

Comments, Questions & Answers from FCS-hosted GDOT Meetings: *(held Jan. 14 & 15, 2019)*

DATE/ PROJECT	WHAT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?	WHAT FEEDBACK WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE?	SCHOOL(S) OF INTEREST	TRANSFORM 285/400	SR 400 EXPRESS LANES	I-285 TOP END EXPRESS LANES
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1/14/2019

I-285 Top End Express Lanes

What type of sound barriers will be used for community behind technology park?(85N/285 W spaghetti junction.) Will express lanes be elevated for this area? Will EL be in front of technology park?

Top End Response: We are currently in the concept design phase for this project, traffic and other related studies are either ongoing or have not been conducted at this time.

How much property will be taken between Glenridge and Roswell roads? Meet w/our neighbors to discuss property being taken by GDOT.

Top End Response: We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. All properties required for ROW acquisition have not been identified. We will not have a final count until the final design is complete. During the ROW acquisition process, there will be opportunities for property owners of identified parcels to meet with GDOT to discuss their parcel.

How tall will the elevated express lanes on top end 285 be? Will they be taller than the sound wall/barrier running next to 285?

Top End Response: The elevation will vary throughout the corridor; however, any overpasses will meet the minimum clearance of 17.5'.

Who has final say on project designs if private companies may change things? What good does it do to be involved in designing safeguards, if projects may be arbitrarily changed?

Heard Ferry ES, Sandy Springs MS, Riverwood HS

Top End Response: As part of the process, there will be opportunities for the public to provide comments. Arbitrary change is not allowed, regardless of how the project is designed or who designs it. As the project is developed, federal guidelines and GDOT design standards will be followed.

1) what times will construction take place on weekdays? 2) What times on weekends? 3) Can school buses use these express lanes? 4) Noise concerns with regards to learning and impacts on special needs kids.

I'm an itinerant teacher with FCS and am very concerned about travel in Sandy Springs. I work solely in the SS area. What impact do you see for daytime travel esp. between school hours 7:20 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. roughly. I use 400 and surrounding roads to go from Heard Ferry (where I'm based) to Woodland and DSES.

Top End Response: Construction times will be determined by the GDOT contract. Construction will likely take place outside of peak hour times on weekdays and weekends. There will be times designated by GDOT where construction should not take place.

Multiple

1/14/2019

Multiple

Clarify when property acquisition will start:
SR 400, top end 285, etc.

SR 400 Response: The Department will begin looking for Early Acquisition opportunities following the PIOH's. Early Acquisition by GDOT will continue until the project is Awarded to a Contractor. Contractor will complete the ROW acquisition within the first couple of years post award of the contract.

Top End Response: Certain unavoidable properties are being considered for early acquisition during studies and design. The acquisition will extend for several years into the construction phase.

I support interchange at GA 400/Mt. Vernon Hwy. Share traffic ingress/egress at Mt. Vernon Hwy and Hammond Drive. Max out the fees. Please meet with Glenridge-Hammond neighborhood ASAP which is homes at Glenridge/285/Roswell Rd./Johnson Ferry Rd.

1/14/2019

Multiple

Can you talk yet about when the express lanes exit entrance points will be on 400 and 285? Will one of the exit points be directly into a Marta station?

SR 400 Response:
PROPOSED SR 400 EXPRESS LANE ACCESS:
1. Direct connection from MARTA North Springs to NB express lanes
2. Full NB Direct Merge (NB on/off) south of Northridge Road
3. Braided Ramp (SB from EL to MARTA/GP)
4. Partial SB Direct Merge (SB on) south of Northridge Road
5. Partial Direct Merge (NB on/SB off) north of Northridge Road
6. Partial Express lane interchange (south facing ramps) south of Holcomb Bridge Road
7. Full Direct Merge (NB/SB on/off) south of Haynes Bridge Road
8. Full Express lane interchange at Webb+ (new location roadway north of Webb Bridge Road)
9. Partial Express lane interchange (south facing ramps) at Union Hill Road
10. Begin/end system (via merge to GP) north of McFarland Parkway

Top End Response: Access points throughout the project are being investigated.

What is being done to route trucks off 285? Will top end project have sound barriers? 400N?

