

### Need and Purpose

In order to complete the commitments of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Atlantic Station Redevelopment project, a new northbound exit ramp is needed from the Interstate 75/85 mainline to 17<sup>th</sup> Street. Also, without improvements to the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge and ramps, the additional traffic generated by Atlantic Station development is expected to worsen the traffic safety and operations of this currently overburdened interchange. In addition, the current pedestrian environment along 14<sup>th</sup> Street does not meet the standards established by the local Community Improvement District. The purpose of Project NHS-0001-00(298), which is the third and final construction phase of the overall 17<sup>th</sup> Street/Atlantic Station Redevelopment project, is to reconstruct 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Fowler Street to Spring Street to accommodate the new under passing northbound exit ramp, to provide improved traffic safety and operations at the 14<sup>th</sup> Street interchange, and to improve the pedestrian environment along 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

14<sup>th</sup> Street between Spring Street and West Peachtree Street has experienced high crash rates and extreme levels of congestion during the peak periods. Due to the high volume of through and turning movements and the close proximity and influence on the 14<sup>th</sup> Street interchange operations, a need exists to improve the traffic safety and operations of 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Spring Street and West Peachtree Street. In addition, the current pedestrian environment does not meet the standards established by the local Community Improvement District. The purpose of project NHS-0005-00(945) is to improve the traffic safety and operations and to improve the pedestrian environment along 14<sup>th</sup> Street between Spring Street and West Peachtree Street. 14<sup>th</sup> Street is not on a bike route and is on designated school bus route.

### Project Description

Project NHS-0001-00(298) proposes to lengthen and reconstruct the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge to accommodate the new under passing northbound exit ramp. The new northbound exit ramp would depart from I-75/I-85 just south of the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. This ramp would cross under 14<sup>th</sup> Street and quickly climb on structure until 16<sup>th</sup> Street. At this point, Williams Street would cross under the exit ramp to reach the I-75 northbound on-ramp. The exit ramp would double-deck the lower level entrance ramp and connect directly with the 17<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. Williams Street would be relocated to the east to accommodate this new exit ramp. Dedicated turning lanes with additional storage capacity, a variable width raised landscaped median, and 15-foot wide sidewalks would also be added on the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge and roadway approaches. Minor widening configuration changes would occur at the intersections of 16<sup>th</sup> Street at Williams Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street at Fowler Street due to the extent of the proposed improvements. A new southbound ramp from I-85 to 10<sup>th</sup> Street that would pass under the 14<sup>th</sup> Street bridge is also proposed to improve 14<sup>th</sup> Street interchange safety and operations.

Project NHS-0005-00(945) proposes to improve 14<sup>th</sup> Street from Spring Street to West Peachtree Street. A separate eastbound left-turn lane and a raised landscaped median would be added, and a 15-foot wide sidewalk would be constructed along the south side of 14<sup>th</sup> Street. In order to minimize property impacts, the existing 8-foot wide sidewalk would remain along the north side of 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

The proposed median throughout both projects is expected to reduce conflict points and mid-block turning movements. This feature coupled with the increased storage length in the turn bays would provide safer, more efficient traffic operations. The proposed sidewalks would provide improved links between the commercial district on Peachtree Street, the Atlantic Station development, and the neighborhoods along 14<sup>th</sup> Street. This project is expected to provide the local and through traffic with a facility that would serve current and future travel demand and provide the public with a safer driving, pedestrian, and biking environment.