

New GDOT Video Vividly Shows a Perimeter Flush with Express Lanes, Less Traffic

The most mesmerizing part of the Georgia Department of Transportation's new video showing the vision for one of its many interstate expansion projects isn't the color-coded network of new express lanes. Rather, it's the staggering lack of congestion along a typically high-traffic corridor of the Interstate 285 Perimeter.

That's the main thrust of GDOT's mission with its potentially \$11 billion Major Mobility Investment Program—to curb traffic.

The video offers a vivid preview of the proposed Interstate 285 Top End Express Lanes project, which has caught the ire of a few north metro Atlanta officials and prompted questions about the future of mass transit in the region.

Granted, the video comes with a disclaimer that what you see “may not be representative of the final design.” Nonetheless, it envisions a world in which GDOT spends beaucoup bucks to build more lanes—and the tactic, per the video, actually works!

Starting from the east side of the so-called Top End, the virtual tour shows in purple how new express lanes would hang over Cobb Parkway and then thread

through the junction of Interstates 285 and 75, sending some tolled passengers toward Truist Park and the Battery.

East of that, toll lanes are elevated on either side of the Perimeter expressway, hanging mostly above the highway all the way to the Glenridge Connector, where Ga. Highway 400 meets I-285.

There, the purple lanes are cross-stitched, ushering some drivers north, where they could exit at access points at Mount Vernon Parkway.

Heading east again, the new express lanes would hop over the MARTA train tracks near Perimeter Center Parkway and shoot toward the connection of 285 and 85.

There, more weaving of lanes would link new and existing infrastructure. Could this be enough to help reduce congestion along the Perimeter's north side? Or is it possible GDOT officials are imagining a world in which Georgia drivers learned how to efficiently carpool?

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About The GDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on GDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Weathering an Unexpected Storm: COVID-19

So, we have to plan for something no one has planned for. The Coronavirus Pandemic is affecting everyday life as we know it. The first thing we must realize; the pandemic is here, and we will need to address it and the effect it will have on our family and business. As a business owner, you will have to deal with stress on many levels, in different forms and from different people. There are several steps that we suggest thinking about during this difficult time.

Step One:

Make sure you and your family are taking all the necessary measures prescribed to stay healthy. Remember that family is important and once they are safe, we can think about our business with a clearer thought process.

Step Two:

Try to understand the stress that everyone is dealing with and know that not everyone handles stress the same way. As business owners, we can sometimes make the comment to an employee “you don’t know how much stress I have, I have to meet payroll every week and all you have to do is show up for work.” That employee may have just as much stress or more than you, and their stress is as real to them as yours is to you, just in a different form. Great example, a lawyer who’s

admin is typing a 400 page brief for him that needs to be done by noon for a court case at 1 pm has no other options but to get it done, where the Lawyer can call and postpone the case if he wanted to. Who is under more stress? Remember you are the leader, now is the time to shine.

Step Three:

Have a game plan, and don’t wait until the last minute. Although, you may think it is too late to create a plan, it is not. The longer you wait implement a plan, the more difficult it becomes, and you will still need to develop a plan in the long run. If you haven’t developed a plan, start one. Here are several points to consider when developing an effective action plan:

- Involve your employees, they typically know your business the best.
- Clear lines of communication; establish who calls who, when and for what.
- Assess current and future supply needs, based against workload and projects.
- Utilize all digital tools available and work out the bugs beforehand if possible.
- Evaluate ongoing financial obligations.
- Understand your insurance coverage (call your agent).
- Communicate Transparency to all.
- Define expectations.

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Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



Within the past 3 months,
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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.