Top End Response: Trucks will not be allowed in the express lanes.

N/A

I could read only the largest font on each slide, even while wearing my driving glasses. The fonts need to be larger. Consider putting the slides on handouts.

Once the spent money for the express lanes is recovered what is the plan with the future upcoming revenue?

1/14/2019

N/A

What is the current level of noise from traffic in classrooms? What is the anticipated increase in noise? How many students are affected? Which schools are affected by noise from semi-trailer trucks? What is the projected increase in traffic and noise over life of schools affected? How many money have Fulton County taxpayers invested in the schools?

For property owners who will lose property, when will those people be contacted?

Top End Response: Properties that require acquisition for the construction of the Project will be purchased in Compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Guidelines according the Code of Federal Regulations. Only properties that require an acquisition will received compensation.

If there is not one already, will there be a website with live chat capabilities for questions and interaction with GDOT personnel?

How do we insure sound barriers?

What safeguards are you planning for the great number of schools impacted?

On average what is payback from express lanes revenue to cost of build and operation?

What steps are being planned to insure that sound levels in classrooms are no louder than they currently are?

We need studies of sound impacts - we need sound barriers insured?

What were the frames for the data collected on time reduction? (I-75) Summer? Full year?

1/14/2019

N/A

How do you mitigate noise? How do you keep playgrounds safe and intact? Will raised lanes be earthquake proof?

Sound barriers please

Neighborhoods impact with aerial lanes? How are sound walls going to be implemented? Timing of right of way acquisitions. Who makes decisions for right of way? Is there an opportunity to appeal?

What are the plans for sound barriers since all the trees, etc. have been torn down?

How will you protect exposed homes?

Will there be mockup visuals (not cutaways) of sound barrier areas after completion?

Why are some of the roads left with too many holes after working on them? These are being seen mostly repairs for holes only around the most important areas or big companies?

Slides impossible to read. Even worse, telling audience "you can't see read this, but -- " don't have an answer for how to fix because handouts probably too expensive.

Why not carpool lanes vs. express lanes? This program seems to benefit the rich & who choose to live further north. Impact on schools - noise, security, odor and environment.

This impacts our schools greatly with the only benefit being to people who live north.

Woodland ES, Sandy Springs MS, North Springs HS

Can GDOT use eminent domain to replace property for schools it has to take to complete MMIP?

Made it sound like there were many meetings with FCS.

I would like to see updated right of way information as it becomes available.

Presentation was good. He spoke well, and was able to explain the current state and future timeline. I hope to see trees and other plans avoided if possible to maintain the canopy. If trees are removed I would like to see them replanted in kind.

SR 400 Express Lanes

1/14/2019

SR 400 Express Lanes

What would be the direct impact on DSES and the surrounding neighborhoods/area? What happens as the city continues to grow + widening lanes & express lanes are no longer an option?

Dunwoody Springs ES

Where will funds come from to rebuild relocated schools?

The burden of this project seems to unduly fall on Fulton County Schools. This seems like a project that will have little benefit to local residents. It is for residents of Forsyth or North Fulton. Are there green spaces/bicycle lanes contemplated that would improve quality of life for residents?

North Springs HS,
Sandy Springs MS

1. Do you have virtual images of what these elevated lanes look like from the neighborhoods. I live in Northridge Forest.
2. How will this impact people wanting to move into our neighborhoods, i.e. property values. I wouldn't want to move into a place where I can see or hear the highway.
3. How is public transportation fitting into these scenarios?

What public transportation can be implemented from Exit 14 Cumming down to the Sandy Springs/Dunwoody exits such as railroad or more buses?

Very excited about the project.
Very happy that the nightmares on 400 every day will go away!

What types of vehicles are allowed in the express lanes GA 400 corridor and others? Who is the developer for GA 400? What is the impact to neighborhoods and schools? What are the noise concerns? Where are the aerial lanes north of Northridge going to be? How does Marta north expansion impact?

Thanks for sharing. More questions than answers at this point! Appreciate the further sessions!

SR 400 Response:
Passenger cars; emergency vehicles; Buses and Military vehicles. The Developer is not known at this time. A competitive bidding process by GDOT will determine the Developer.

