



Georgia Department of Transportation News Release

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Plan ahead to avoid 'jams'

Georgia DOT Announces Summer Construction Projects

ATLANTA – From biscuits to bands, Georgians love a good “jam.” And with hundreds of road construction and maintenance projects scheduled in the next few months, the Georgia Department of Transportation wants to make sure the only jams state motorists encounter this summer are of the edible or auditory variety!

“This may well be our busiest year ever in terms of new projects and maintenance work,” Vicki Gavalas, Georgia DOT Director of Communications, says. “We’ve already begun more than \$378 million in work and by the end of the year, that number likely will be in excess of \$1 billion! A great deal of that work – throughout the state – will be done this summer.”

To that end, attached is a list of merely the major Georgia DOT projects slated for the summer months. Many will require lane closures and likely result in traffic delays on interstate and state highways across Georgia. The Department will attempt to minimize the impact on motorists by restricting most lane closures to nights and weekends.

“Inevitably though, that much work is going to result in some inconvenience,” Gavalas adds. “But we have an excellent information network available to help motorists find out about construction-related lane closures, traffic incidents, alternate routes or added trip times **before** they travel.”

Georgia DOT encourages the public to access the Georgia Navigator website (www.georgia-navigator.com) for detailed construction, lane closure and traffic incident information; and also to use the site to establish their own “My Navigator” report for personalized, real-time, traffic information. Travelers also can access information at Welcome Centers, where current conditions are displayed on large plasma monitors. In addition, motorists can call the Department’s construction information hotline toll free, 24 hours, 7 days a week, at 1-800-419-GDOT, or call *DOT from a cell phone.

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Motorists are urged to obey posted, reduced construction zone speed limits; avoid unnecessary lane changes; allow extra distance between themselves and the vehicle ahead; and to exercise extreme caution while driving through these work zones.

“It’s going to be a busy summer on Georgia’s highways,” Gavalas notes. “But with a little pre-planning, motorists shouldn’t experience any *Widespread Panic* or *drivin’ n’ cryin’*. In fact, they may even have time for another biscuit with jam – peach, of course!”

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