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**THE STATE ROAD & TOLLWAY CELEBRATES 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF I-85
EXPRESS LANES AND PEACH PASS**

Since the October 1, 2011, opening of the I-85 Express Lanes, nearly 74 million total trips have been taken and over one million Peach Passes have been issued

ATLANTA – Ten years ago today, on October 1, 2011, the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) officially opened the I-85 Express Lanes and earlier that summer began the transition from Cruise Cards to the new Peach Pass. The first dynamically priced, barrier free toll facility in the state, the I-85 Express Lanes project involved converting approximately 16 miles of the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes to High Occupancy Toll Lanes (HOT) Lanes on I-85 from Old Peachtree Road to Chamblee Tucker Road. The I-85 Express Lane project was a part of a \$110 million Congestion Reduction Demonstration grant awarded to the Atlanta Region by the United States Department of Transportation. The grant supported investments aimed at providing trip time reliability, commuter choices, and regional transit enhancements that projected to double the Xpress Transit Service in I-85 Corridor, support Xpress facilities throughout the region and for Xpress coaches.

“We are thrilled to be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the I-85 Express Lanes and Peach Pass”, stated SRTA Executive Director Chris Tomlinson. “Since 2011, we have seen unprecedented growth with our tolling program, not only on I-85, but also with its extension, the 75 South Metro Express Lanes and the Northwest Corridor Express Toll Lanes” Tomlinson added.

Just a month after tolls began on the I-85 HOT Lanes, SRTA officials were announcing the issuance of the 100,000th Peach Pass and a total of over 159,000 unique trips. Today SRTA

reports more than one million Peach Pass transponders have been issued to date, and nearly 21 million total trips were taken on the Georgia Express Lane system during the 2020 fiscal year alone - more than 8 million of those on the I-85 Express Lanes. Even as the number of tolling facilities has grown in the last 10 years, in total, the I-85 Express Lanes have served more than 74 million trips.

Georgia uses its Express Lanes as strategic tools to help manage congestion, enhance mobility, and to generate revenue required for ongoing operation and maintenance costs. In FY 12 toll revenue for the Express Lanes totaled \$22.3 million, with nearly \$2.4 million of that revenue from the I-85 tolls. In FY 20, toll revenue for the I-85 Express Lanes (HOT only) reached over \$15.3 million and with the opening of two new Express Lanes during FY 19, the net total revenue for that fiscal year grew to nearly \$34.1 million.

Peach Pass continues to enhance its services as it continues to grow. In 2020, SRTA implemented updated editions of MyPeachPass.com and the Peach Pass GO! mobile app to make it easier for customers to access and manage their accounts. The new mobile app and website was built to help customers keep track of their account activity and build Peach Pass into their daily travels through new features that give customers the ability to update billing and vehicle information, including adding or removing vehicles; view account notifications or pay violations; monitor account balance and add funds via credit/debit card; track recent transactions; and view live toll rates across all lanes to help plan trips ahead of time to name a few.

Then in July of this year, SRTA announced their new Peach Pass Plus Program launching a partnership with Hartsfield Jackson International Airport which enables Peach Pass customers to use their transponder and the credit card associated with their account to pay for parking with cashless and card-less entry and exit to the new 5,700-spot ATL West Parking Deck at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

“None of this would have been possible without the loyal support of our Peach Pass customers and our team of dedicated professionals committed to public service”, Chris Tomlinson confirmed. “We will continue our commitment to providing mobility options and services that meets their needs over the next 10 years, including expanding our Peach Pass footprint into the future with our partnership with E-ZPass in 2022.”

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. In 2017, SRTA combined with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) to jointly provide the services of both state authorities. The GRTA board continues to oversee developments of regional impact, air quality reporting and regional transportation plan approval.

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