What noise abatement is planned on 400 express lanes? Elevated especially. What study has been done on noise impacts to school-age learning?

This area has already been dramatically impacted by tree removal for 400/285 feeder work. Eventually we feel everyone will be adjacent to expressways without buffers.

1/14/2019

SR 400 Express Lanes

Will additional 400 lanes cause the new collector-distributor lanes to be moved even further?

SR 400 Response. There will be some changes to the alignments of the CD lanes, but there will be not be changes to the access provided by the CD lanes.

SR 400 Express Lanes and Transform 285/4

1/14/2019

SR 400 Express Lanes and Transform 285/4

How are you coordinating plans with MARTA's northward extension? Our property abates SR 400 on the eastside of Exit 6. 1) what sound management is planned and when will it be implemented? 2) What is being constructed at Northridge right now (1/14/19).

After our property was surveyed, I sent an inquiry to the AECOM manager/analyst whose card I was given, but received no reply.

Transform Response: The Transform 285/400 project team meets with stakeholders every month. In these meetings the teams coordinate about upcoming activities, project plans and the progress of the project. The Transform 285/400 project limits on SR 400 stretch from Glenridge Connector to just south of Pitts Road. The Transform 285/400 project will build nine noise barriers on SR 400 and two will be located between Spalding Drive and south of Pitts Road both northbound and southbound. These barriers will be constructed at different times over the life of the project. See link below for the SR 400 noise barriers. Northridge Road is actually outside of the Transform 285/400 project limits. For additional information on the Transform 285/400 project links are placed below. Please contact the project team if you have additional questions or concerns.
Project Website:
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/BUILDSmart/Projects/Pages/I285SR400.aspx>
SR 400 Noise Barrier:
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/BUILDSmart/Projects/Documents/I285SR400/Environmental/Sound%20Barrier%20-%20SR%20400.pdf>

SR 400 Response: the SR 400 EL project is designed to not preclude possible future Heavy Rail expansion by MARTA and is providing accommodations for a proposed MARTA BRT system. GDOT PI 0013339 is under construction at Northridge now. This project consists of widening the northbound and southbound entrance ramps to two lanes and installing a dual lane ramp meter.

Transform 285/400

1/14/2019

Transform 285/400

The Transform 285/400 project isn't entirely clear. A diagram was shown that impacted 400 inside 285 (near Highpoint Elementary). What is planned there? It was not explained. (Is it just the interchange?) What is planned for the noise barriers for the neighborhoods and schools for these elevated lanes and what is the expected impact (noise, pollution, etc.)?

Shameful that the ppt was so poorly constructed that most slides were unreadable. Many slides should have been provided to download or hard copy format. Also unfortunate that questions were not allowed.

1/16/2019

I-285 Top End Express Lanes

What is the elevation measurement on the top end I-285 from the current lane? How much easement is expected on the top end?

Top End Response: The elevation will vary throughout the corridor; however, any overpasses will meet the minimum clearance of 17.5'. We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. All properties required for ROW acquisition have not been identified. We will not have a final count until the final design is complete. During the ROW acquisition process, there will be opportunities for property owners of identified parcels to meet with GDOT to discuss their parcel.

Interested in PIOH dates for TOP End? What is the Fulton co BOE website where the GDOT presentation to board on 11/6/18 occurred?

Top End Response: The PIOH meetings for the I-285 Top End Express Lanes project are expected to be held in the late 2019/early 2020. A series of meetings to introduce the project will be held in 2019 at locations along the project corridor. Details will be shared with communities in the area through a variety of channels, including print, digital, and social media.

What is the process for land procurement for the 285 lanes. When will it begin? How will land values be developed? What properties have been designated at this time?

Top End Response: Early ROW acquisition of some parcels is underway; however, the completion date cannot be provided. We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. All properties required for ROW acquisition have not been identified. We will not have a final count until the final design is complete. For additional information please go to GDOT's "What Happens When Your Property is Needed for a Transportation Facility" at <http://www.dot.ga.gov/PartnerSmart/Public/Documents/Right-of-Way/ROWBrochure-English.pdf>

1/16/2019

I-285 Top End Express Lanes

How many properties are typically taken for the top end project?

