridor (NWC) managed lanes project, which will include two new optional toll lanes along the west side of I-75 from the I-285 to I-575 interchanges. The lanes will be barrier separated and reversible carrying traffic southbound during morning commute hours and northbound in the evenings. In addition, one new reversible lane will be added above the I-575 interchange in the I-75 center median to Hickory Grove Road and a similar new I-575 median lane will extend to Sixes Road.

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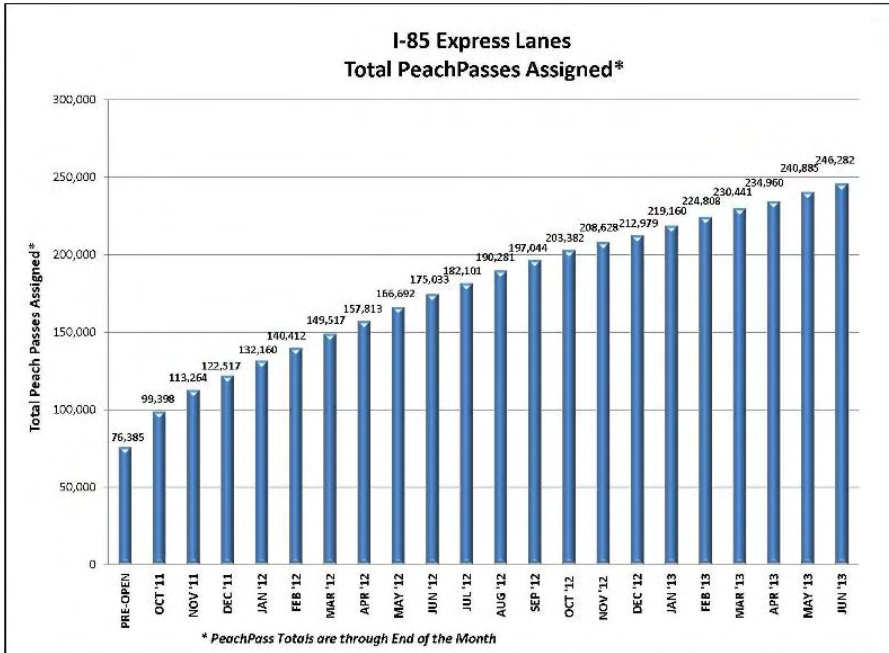
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That Public Private Partnership (P3) agreement is expected to be finalized later this year with construction beginning next year. The NWC is scheduled to open to traffic in 2018.

## More than 245,000 Peach Passes Assigned Since June 2011



New Peach Pass transponders continue to go up on vehicle windshields. As of June 2013, more than 245,000 Peach Passes had been issued since account registration opened in June 2011. Nearly 16,000 Peach Pass transponders were issued in April, May and June, almost 5,300 Peach Passes per month and 1,400 per week.

[Click here](#) for more I-85 Express Lanes travel data.

## FAQS Answered

Each issue of this newsletter will include a frequently-asked question. A full list of [frequently-asked questions](#) can be found on the Peach Pass Web Site at [www.PeachPass.com](http://www.PeachPass.com).

**QUESTION:** I currently have a Peach Pass used mostly when I travel for business on I-85 and GA 400. Can I also use the Peach Pass to pay tolls on the reversible Express Lane projects planned for I-75 South in Henry and Clayton counties and I-75/I-575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties?

**ANSWER:** Yes. The Peach Pass transponder will be the universal tolling device for all Georgia toll roads managed by SRTA.