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News Release

For Immediate Release

November 15, 2018

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Fulton schools and facilities to see potential impact from Georgia 400, I-285 express lane construction

At its recent work session, the Fulton County School Board received preliminary information about the potential impact to the district stemming from planned highway expansions along Georgia 400 and Interstate 285. The projects are part of the Georgia Department of Transportation's "Major Mobility Investment Program" (MMIP), which includes construction of express lanes along the two roadways.

Schools and district facilities bordering Georgia 400 and Interstate 285 that may be affected include:

- Dunwoody Springs Elementary School (Georgia 400, Sandy Springs)
- Woodland Elementary School (Georgia 400, Sandy Springs)
- Sandy Springs Middle School (Georgia 400, Sandy Springs)
- New North Maintenance Facility (Georgia 400, Alpharetta)
- Riverwood High School (I-285, Sandy Springs)
- Heard's Ferry Elementary School I-285, (Sandy Springs)
- Administrative Center (I-285, Sandy Springs)

When GDOT first approached Fulton County Schools about the MMIP program, very preliminary information was provided with no specific details about the impact to district facilities. GDOT officials later requested a meeting with school system staff, which occurred October 22. At this meeting GDOT provided conceptual information that suggested potential impacts to five schools and two administrative buildings. Fulton County Schools raised concerns about student and staff safety, particularly how close the express lanes would be to existing school property.

In early November, GDOT representatives presented revised conceptual plans to reduce some of the overall impact; however, FCS staff remain concerned and continue to dialogue with GDOT. GDOT's conceptual plans were shared with the Board of Education at its November work session; it advises that current plans are very preliminary and may change.

GDOT plans to host a "Public Information Open House" in early 2019 and Fulton County Schools has agreed to provide meeting locations. Once details are confirmed, the meeting dates and times will be shared with the community.

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About the Fulton County School System. The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City.