



STATE ROAD & TOLLWAY AUTHORITY

STATE OF GEORGIA

Nathan Deal, Governor
Chairman

Christopher Tomlinson
Executive Director

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Contact: Office of Marketing & Communications
mwilkins@georgiatolls.com / 404-893-6103

Georgia 400 Tolls to End Friday, November 22

Toll collection scheduled to end after rush hour

ATLANTA (November 8, 2013) – The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) announced today that the Georgia 400 tolls will officially end Friday, November 22, weather permitting. Toll collection is scheduled to end after rush hour to lessen the impact on the GA 400 commute.

In July 2012, Governor Deal announced that the state would pay off its bond debt and end tolls on GA 400 by December 2013. Southeastern Site Development, Inc., of Newnan, has been contracted for the construction component of the project and will be managed through the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

“The ending of GA 400’s tolls fulfills a promise made to commuters,” said SRTA Executive Director Christopher Tomlinson. “Enough tolls have been collected to pay for the original construction of the road and the new connector ramps to I-85, plus other needed projects in the GA 400 corridor. This road has had a tremendous economic impact on the city of Atlanta, the Buckhead business district, north Fulton County and other communities along the highway.”

“We thought it wise to conclude toll collections on a Friday evening so that motorists will have the entire weekend to become acclimated to the new traffic pattern,” Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Keith Golden noted. “Still, we urge commuters the following Monday morning to be particularly cautious while driving through the plaza area.”

The first phase of a four-phase demolition project began on Friday, October 25, with restriping in the Peach Pass electronic toll lanes and modification/removal of redundant “toll” signage. In Phase II, preparation for no tolling continues with the completion of restriping and the installation of concrete barriers between the Peach Pass and cash lanes in anticipation of the eventual shifting of traffic into the electronic lanes when toll collection ends. Once tolls end and traffic is shifted in Phase III, no heavy demolition work is expected to take place during the winter holidays. Phase IV will begin in January 2014 and will include removal of plaza toll booths, the canopy, as well as reinforcement and filling of the tunnel stairwells.

The demolition project will be completed in the fall of 2014.

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

Slow Down and Stay Alert – The Toll Plaza is now an active construction zone, with a 45 mph speed limit. For the safety of motorists and construction workers, please use caution when driving through the Toll Plaza as the GA 400 Tollway Demolition Project continues.

Keep Your Peach Pass – Your Peach Pass account stays active, and is only charged when you use it. So even though the GA 400 tolls are ending, be sure to keep your Peach Pass for use when you need to bypass traffic using the existing I-85 Express Lanes, or the planned I-75 Express Lanes south of Atlanta (coming in 2016); and I-75/575 Express Lanes in the Northwest Corridor (coming in 2018). However, if you do decide to close your account, your full balance, including any automatic replenishments, will be refunded.

GA 400 Road Race on Nov. 17 – The Georgia State Games will conduct a four-mile road race celebrating the 20th anniversary of the opening of the GA 400 Extension and the ending of tolls on the roadway on November 22. The race will begin at 8:30 am at Glenridge Drive running straight down GA 400 through the Toll Plaza and finishing at Phipps Plaza on Lenox Road. Runners and walkers will pay their 50-cent toll as they pass through the toll lanes, with the proceeds donated to benefit Strong4Life. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register for the race, go to www.georgiagames.org/GA400.

For project updates, visit PeachPass.com/blog, [Twitter.com/SRTA_PeachPass](https://twitter.com/SRTA_PeachPass) and Facebook.com/PeachPass. For media inquiries, contact Malika Wilkins (mwilkins@georgiatolls.com, 404-893-6103) or Adrian Carver (acarver@georgiatolls.com, 404-893-3003).