



Hammond Half-Diamond Interchange Dedicated 10/21/2011

NEW ACCESS TO GEORGIA 400 AT HAMMOND DRIVE PROVIDING ANOTHER GATEWAY TO MAJOR PERIMETER MARKET

SANDY SPRINGS - Life is much easier now for Kim Gallagher, Kevin Taylor and many other employees working in Perimeter – Metro Atlanta’s largest office market.

Since the opening of the Hammond Half-Diamond Interchange on Georgia 400 in September, Gallagher, who works at the Three Ravinia building in Dunwoody, and Taylor, who works in 5 Concourse near the interchange in Sandy Springs, are finding their daily commutes significantly shorter.

“Today, with this new access to Georgia 400 at Hammond and the new bridge, traffic flow and safety are greatly improved,” said Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) Interim Commissioner Keith Golden during an official dedication of the project today (Oct. 21).

The first new access to Georgia 400 in Metro Atlanta in almost 20 years, the nearly \$18 million Hammond Half-Diamond Interchange was acclaimed at the dedication as a new gateway to Perimeter and Sandy Springs and an opportunity for development and growth of jobs in one of largest employment centers in Metro Atlanta.

The improvements include a new nine-lane, higher Hammond Drive bridge over Georgia 400, a north entrance and south exit ramp between Hammond Drive and Georgia 400 and an access lane north to the Abernathy Interchange.

“These improvements would not have happened without the financial support of the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts,” Golden said at the dedication held on the northwest corner overlooking the interchange.

“The Hammond Half-Diamond Interchange is another example of how the Perimeter business community has joined with cities in this area and the state to make transportation infrastructure improvements that are critical for economic competitiveness today,” said Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, who also spoke at the dedication.

PCIDs President and CEO Yvonne Williams called the Hammond project “a significant achievement for our market.” The PCIDs are funded by voluntary additional property taxes paid by commercial property owners within the PCIDs boundaries for infrastructure improvements.

Congressman Tom Price, M.D. (R-Ga.) said the Hammond public-private partnership is an example of “shared interest and responsibility for infrastructure needs when there are understandable limits to the available capital that taxpayer dollars can provide. Our infrastructure is vital to the success of our communities. It is the bedrock upon which economic growth may be built for the betterment of citizens.”



“This project is one that encompasses all the right moves,” noted Sandy Springs Mayor Eva Galambos, who praised the cooperation between the city, the PCIDs and GDOT that made the project happen and the fact that the project came in on time.

Providing access to Georgia 400 at Hammond Drive had been talked about for nearly 30 years before the PCIDs became involved in the project. The PCIDs hired Moreland Altobelli engineering firm to complete a concept design, then in 2007 jump started construction by bringing \$5 million to the table for the ramps. Through its development authority, the City of Sandy Springs provided low-interest financing for the PCIDs’ contribution. GDOT agreed to acquire the needed right-of-way and construct a new Hammond bridge.

“It’s a great testament to the worth of this project that it was the only one that GDOT let in the last quarter of 2008,” said Gena Evans, executive director of the State Road and Tollway Authority. “Since the PCIDs were founded in 1999, they have brought tremendous positive change to a popular, but disconnected retail and office market that was threatened by traffic congestion,” she said.

“The (Hammond) achievement is a harbinger of future improvements as PCIDs, Georgia DOT and Sandy Springs continue to work together on improvements along Hammond Drive in years to come,” said Galambos. “I am sure that together, we will be able to complete the widening and enhancements along Hammond Drive,” said Galambos, noting that the project is included in the TSLOST transportation list.

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