

# Economic & Information Metrics Cobb County

## Northwest Corridor Express Lanes Infrastructure Project

The Georgia Department of Transportation's Northwest Corridor Express Lanes Project has been recognized as the No. 1 project on the 2018 United States Roads & Bridges Top 10 Roads list. **This Cobb County infrastructure project, the largest of its kind in state history and most innovative express lanes project in the country, opened September 8, 2018 in Cobb County with the goal of alleviating congestion, providing more reliable travel times for commuters and to promote business growth in the region.**

The Northwest Corridor Express Lanes Project included 29.7 miles of reversible express lanes with six express lane interchanges on I-75 and I-575 and several new access points. Following the 2018 opening of the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes, traffic congestion decreased in the general-purpose lanes of that section of I-75 by approximately two hours each day and improved the on-time performance of Xpress buses by 12%.

In October 2021, the construction of a new access ramp to the I-75 Express Lanes at Akers Mill Road was announced. This new access point will provide travelers with much-needed access to the Cumberland economic area. This area is home to over 3,400 businesses, 29,000 residents and has an annual economic impact of \$20 billion on Georgia's economy. The new Akers Mill access ramp is estimated to cost \$18.2 million and is anticipated to be complete in Spring 2025.

## I-285 Express Lanes Project (Currently in Environmental Impact Review)

I-285 is the interstate "loop" around Atlanta. To alleviate metro-Atlanta traffic congestion, this multi-modal project will introduce increased capacity with two new, barrier-separated, dedicated express lanes in each direction across the northern half of I-285 and SR400, connecting Eastside Henderson Road to Westside Atlanta Road across the top of the metro-Atlanta area. This Public-Private Partnership projects a 39% reduction in travel times for those using the express lanes and over 8% in the general-purpose lanes. It also allows the DOT to deliver greatly enhanced infrastructure requiring fewer public dollars. The I-285 Top End Express Lanes are anticipated to open in 2029.

