



NORTHWEST CORRIDOR PROJECT NEWS

Northwest Corridor (I-75/I-575) Project Newsletter

The Northwest Corridor Project on Track!

"Adding new lanes - and the new capacity they will provide - is critical to a continued high quality of life in metropolitan Atlanta and to sustaining further economic growth for the region and for all of Georgia." – Governor Nathan Deal

The Northwest Corridor Project includes the construction of tolled managed lanes along I-75 from I-285 to Hickory Grove Road and along I-575 to Sixes Road. The project was originally to be delivered under a long-term Public Private Partnership (P3) toll concession strategy: in return for an investment in the project, the private partner would collect tolls and retain some control over future corridor improvements. Governor Nathan Deal expressed concerns about the state's sovereignty under these terms, and the State Transportation Board cancelled the procurement of the P3 toll concession approach in December 2011.

Since then, Georgia DOT has made important changes: the project remains a P3, but the method of delivery has changed to Design-Build-Finance (DBF). DBF is more streamlined, requires less private financing, provides greater state control and still allows benefit from the investment, innovation, and expedited delivery of a P3. The private partner will contribute initial funding of 10 - 20 percent of the total project cost, and be responsible for design and construction of the project. The state will provide oversight of the construction and retain responsibility for operations and maintenance of the roadway, tolling and long-term financing. The state will repay the private partner after the facility is open to traffic. DBF addresses the Governor's major concern: the state will be able to implement additional transportation solutions in the corridor as needed. Under this delivery process, the project is moving forward with full support from Governor Deal, Georgia legislators, and the State Transportation Board.



Artist rendering of the Managed Lane System Flyover at Windy Hill Road

This project is estimated to cost approximately \$950 million. Georgia's share of the project costs will come from several sources, including low-interest federal loans and bonds. The Georgia General Assembly has indicated strong support of this project and its potential economic benefit by appropriating \$300 million in state motor fuel revenues toward the project cost.

NWCP in the Community

To raise awareness of the financing changes, answer any questions and gather feedback, the project team will be reaching out to the community through informational kiosk events at area malls, churches, and county commission meetings this summer. We'll have fact-sheets, comment forms and the FEIS document for review. Two events have already been scheduled and are listed below. Please stay tuned to the project website for more scheduled events.

June 29, 2012

5:00pm – 9:00pm
Cumberland Mall
1000 Cumberland Mall
Atlanta, GA 30339

June 30, 2012

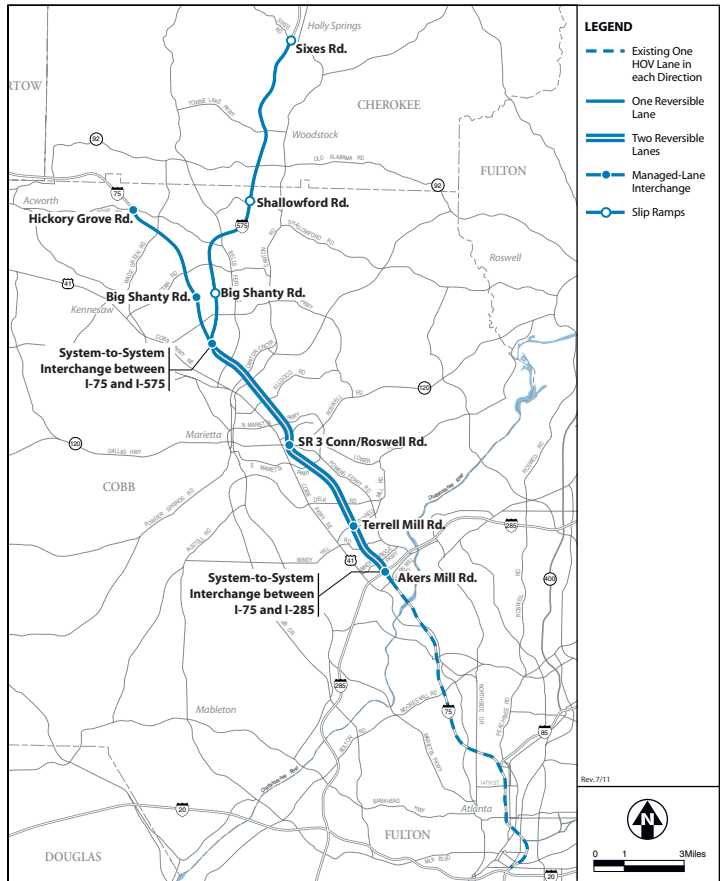
12:00pm – 4:00pm
Town Center at Cobb Mall
400 Ernest W. Barrett Pkwy
Kennesaw, GA 30144