Top End Response: We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. All properties required for ROW acquisition have not been identified. We will not have a final count until the final design is complete.

Why is MARTA not a part of MMIP planning? Will elevated express lanes be built on existing 285 shoulder right of ways? Does TFA of 2015 incorporate MARTA planning? How do you measure success of toll/expressways(\$\$\$ or congestion) can Uber/Lyft drivers use express lanes without added tolls?

Top End Response: MARTA is a major stakeholder and is involved in coordination for the MMIP. The GEC is currently in the concept design phase. There will be areas where additional ROW will be acquired.

Address the clogged side streets in sandy springs. Find another way for cobb co. to get to 285 and coordinate Waze to keep people out of the neighborhoods.

Top End Response: As part of the process, we are conducting traffic studies which will allow us to identify impacts to local traffic

Where will flyovers be in relation to Riverwood HS and Heard's Ferry ES.

Riverwood Heard Ferry

Top End Response: We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. Various alternatives will be considered.

Can/Will GDOT work with MARTA to increase rail service along I-285 along with construction of express lanes?

We need more MARTA train access in the NW quadrant

GDOT received federal money for this project then had to return it to the Feds since start deadline passed. Has the GDOT gotten this funds back?

Meeting was advertised as 285 meeting plus 400, seemed more 400 oriented.

Top End Response: These investments were made possible by the General Assembly's passage of the state Transportation Funding Act of 2015 (TFA) in 2015. Georgia DOT has worked with the Governor, General Assembly, partner agencies and local communities to prioritize a comprehensive set of projects to maintain the state's economic competitiveness and allow Georgia to remain the number #1 state for business.

The TFA provided sustainable funding that will jump-start back-logged maintenance and operations projects and fund the 11 major mobility projects, resurface and widen roadways, replace and rehabilitate aging bridges, and upgrade intersections with new signals. The state funding is allocated for roadway and bridge improvements only.

Have you considered building up and over existing roadways instead of up and outside for I-285?

Top End Response: We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. Various alternatives will be considered.

1/16/2019

I-285 Top End Express Lanes

How can I comment online for the 285 project?

Top End Response: Currently, you can send comments to GDOT via email TopEndExpressLanes@dot.ga.gov. A dedicated project phone line (voice mail) is being set up and additional digital communication platforms are being developed.

Where will the access points be located and what expected impact this have on local traffic near the schools? What impact will this have on local traffic at Heard Ferry, Northside Drive, Powers Ferry, and Mount Vernon Highway?

Good presentation, need more details! I am worried about the neighborhood impact with traffic and noise. Elevated lanes are concerning.

Riverwood HS

Top End Response: Access points throughout the project are being investigated. We are conducting traffic studies which will allow us to identify impacts to local traffic.

Will there be a GDOT person responsible for representing the neighborhoods directly affected by the I-285 Top end express Lanes?

What provisions are being made for property devaluations caused by project impact on adjacent impacted properties? Is there historic information available to support property tax reductions based on devaluations caused by GDOT projects?

Riverwood

Top End Response: Properties that require acquisition for the construction of the Project will be purchased in Compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Guidelines according the Code of Federal Regulations. Only properties that require an acquisition will received compensation. No historical information concerning property tax reductions.

Provide a mic for folks to ask questions.

Riverwood

Access points to aerial lanes

Where was GDOT in planning process for expansion of Riverwood & moving of HFE. Hopefully. Long term plans are considered and GDOT is not clueless as it proceeds.

Top End Response: Access points throughout the project are being investigated.

1/16/2019

I-285 Top End Express Lanes

Will there be a noise barrier on 285 W top end @ Riverwood High School and extending W? As the use of light rail on the top end been totally abandoned in favor of auto congestion and pollution? Chattahoochee impacted? What impact will express lanes top end 285 have on nearby surface streets, Heard Ferry, Hammond drive, Mt. Vernon, Riverside? How is GDOT going to maintain the (?) roads when it can't maintain existing roads? What engineering studies will be done prior to construction?

We are currently in the concept design phase for this project. Coordination with MARTA and other transit agencies will be ongoing to accommodate future transit goals within the I-285 Top End corridor.

