STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:
Georgia has an agreement with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to receive funds to convert approximately 16 miles of existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes to HOT lanes (Express Lanes) on Interstate 85 (I-85) to help improve mobility and provide reliable trip times through value pricing. Concurrent transit projects will also be implemented, including two new Park-and-Ride lots, and 36 new commuter coaches to provide commuting options.

LOCAL PARTNERS:
- Georgia Department of Transportation
- State Road and Tollway Authority
- Georgia Regional Transportation Authority
- Atlanta Regional Commission
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- Georgia Department of Public Safety
- Gwinnett County
- Clean Air Campaign
- City of Atlanta
- MARTA

UPA/CRD Annual Report
Atlanta I-85 Express Lanes and Transit Projects

For Further Information
CRD website:
http://www.dot.state.ga.us/informationcenter/programs/crd/Pages/default.aspx

I-85 Express Lanes Project website:
http://www.dot.state.ga.us/informationcenter/activeprojects/interstates/I85hotlanes/Pages/default.aspx

Peach Pass website:
http://www.peachpass.com/

GRTA Xpress website:
http://www.xpressga.com/

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U.S. Department of Transportation
FHWA-JPO-11-041

Atlanta – Picture Courtesy of SRTA

Concurrent transit projects
I-85 Express Lanes milestones

**Projects**
- **Express lanes**
  - Secured NEPA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the HOV to HOT conversion on I-85 in March 2010.
  - Contracted for new EC non-proprietary transponder technology for electronic toll collection in February 2010.
  - Started design-build of new tolling system backoffice and in-lane equipment in March 2010.
- **Concurrent transit projects milestones**
  - Secured NEPA Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the HOV2+ to HOT3+ Improvement Plan in July 2009.
  - Predeployment Performance Monitoring finished in February 2010.
  - Peach Pass Toll Account Go-Live finished in Spring 2011.

**2010 Accomplishments**

- **Projects**
  - CRD Grant Award
  - CRD Grant Award

- **Non-technical Support Activities**
  - Public Outreach and Marketing
    - A national panel of experts session titled, “Successful HOT Lane Projects: A National Perspective,” which drew over 100 attendees and received regional and local media coverage.
    - Launch of the Peach Pass project website in summer 2010. Peach Pass is the branding of the electronic toll system, and is Georgia’s equivalent to Sun Pass and I-Pass.
    - Development of a project video that describes the project benefits and how to use the I-85 Express Lanes.

- **Results to Date**
  - Distribution of the I-85 Express eNewsletters electronically, which provides project updates, resources, and background information.
  - Construction kick off information sessions and events as well as weekly construction update emails.
  - Outreach with entities such as the Clean Air Campaign to promote carpooler formation is ongoing.

**PLANS FOR 2011**

- **Express lanes**
  - Peach Pass tolling account sign-up “Go-Live” April 2011.
  - Open I-85 Express Lanes August 2011.
- **Park-and-ride lots**
- **New buses**
  - Twenty new commuter coaches will be delivered in May 2011.