I-85 Widening between I-985 and SR 11/US 129
Project Limits and Procurement Method Overview

This memo is intended to articulate the Department’s approach on the procurement of contractors to construct the widening of I-85 between I-985 and SR 11/US 129. There are 2 projects that comprise the overall widening of I-85 between I-985 in Gwinnett County and SR 11/US 129 in Jackson County, as follows:

1. GDOT Project Identification (PI) Number: 110610
   a. Southern Limit: I-985
   b. Northern Limit: North of SR 211
   c. Scope: Addition of 1 General Purpose (GP) Lane in each direction

2. GDOT PI # 0013545
   a. Southern Limit: North of SR 211
   c. Scope: Addition of 1 GP Lane in each direction

While the Department has identified 2 distinct I-85 widening projects, which will be let to construction separately, both projects are being evaluated as part of 1 environmental document. It is common to divide larger projects, included in 1 environmental document, into shorter sections for construction purposes; in order to make the project costs align with anticipated transportation funding revenues in a given year.

The southern project (PI # 110610) begins at I-985 and is identified with a northern terminus at north of SR 211. PI # 110610 is being procured via a “variable scope, fixed cost” approach. Variable scope, fixed cost means that when the project is advertised for bids, the construction cost is fixed and the bids will be evaluated based on the distance of roadway that each contractor proposes to construct. The contractor that proposes the widening of I-85 for the furthest distance will be awarded the contract. This procurement method means that the actual northern terminus is anticipated to be further north than “north of SR 211” (as identified in the Plan/TIP).

The northern project (PI # 0013545) is presently described as the widening of I-85 between north of SR 211 and SR 11/US 129. Since PI # 0013545 will be let after PI # 110610 (the southern project), the true southern terminus of PI # 0013545 will match whatever northern terminus is awarded as part of PI # 110610. Once the true southern terminus for PI # 0013545 is known (following the award of PI # 110610), then the Plan/TIP will be adjusted to reflect the change in project terminus.

It is important to note that while the projects are proceeding to construction separately (PI # 110610 has construction in FY 2018, while PI # 0013545 has construction in FY 2025, both projects are within the same 2030 network year, for purposes of determining air quality conformity.

In conclusion, 1 additional GP lane in each direction will be constructed and open to traffic on I-85 between I-985 and SR 11/US 129 by 2030, regardless of where PI # 110610 leaves off and where PI # 0013545 begins.