

I-285 Eastside Express Lanes Update

October 2020

Following our Public Information Open Houses (PIOH) in June of 2019, the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) evaluated its Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) and refined how the project will be delivered. Most significant to the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes project is an adjustment to the schedule, with construction now slated to begin in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2024 and substantial completion anticipated in 2028. For more information on the MMIP, please visit:

<https://majormobilityga.com>



I-285 Eastside Express Lanes Public Involvement Timeline



Additionally, as the MMIP has developed and design work progressed, six improvement projects along I-285, which were already part of the MMIP, have been advanced to be constructed ahead of the MMIP express lane projects. Within the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes corridor, the I-285 Eastside Bridge Replacements, one of the I-285 Advanced Improvement Projects (AIP) includes the construction of new bridges at Covington Highway, Redwing Circle, and Glenwood Road.

The change in the schedule and the introduction of the I-285 AIP projects are beneficial for a number of reasons, including:

- Providing local road improvements earlier in the delivery timeline than previously scheduled
- Contributing to less disruptive construction congestion and impacts to local roads during major express lanes project construction
- Maintaining healthy competition among our bidding developers
- Avoiding overwhelming the contracting industry with fewer projects on the same procurement timeline
- Providing opportunities for smaller firms to bid successfully

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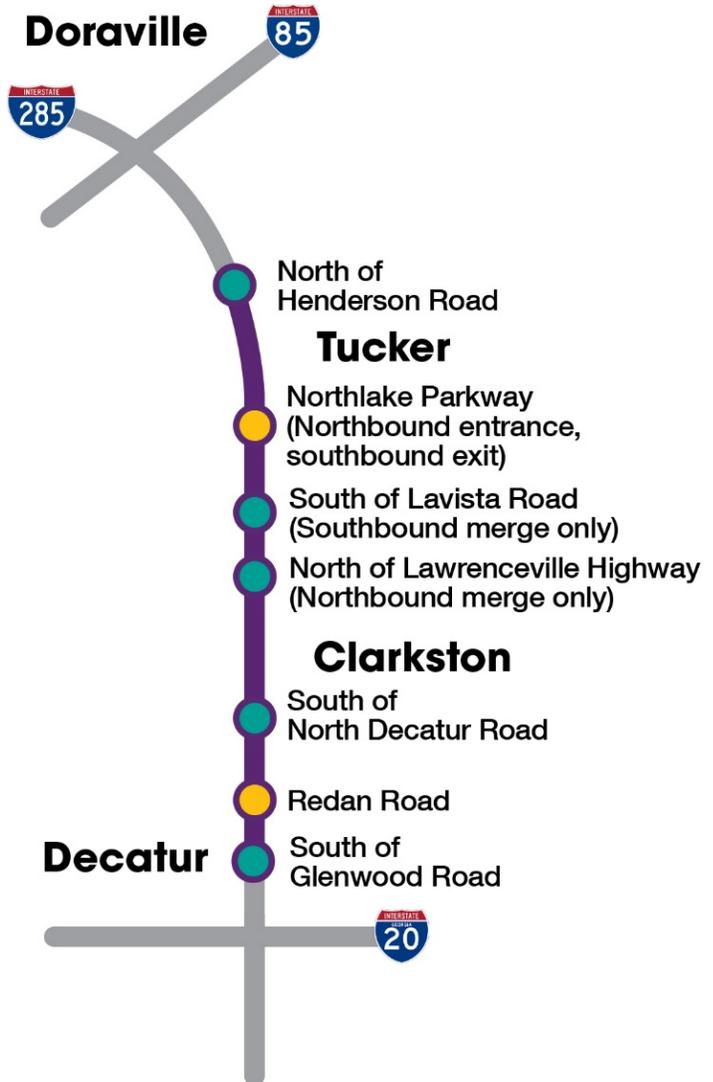
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Following the PIOHs, the project team reviewed express lane access points based on public comment. In addition to the proposed direct ramp access point, also referred to as an express lane interchange, at Redan Road shown at the PIOH, the proposed concept now includes an express lane interchange at Northlake Parkway (northbound facing ramps only). In order to construct the express lane interchange access ramps at Northlake Parkway, the existing general-purpose access ramps would be removed. There would also be several direct merge access points,

LEGEND:

- Project
- Express Lane Interchange
- Express Lane Merge

Project Length: 10.1 miles
Map is not to scale.
Project information is subject to change.



where motorists can merge into and out of the express lanes. Proposed locations include points near Glenwood Road, North Decatur Road, Lavista Road/Lawrenceville Highway, and Henderson Road.

At this point, the project team is working on several technical studies to inform the Environmental Assessment, which has to be approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) before the project can move forward with final design and construction. The team is currently working on the Ecology Assessment of Effects Report, Cultural Resources Assessment of Effects Report, the Air Quality Impact Assessment Report, and the Noise Impact Assessment. The final Environmental Assessment is currently anticipated for review and approval by FHWA in the third quarter (Q3) of 2021.

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The team is in ongoing coordination with the DeKalb County Transportation Division, Police and Fire Departments, the Sanitation Department, and DeKalb County Schools to plan and communicate any required detours ahead of the construction of the I-285 Eastside Bridge Replacement projects, as well as the other bridges across I-285 that will be replaced as part of the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes project.

Public transit providers that operate in this corridor can use the express lanes free of charge, and the new express lane interchange at Redan Road will provide an easy connection to the Indian Creek transit station. As such, the team is conducting regular meetings with MARTA to discuss a variety of topics including impacts to local routes during proposed road closures and requests for newly reconstructed bridges to potentially accommodate future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations.

Over the coming months, we will continue to refine the proposed concept and post additional project information to the project website in preparation for our Public Hearing Open Houses (PHOHs) anticipated in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021. Of immediate interest, the project team has refined the project visualization video providing an opportunity for a virtual drive through of the project corridor. Additionally, the PIOH comment response document has been updated (denoted in red text) to address the changes in the concept since the PIOHs. Please visit our website to review these updates:

<https://majormobilityga.com/projects/eastside/>

Changes to the project visualization video include:

- An alignment shift of the Henderson Road bridge over I-285
- Add a new direct express lanes interchange access ramp at Northlake Parkway. The existing general-purpose access ramps will be removed.
- Add a new weave zone for express lanes access along I-285 near Lavista Road (southbound only) and Lawrenceville Highway (northbound only)
- Widen the existing I-285 mainline bridges over CSX railroad tracks
- Construct a roundabout at Redan Road/Holcombe Road to enhance safety and reduce congestion.
- Highlights the I-285 Advanced Improvement Project ([I-285 Eastside Bridge Replacements](#)) that will be constructed ahead of the I-285 Eastside Express Lanes.

How do I stay informed about the project?

- Georgia DOT will provide regular updates through the project website, social media, newsletters, media announcements, and community outreach events.
- By bookmarking the project web page to phones/tablets and computers, travelers can stay updated throughout the project duration. Bookmark the project by visiting: <https://majormobilityga.com/projects/eastside/>
- Project representatives are also available to speak to groups. A speaker's request form is available at the project web page.
- To be added to the project distribution list to receive updates, please email EastsideExpressLanes@dot.ga.gov.
- Leave a message on the project voicemail at 678-247-2685.