



**Study to Remove Traffic Signal
State Route 317 (Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road) at Sawmill Drive Intersection**

In an effort to create safer, less congested, and more efficient access to Interstate 85, the City of Suwanee is considering closing the median break at the intersection of Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road and Sawmill Drive. Since 2014, there have been more than 80 vehicle crashes with over 30 injuries at this particular intersection.

The concept calls for providing a raised concrete median at the Sawmill Road intersection making it so drivers can only turn right onto or off of Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road, eliminating the traffic signal, extending the dedicated left turn lane for I-85 northbound, and ultimately allowing for more efficient timing of other traffic signals.

The process of removing a signal and closing a median requires:

- A 90-day test closure of the median break, including bagging the traffic signal heads;
- A study of the impact of the proposed traffic operational change; and
- Collection of public comments for review.

Once the study is completed, the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) will review and make its final determination. If the determination is to make the change permanent, GDOT would consider the project as a Quick Response Project and bid the work to potential road construction contractors.

Should GDOT determine that the signal should be permanently removed, the following potential impacts could result:

- Left turns from Sawmill Road onto Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road would be eliminated; left turns from Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road onto Sawmill Road would also be eliminated;
- Improvements would be made to the intersection at Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road and Northolt Drive to improve the U-turn condition;
- With the removal of the traffic signal at the intersection, there would be the corresponding elimination of traffic signal stop conditions along Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road, thereby allowing for more uninterrupted travel through the intersection;
- Retiming of other nearby signals, thereby improving traffic flow in the overall area;
- The left turn lane onto I-85 North would be extended approximately 400 feet long Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road;
- Increased intersection safety by eliminating all left-turn conflicts, as well as the ability to make U-turns on Lawrenceville-Suwanee at Sawmill Road.

The temporary closure will likely begin toward the beginning of October, with message boards going up to advise motorists of the upcoming temporary traffic operation change. Thereafter, implementation of the change for the 90-day period would occur. Public comments can be made at Signalstudy@suwanee.com. Information provided to this email address will be collected as part of the study process.