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SRTA, Transdev Issue Condolences in Passing of Xpress Driver

ATLANTA - The State Road & Tollway Authority (SRTA) and Transdev, the contracted operator of Xpress Transit service, express their deepest and sincerest condolences on the death of long-serving and valued Xpress Transit Operator, James Atkinson, who passed away while on duty this morning Wednesday, Feb. 14.

“We at SRTA are devastated to learn of the untimely death of one of our team members this morning,” Chris Tomlinson, Executive Director of SRTA, said. “Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, his fellow operators and the entire SRTA

and Transdev teams. We ask that everyone respect the privacy of Mr. Atkinson's family and keep them in your thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time."

The driver, James Atkinson, 52, had been an Xpress (Transdev) operator since 2010. Grief counselors are being provided to staff by SRTA and Transdev.

"James was well known and well liked because of his personality and his dedication to the job. He will be missed." Ed Overn, Regional Vice President for Transdev, said. "While it is a sad day for Transdev, we are grateful for the quick thinking and action of the passengers aboard the bus who heroically did everything possible to help James and keep the other passengers safe."

Atkinson was driving a coach on Wednesday morning when he went into medical distress. Passengers on the coach provided timely assistance and contacted emergency medical personnel. Another Xpress transit coach was immediately deployed to transport passengers to their regular stops for this route.

"We want to express our sincere appreciation for the quick thinking and timely action of the passengers on route 426 who immediately provided aid for our driver," Tomlinson said. "We greatly appreciate everything that they did for him and for the safety of their fellow passengers. We also want to express our thanks and appreciation to the first responders who provided assistance as well as the Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County and the Clayton County Sheriff's Office Chaplaincy Program for sending grief counselors to assist transit operators at our facility today."

Transit Operator James Atkinson



About the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA)

SRTA is a state-level, independent Authority created to operate tolled transportation facilities within Georgia and act as the transportation financing arm for the state. SRTA manages the collection of tolls on Georgia's Express Lanes System through the use of Peach Pass; administers the Atlanta region's vanpool program; and manages the Xpress regional commuter coach transit service. In 2017, SRTA combined with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) to jointly provide the services of both state authorities. The GRTA board serves continues to oversee developments of regional impact, air quality reporting and regional transportation plan approval.

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