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**The State Road and Tollway Authority Prepares Xpress Services for Coronavirus**

*State Regional Transit Service Enhances Cleaning Regimen to Minimize Health Risks for Everyone*

ATLANTA – Today the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) announced that it is enhancing its cleaning regimen for Xpress transit to minimize health risks for everyone using its commuter services. Xpress serves as the state’s regional commuter transit system whose jurisdiction encompasses 13 Georgia counties: Cherokee, Clayton, Coweta, Cobb, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding, and Rockdale, operating in all counties except Fayette. SRTA leadership and staff have been in constant contact with state health leaders, emergency management officials, and with federal, state, and local partners including the Federal Transit Administration, the Georgia Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stay informed on the most current and accurate information related to the Coronavirus and methods of prevention. The Authority also formed an internal task force to monitor updates and make recommendations for operational adjustments as needed.

“Each year over 2 million passengers and over 250 bus operators travel on Xpress safely to and from the 12 counties we serve,” stated Chris Tomlinson, Executive Director of SRTA. “The health of Georgia’s citizens, our workforce and workplace safety are top priorities for everyone so we’ve enhanced our cleaning regimen to ensure that our riders can continue to commute with confidence.”

SRTA’s enhanced cleaning regimen includes a combination of both daily activities and sequenced deep cleanings. Xpress dispatch facilities are conducting daily cleanings of equipment, high touch areas and or

high foot traffic areas using products promoted to eliminate 99.9 % of germs, daily trash disposal and daily inspections of the buses. In addition, Xpress is conducting anti-viral deep cleanings at a rate of 10-15 buses per day with cleaning complete for the majority of the fleet by the end of each week. Bus operators are being provided hand sanitizer, germicidal wipes, and spray to be used in driver and dispatch areas. Finally, SRTA is taking steps to increase staffing and to procure additional supplies to expand its deep cleaning efforts.

Officials at SRTA began early prevention methods by educating all SRTA staff on the most accurate and up to date prevention and educational information. Coronavirus prevention information has been shared with each bus operator and educational meetings were held by Xpress transit service contractors with all of their staff. Coronavirus information posters and reminders have been posted up in all areas, including administration offices, maintenance, dispatch, the drivers' lounge, as well as, the kitchen and bathrooms of all transit operating facilities.

In addition, SRTA is also encouraging Xpress commuters to practice these prevention habits while riding Xpress:

- Carry an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol content) and use it after you leave the bus if you don't have access to water or soap right away.
- Clean your phone screen with an antibacterial wipe and wash your hands with soap and water after touching your phone.
- Don't touch your face, whether you're on or off Xpress. The CDC recommends avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, specifically.
- If you're on a crowded bus and can't physically step away, face your back towards the person coughing.
- Limit contact with high touch areas. If you decide to use a napkin or tissue to touch high touch areas, discard the tissue in an enclosed trash bin afterward.
- Sanitize your purse, bag or briefcase and keep it off the floor and other surfaces. This includes the bottom of the bag, especially if it sits on the floor any time during your travels.

#### ***About the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA)***

*SRTA is a state-level, independent Authority created to operate tolled transportation facilities within Georgia and acts as the transportation financing arm for the state. SRTA manages the collection of tolls on Georgia's Express Lanes System using 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 of Directors oversees Developments of Regional Impact, air quality reporting and regional transportation plan approval.*

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