



For Immediate Release:
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I-85 WELCOME CENTER NOW CLOSED

Lavonia, GA – The Georgia Welcome Center on Interstate 85 south in Lavonia is not welcoming, for now. It is closed until September 13, 2015 for renovations. The signage pointing visitors to the Welcome Center are covered and the entrance is blocked.

Major renovations are now underway to make the Welcome Center Welcoming – replacing most major systems in the building. “Improvements will be made from the roof to the parking lot and down to the water lines, improvements. New HVAC, new drywall and painting are all part of the renovations. The Welcome Center will also become more environmentally responsible with low flow, automatic flush valve toilets, LED lighting inside and outside. The new inside lights will have occupancy sensors so the lights will turn off automatically,” explained Georgia DOT District Engineer serving Hart County, Brent Cook.

The 16,640 square foot Welcome Center opened in 1996.

Prime Contractors of Powder Springs will be doing the work for \$720,000. The Welcome Center will reopen by September 13 or sooner. Motorists will not be able to access the Welcome Center driveway, parking areas or building during the July 20 to September 13 construction time.

***DriveAlert ArriveAlive** 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 more information about Georgia DOT, visit www.dot.ga.gov or on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/GDOTNE>) and **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/GDOTNE>).*

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