

I-285 Eastside Express Lanes

A Major Mobility Project — P.I. Number: 0013914

Fact Sheet

What is the Project?

The proposed I-285 Eastside Express Lanes project will improve mobility on the eastern portion of I-285 in metro Atlanta and will connect to the Georgia Express Lanes network. Almost 200,000 vehicles travel this section of I-285 each weekday.

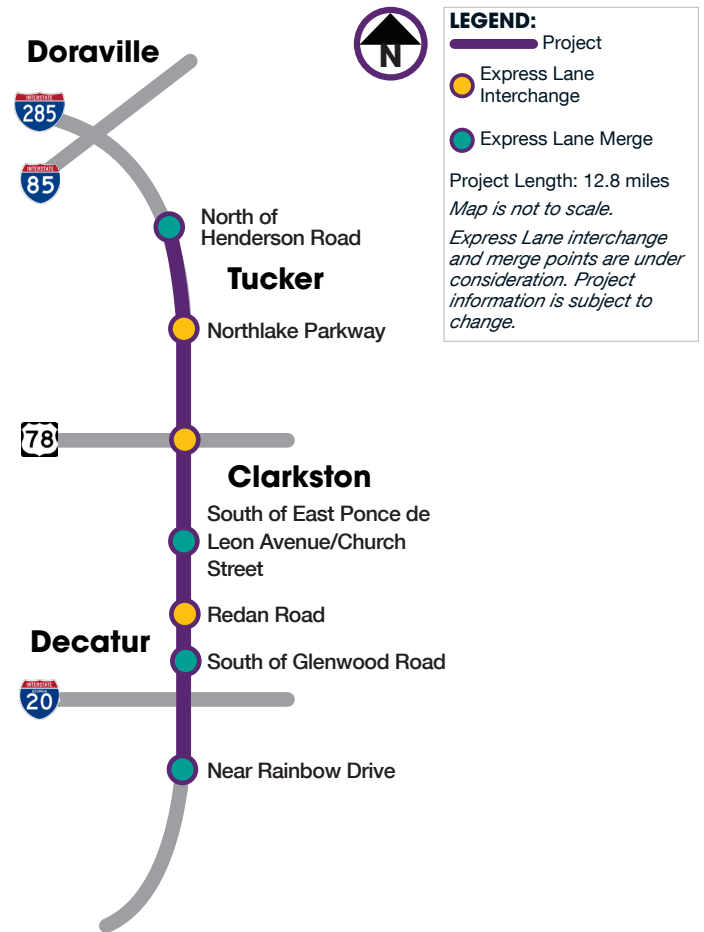
Earlier iterations of the project envisioned one, new, buffer-separated lane in each direction. As part of the ongoing efforts to deliver the best and most beneficial transportation projects in Georgia, Georgia DOT announced in June 2021 a change to the Public-Private Partnership (P3) delivery model of all express lanes on I-285. The revised approach expands the project scope for the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes and shifts many of the financial obligations of the I-285 Express Lanes projects from the State to the private sector partner(s).

This proposed project now focuses on adding two, new, barrier-separated express lanes in both directions of I-285 between Henderson Road and just south of I-20. The lanes would be adjacent to the existing general-purpose lanes. The design of the typical section for the new lanes is under consideration.

5 Things You Need to Know

1. The new express lanes are optional and will be managed by market-based pricing that reflects traffic congestion in real time.
2. A private sector partner or partners will design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain the proposed express lanes in exchange for future toll revenues.
3. The express lanes will provide an option for more reliable trip times and free access for transit vehicles and vanpools.
4. Expands the Georgia Express Lanes network, providing more reliable trip times and an option to bypass traffic congestion.
5. A Peach Pass will be required to use the current and future express lanes.

Where is the Project?



What's the Project Status?

Georgia DOT is conducting studies, including assessing impacts to environmental resources, to help determine alignments, express lanes configuration, and access points. An environmental document will be developed to study and report on the project's potential impacts to the Environment; Air and Noise; Community Resources; Socioeconomics; and Environmental Justice communities. A Public Information Open House to present initial findings is tentatively planned for 2025.

Express Lanes

What are express lanes?

Express lanes are designed to offer drivers a choice to bypass traffic congestion and provide more reliable trip times. Motorists must pay to use the express lanes, while transit riders and state registered vanpools can utilize the express lanes at no additional cost.

Where will motorists be able to access the express lanes?

The proposed access points can be seen on the map on the first page of this document. The private sector partner(s) will reexamine whether there is the potential to adjust the number of access points to provide opportunities for motorists and transit vehicles to access and utilize the express lanes.

Transit

What is Express Lanes Transit (ELT)?

Georgia Express Lanes are considered transit lanes, supporting existing transit operations in the corridor and the inclusion of future transit opportunities for the advancement of Express Lanes Transit (ELT) in the region. ELT improves existing transit operations and performance, provides more reliable transit trip times, and promotes transit-oriented development.

What transit operators will be able to use the express lanes?

Public transit providers that operate in this corridor including Xpress, MARTA, and state-registered vanpools will be able to use the express lanes. Transit and registered vanpool riders will only need to pay their standard transit rider fee. Georgia DOT is collaborating with the ATL, MARTA, ARC, and four metro Atlanta counties to advance ELT to create more regional connectivity and expand transit operations in the metro region.

Project Funding

How is the project being funded?

The project will be delivered through a privately financed P3 model, where the private sector partner(s) will design, construct, finance, operate, and maintain the express lanes. This delivery method allows the state to better allocate resources by leveraging private sector innovation and capital, which also accelerates project delivery and reduces public cost and debt requirements.

What's Next?



Environmental
Process
2024-2027



Public
Comment
2025



Draft
Environmental
Document
2026



Environmental
Document
Approval
2027

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Find current and archived resources on the project webpage:

i285eastsideexpresslanes-gdot.hub.arcgis.com

Email comments or questions – or sign up to receive project announcements at:

EastsideExpressLanes@dot.ga.gov

Leave a voice mail on our project hotline at:

678-247-2685

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