



# Technology Innovation Showcase 2012



## I-85 Express Lanes Project State Road and Tollway Authority

According to *Forbes*, Atlanta was the number one worst city for commuters in 2008. Mobility in the metro-Atlanta area has been a challenge for the region for many years. The need for a new mobility choice was evident on the Interstate 85 (I-85) corridor, north of Atlanta. High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes were consistently over or under capacity leading to unreliable travel times for motorists. In addition, the corridor had limited transit options. Shoulder width constraints made it unrealistic to add new capacity to the corridor.

### About the Situation:

In November 2008, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) awarded a \$110 million Congestion Reduction Demonstration (CRD) Program grant to Atlanta. This grant allowed for implementation of an integrated mobility solution for congestion-priced High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, enhanced transit service and innovative technology. The State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA), Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) led the implementation of the CRD project.

### Innovative Solution:

The CRD I-85 Express Lanes project converted approximately 15.5 miles of existing HOV lanes to HOT lanes (north and south bound). GDOT managed the construction of the lanes and SRTA managed and installed the tolling technology and equipment.

The I-85 Express Lanes Project is the **first in the country to simultaneously raise the occupancy requirement** from 2+ persons to 3+ persons for toll-free passage, **while introducing pricing to allow single-occupant vehicles to buy access.**

The all-electronic toll lanes on I-85 include a host of innovative technology and equipment that work in tandem at lightning speed.