



Russell R. McMurry, P.E., Commissioner
One Georgia Center
600 West Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA 30308
(404) 631-1000 Main Office

March 10, 2020

Mayor Lynn Deutsch
Councilman John Heneghan
City of Dunwoody
4800 Ashford Dunwoody Road
Dunwoody, GA 30338

Mayor Deutsch and Councilman Heneghan,

Thank you for reaching out about the I-285 Top End Express Lanes Project. Feedback or inquiries received during the Public Information Open House (PIOH) public comment period (January 21 – February 25, 2020) for the public meeting series will be considered part of Georgia DOT's official record of the PIOHs. A full comment response letter will be developed by the project team, usually within 60 days of the close of the comment period, responding to comments received during the PIOHs.

We will include your comments in the full comment response letter, but have addressed some of your specific comments below:

- **Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Access**

- Existing general purpose (GP) interchanges are not generally considered for arterial access ramps to and from express lanes (EL) in order to avoid potential operational impacts of combining GP and EL traffic into a single location. Under the build condition, drivers would use the direct merge on I-285 at North Shallowford Road to move from the GP lanes to the EL system in order to reach destinations west of Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, such as the Perimeter area and Cobb County. Essentially, drivers could still use northbound or southbound Peachtree Industrial Boulevard as they do today, merge onto I-285 heading west, and then almost immediately enter the EL system at the direct merge to travel westward without using local streets. The reverse commute would be similar for drivers traveling northbound or southbound on Peachtree Industrial Boulevard wanting to go in the eastbound direction of I-285.

- **New Chamblee Dunwoody Bridge/Savoy-Cotillion "Loop"**

- The replacement of the Chamblee Dunwoody bridge is part of GDOT PI 0017125, an Advanced Improvement Project (AIP) that includes operational improvements between Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Ashford Dunwoody Road. The conversion of Savoy Drive and Cotillion Drive to a one-way pair is proposed under the I-285 Top End Express Lanes project (PI 0001758) and is not part of PI 0017125. Traffic studies are ongoing to help determine future conditions in this area resulting from implementation of each project, and this comment will be considered as design progresses.



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- **Madison Square at Dunwoody Community**
 - Nearly 70 residents attended an HOA meeting on February 18, 2020 and shared their input with project team representatives. Councilman Jim Riticher also attended, and we have received comments from residents as well that will be incorporated into the comment response as part of Georgia DOT's official record of the PIOHs. We plan to engage this community in the coming months as the design progresses and will notify you when a meeting is scheduled. We appreciate the offer to assist with this outreach.

- **Noise/Sound Walls**
 - While Georgia DOT does not typically dictate construction sequencing and phasing in Design-Build contracts, the Department encourages progressing construction in such a way that priority is placed on installing noise barriers as early as practical. There may be some design and/or constructability conflicts in areas along the project corridor which prevent Georgia DOT or the Developer from physically constructing a noise barrier early in the construction phase. The decision to provide permanent sound walls is determined once the final noise study is complete and public input on the proposed noise wall is received. Please note that any existing noise barriers may have to be temporarily removed to facilitate construction.

We appreciate your feedback and interest in the project. Please let us know of any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Matthews', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Matthews, P.E.
Program Manager
Major Mobility Investment Program

Cc: Kevin Abel, GDOT Board Member
Joe Carpenter, P.E./GDOT
Darryl VanMeter, P.E./GDOT
Michael Nader, P.E./Consultant
Drew Pitman/Consultant