N/A

When will drawings (preliminary) be presented to FC schools? Will there be sound barriers for schools?

All schools

I presume the schools are concerned about to impact to students that was specifically addressed.

Please address impact to students.

How will the impact on education and safety be avoided minimized and mitigated?

Will zero-emission vehicles receive discounted or free access to the express lanes?

Heards Ferry ES

Top End Response: Zero-emission vehicles will not receive any special discounts on express lane tolls.

Very alarmed about air quality and CO2 emissions and how the affect the air quality around schools especially.

Can GDOT give \$ to Department of Education for Fulton County directed to Riverwood for tennis courts in place of greenfield.

Waste of time. We need to make sure there are no flyover our practice fields and football field.

WOT - Waste of time

Please make the 12 part diagram (segments) available for public viewing for at a location where the public can view at their leisure (City Hall, Library, Event Space, Meeting Space), including weekends.

1/16/2019
N/A

Express lanes help OTP commuters, not SS residents, Cobb commuters, in our case. Cobb does not even have MARTA, why do they get express lanes? They should not.

How do you determine what property to purchase and how is the price determined? What are the setback requirements?

Do you have a minimum distance away from schools that you are committed to maintaining?

Is children health impact a specific part of your study?

Expand MARTA hugely - all across Atlanta, not the interstates.

How can you be acquiring land and not know impacts on schools? Lawsuit?

These PIOHs are during working hours. Will you provide a permanent exhibit/long-term exhibit at City Hall or (illegible)?

Your Q&A was too short! Give rough draft plan options.

SR 400 Express Lanes

1/16/2019

SR 400 Express Lanes

1) Has GDOT coordinated with the Ga. Dept. of Education to learn about how proposed construction will put our schools out of compliance with state construction guidelines for K-12 school construction & proximity to hazards such as high traffic areas, railroad tracks, etc.? 2) When were traffic studies done to gauge volume? When was the last noise study done (on GA 400 in particular) and was it done at different times during the day (peak or off-peak)? 3) How will the widening of GA 400 impact the collector-distributor lanes currently under construction? School district representatives were told that Woodland Elementary School would be receiving noise barriers in conjunction with the improvements to and completion of the Northridge interchange. That interchange has been completed for several years, yet Woodland never received noise barriers. This discussion was held before, during, and after construction of Dunwoody Springs Elementary. Noise studies were conducted at both schools, and at both locations, the need was demonstrated for noise barriers. I know this to be true, because I was present at these meetings. Our children's safety is being impacted by the lack of noise barriers, impacting more than a decade of students. I would be happy to speak more about the issue with anyone from GDOT.

All schools

SR 400 Response: There will be some changes to the alignments of the CD lanes, but there will be not be changes to the access provided by the CD lanes.

What can you do for sound privacy on elevated express lanes for the houses that will be close to elevated lanes, specifically GA 400?

What impact on National Recreation area across Chattahoochee River will top end express lane project have?

Transform 285/400

1/16/2019

Transform 285/400

Barrier walls not going to be installed between Roswell Road and Lake Forrest for the 285/400 Interchange. The noise from I-285 during the hours of 9 p.m. - 4 a.m. is unbearable with all the truck traffic using their engines to downshift (slow down). The changeable message signs can be utilized for telling overnight traffic - engine braking not allowed. This would be a very low cost solution to determine if noise is reduced before signs are permanent in this area, then violators could be fined and increase revenue for the area. Please contact me if you want further information. Thanks!

Transform Response:
Noise impacts along I-285 between Roswell Road and Lake Forrest Drive. The noise barrier was not extended all the way to Lake Forrest Drive because the study found the receivers in this area did not register noise above the Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC) of 66 decibels. Therefore, these receivers were not further evaluated for a recommendation of a noise barrier for the Transform 285/400 project.

Although, this area is not receiving a noise barrier as part of the Transform 285/400 project, the Georgia DOT has another project planned for this area. The 285 Top End Express Lanes will have to perform a separate noise study to determine noise barriers.

If you have any additional questions or concerns please reach out to our project team. If you would like to stay informed about the project, I've placed the link for the project website below.

Project Website:
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/BUILDSmart/Projects/Pages/1285SR400.aspx>