

## Fact Sheet: Safety on Northwest Corridor Express Lanes



The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) and Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) are finalizing the construction and testing phases of the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes to increase options and mitigate congestion for Georgia commuters traveling north of Atlanta. The Express Lanes, which add new capacity for I-75 and I-575 motorists, opened on Sept. 8, 2018.

The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes are reversible lanes that run along and through I-75 and I-575 in Cobb and Cherokee counties. The 29.7 miles of dynamically priced lanes are separated from the general purposes lanes by an elevated bridge or concrete barrier and a series of gates, offering the highest level of safety.

### Are the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes safe?

These reversible Express Lanes have been successfully implemented on I-75 south of Atlanta, as well as in communities across the country. The lanes are separated by an elevated bridge or concrete barrier and a series of gates, with safety measures built in from cameras and HERO units. There are also a series of barrier and warning gates at each entry and exit point to deter motorists from getting on the Express Lanes in the wrong direction.

Georgia DOT's HERO trucks are dedicated to the lanes 24/7 and will be onsite during lane reversals. Additionally, the Toll Operations Center will be staffed at all times by trained staff dedicated to monitoring the Express Lanes for incidents and managing the lane reversals.



# Frequently Asked Questions: Northwest Corridor Express Lanes

## What will deter vehicles from entering the reversible lanes in the wrong direction?

A series of gates at each entry and exit point are designed to deter motorists from getting on the Express Lanes in the wrong direction. In addition, the Express Lane signage will read "CLOSED."

A series of warning gates are placed along every entry to the Express Lanes to alert motorists prior to the point of entry that the access is CLOSED. The first gate that a motorist sees will have a red banner that says "DO NOT ENTER." The barrier gate is heavily weighted and is designed to stop cars traveling up to 43 miles-per-hour (MPH).



A series of warning gates are placed along every entry to alert motorists prior to the point of entry that the access is closed.



## What happens if a vehicle stalls, breaks down or has an accident in the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes?

A shoulder is available in the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes so that a driver can safely pull out of the lane in the event of a vehicle stall or break down. HERO units will be patrolling the Express Lanes to help motorists and move vehicles to shoulders. If an accident occurs, emergency access gates will be located throughout the Express Lanes to allow first responders to quickly enter the lanes to assist. Emergency access gates are designed to allow emergency vehicles pull into the Express Lanes.

