



For Immediate Release:

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GEORGIA DOT SUSPENDS LANE CLOSURES IN NORTHWEST GEORGIA FOR HOLIDAY TRAVEL PERIOD

CARTERSVILLE, Ga. – The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is clearing a path for travelers this holiday season by lifting lane closures over the extended Christmas and New Year’s travel period. GDOT announced today that all scheduled and ongoing construction-related lane closures in northwest Georgia would be suspended for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays. The suspension will begin at 5 a.m. Friday, December 23 and continue until 10 p.m. Monday, December 26, 2016. Georgia DOT will also suspend lane closures for the New Year holiday travelers from 5 a.m. Saturday, December 31 through 5 a.m. Monday, January 2, 2017.

“We know that a lot of people will be hitting the road for the year-end holiday season and we want to make it a little easier for them to go through northwest Georgia and arrive safely at their destinations,” said Dewayne Comer, district engineer at the DOT office in Cartersville. “Georgia DOT is suspending all scheduled lane closures on our interstates and other major state routes. We urge all motorists to do their part to keep one another safe by obeying all traffic laws and being courteous to their fellow travelers. Please drive safely and enjoy the holidays.”

Emergency maintenance work in the case of traffic accidents, and other unpredictable types of transportation incidents could still cause lane closures and/or delays. However, all construction-related lane closures will be suspended in northwest Georgia.

*Motorists can access real-time, statewide, route-specific information on accidents, road work, traffic and weather conditions through **Georgia 511** - a free phone service and website sponsored by State Farm Insurance. By dialing 511, callers also can transfer to operators 24 hours a day to report incidents or request assistance. The system can be used to access transit providers, major airports, rideshare organizations, tourism information and 511 systems in surrounding states. State Farm also sponsors the Department’s Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO) program. Georgia DOT partners with State Farm and other private concerns in funding 511, thereby preserving tax dollars and helping sustain critical services. For more information about 511, visit 511ga.org.*

DriveAlert ArriveAlive campaign calls attention to an alarming increase in roadway fatalities across Georgia, many resulting from preventable crashes and distracted driving. ***DriveAlert ArriveAlive*** implores motorists to buckle up; stay off the phone and no texting; and drive alert. Visit www.dot.ga.gov/DS/SafetyOperation/DAAA. #ArriveAliveGA For information on the Department of Transportation, visit <http://www.dot.ga.gov>. You also may like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT-Northwest and follow us on *Twitter* at <https://twitter.com/GDOTNW>.