

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

March 4, 2022

Dear Mr. Hedges,

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is committed to improving statewide mobility through equitable solutions while optimizing the use of public funds. As the monumental Major Mobility Investment Program (MMIP) has developed, we've continued to analyze and evaluate how to best maximize project value. As a result, GDOT recently announced updates to many vital MMIP projects schedules. We at GDOT strive to deliver all these projects as soon as is practically possible, using the best practices available.

The schedule adjustments are based on GDOT's ongoing collaboration with the contracting industry to deliver projects to the public in the most strategic and efficient way, as well as meet our goals of on-time delivery. As with any plan, adjustments are often necessary along the way to get the desired outcome. GDOT seeks to provide the best value to the taxpayer and has worked hard to engage with industries that help us build and deliver projects like these to the public.

GDOT is advancing the I-75 Commercial Vehicle Lanes (PI No. 0014203) project using a modified schedule that impacts the timing of construction activities. In 2021, GDOT held meetings with industry representatives to understand their readiness to deliver. The resulting adjustments to the procurement and delivery dates allow the limited number of developers to be responsive based on capabilities, labor, and supplies, as well as reduce project risk. It's currently anticipated that procurement for a developer will begin in 2025 with developer selection anticipated in 2026. Final design and construction would follow.

GDOT will continue to provide updates to stakeholders and listen to feedback within the communities. GDOT recognizes the benefits of improved safety and operations in the corridor and the value these lanes provide to support the vital freight, logistics, and goods movement industry. To progress this approximate 40-mile project, GDOT, based on direct feedback from industry outreach, involved potential risk reduction, will complete environmental studies, secure federal approvals and permits, acquire rightof-way (ROW), and assist with the relocation of conflicting utilities. These efforts will help reduce the construction duration and impacts to the traveling public, increase industry competition, and improve project pricing.

Much has changed since the MMIP was first announced, but GDOT has not lost focus on delivering these projects to provide reliable travel times, create additional capacity that supports transit, enhance operations and safety, and improve freight movement.



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We are committed to keeping you updated so please reach out if more information is needed.

For the latest information on the I-75 Commercial Vehicle Lanes project, please visit: <u>https://0014203-gdot.hub.arcgis.com/</u>.

Sincerely,

Meg B. Pikle

Meg B. Pirkle, P.E. Chief Engineer

cc: Russell R. McMurry, PE Joe Carpenter, PE Darryl VanMeter, PE Matthew Fowler, PTP