

# **BUCKHEAD COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOODS PETITION:** **COMPLETE THE I-85 AND GA 400 INTERCHANGE NOW!**

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROBLEM:**

Two connections were not completed during the original construction of the GA 400 interchange at I-85. As a result, without using surface streets, there is no way to go directly from southbound GA 400 to northbound I-85 or from southbound I-85 to northbound GA 400. These gaps divert heavy traffic onto Buckhead's surface streets, particularly Piedmont, Roxboro and Lenox Roads. The result is that Buckhead homeowners, schools, churches, businesses and tourists are affected by congestion that ripples for miles throughout our neighborhoods. At least 100,000 homeowners in Fulton and DeKalb Counties are affected, as are numerous business and shopping districts. Construction initiatives to eliminate these gaps have languished on highway project backlogs.

## **I-85 AND GA 400 INTERCHANGE AS BUILT:**

- I-85 north is connected directly to GA 400 north
- GA 400 south is connected directly to I-85 south
- I-85 south is **NOT** connected directly to GA 400 north (this gap must be eliminated)
- GA 400 south is **NOT** connected directly to I-85 north (this gap must be eliminated)

## **SURROUNDING AREA:**

The incomplete interchange between I-85 and GA 400 is located in the southern part of the Buckhead Community and is also close to important parts of western DeKalb County. The Buckhead Community is located in the City of Atlanta in Fulton County, Georgia. Its resident population is approximately 70,000 which grows to an estimated daytime population of 140,000, inclusive of the workforce.

## **GRIM FUTURE:**

The Atlanta Regional Commission projects population growth for the City of Atlanta at over 60% by the year 2030, if not sooner; similarly, employment growth is projected to be 30%. Significant growth should occur throughout the metropolitan region. These predictions are ominous when considering current transportation conditions which at times are already unbearable. The quality of life is being significantly reduced by this faulty interchange. Gridlocked vehicles with motors running degrade our environment on a daily basis. We need the I-85 and GA 400 interchange completed to keep traffic flowing throughout our region and to relieve the unreasonable burden being imposed on our neighborhoods.

## **BASIC SOLUTION CRITERIA:**

- A collaborative process and result is needed that preserves, protects and does not adversely impact neighborhoods.
- The design should ideally keep the new connections within the "Y" between GA400 and I-85 to the north, should incorporate low design speeds, and should not require the demolition of any homes.
- The design effort should be open to modifying existing road structures at the intersection of I-85 and US 400.
- The result should enable traffic flow for neighbors and commuters without unnecessary congestion on surface streets.
- If responsive design solutions are not forthcoming, professional assistance from outside the government will be sought to ensure that a suitable and timely solution is achieved.

## **BY SIGNING THIS PETITION ON BEHALF OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD, YOU SUPPORT:**

- Having the completion of the I-85 and GA 400 interchange become a high priority of the City of Atlanta's Connect Atlanta plan.
- Having the completion of the interchange become a high priority of the Atlanta Regional Commission, the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority and the GA Department of Transportation.
- Having the GA State Road and Tollway Authority apply GA 400 tolls towards this project.
- Pursuing and leveraging of federal and state government transportation dollars for this project.
- Asking our elected representatives at the local, state and federal levels to join the BCN in signing this petition.
- Getting our elected representatives to work together to bring this project to fruition quickly.
- Encouraging letters of support for this petition from fellow neighbors, civic and business leaders.
- Following the "BASIC SOLUTION CRITERIA" outlined above.

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods hereby goes on record that a complete interchange solution **MUST** be implemented. Please join with us in signing this petition as soon as possible. This petition is respectfully submitted by members of the The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods (BCN) and supporters of the Buckhead Community.

I/We want to publicly go on record that our governments must complete the **I-85** and **GA 400** Interchange now.

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**Organization / Individual's Name**

**Signature**

**Date**

**Phone / e-mail**