The Northwest Corridor Project Concept

Financing and procurement for the project may have changed, but the project’s scope is still the same. The project still includes the addition of a managed lane system to I-75 and I-575. The lanes would be tolled and the priced adjusted throughout the day to maintain a minimum average operating speed of 45 miles per hour. The new managed lanes would be reversible to help minimize traffic congestion in the direction with the most demand, for example southbound in the morning commute period and northbound in the afternoon commute period.

Features of the project still include:

- Two new tolled managed reversible lanes on elevated structures or walls on the west side of I-75 between Akers Mill Road and I-575.
- A single toll managed reversible lane continuing north on I-75 from the I-75/I-575 interchange to just beyond Hickory Grove Road.
- A single toll managed reversible lane continuing north on I-575 from the I-75/I-575 interchange to a point north of Ridgewalk Parkway and south of the Sixes Road interchange.
- Six new managed-lane interchanges on I-75 constructed at the following locations: I-285, Terrell Mill Road, Roswell Road, I-575, Big Shanty Road and Hickory Grove Road.
- Three pairs of slip ramps on I-575 constructed near the existing general purpose interchanges at Barrett Parkway, Shallowford Road and Sixes Road. The slip ramps allow traffic in the inside general-purpose lanes to merge to the new tolled reversible lane in the highway median.



What’s Next?

As the next step in the environmental process, a determination on the project’s concept, known as the Record of Decision (ROD), is expected to be issued in early 2013. The ROD will state the decision on the project; describe the alternatives, including the preferred alternative; list any environmental impacts; and discuss the plan to address the impacts including mitigation or monitoring.

The process for contracting private partners to design, build and finance the project will also continue with GDOT requesting qualifications from interested firms this summer and proposals from a selected shortlist in December. Final design of the project is anticipated to start in 2013 and construction in 2014. The managed lanes could be open to traffic as early as spring of 2018.

Can I still review the FEIS?

The FEIS continues to be available on the project website, www.nwcpproject.com and at the following area libraries, GDOT's Office of Environmental Services and GDOT's District Offices:

- Atlanta-Fulton County Library, One Margaret Mitchell Square, Atlanta GA 30303,
- Cobb County Central Library, 266 Roswell St, Marietta GA 30060,
- RT Jones Memorial Library, 116 Brown Industrial Pkwy, Canton GA 30114,
- Georgia Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services, 600 West Peachtree Street, NW., 16th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30308,
- GDOT District 6 Main Office, 500 Joe Frank Harris Parkway, Cartersville, GA 30120,
- GDOT District 6 Cherokee Area Engineer's Office, 874 Peoples Valley Road, NW, Cartersville, GA 30120,
- GDOT District 7 Main Office, 5025 New Peachtree Road, Chamblee, GA 30341, and
- GDOT District 7 Office, Cobb Area Engineer's Office, 1269 Kennestone Circle, Marietta, GA 30066.

Have a group interested in more information? Contact us to ask a question or schedule a presentation or information kiosk!

Get Involved!

For project updates and to join the mailing list or provide feedback:

Voice Mail Hotline: (404) 377-4012

Email: nwcpcomments@projectsolvemail.com

Website: www.nwcpproject.com

To submit written comments, or for more information please contact:

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ACRONYMS

- DBF:** Design Build Finance
- FEIS:** Final Environmental Impact Statement
- FHWA:** Federal Highway Administration
- GDOT:** Georgia Department of Transportation
- HOV Lanes:** High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes
- P3:** Public Private Partnership
- RFQ:** Request for Qualifications
- RFP:** Request for Proposals
- ROD:** Record of Decision
- SRTA:** State Road and Tollway Authority

