

# Georgia Department of Transportation

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 29, 2004

### *Connection Made Between Northside Drive and Midtown*

## **17<sup>th</sup> Street Extension Project to Open Wednesday**

ATLANTA – The Georgia Department of Transportation proudly announces the opening of the 17th Street Extension from Northside Drive to Village Street on the west side of the ATLANTIC STATION<sup>®</sup> community, the 138-acre redevelopment of the former Atlantic Steel Mill site in Midtown Atlanta. With this connection, 17<sup>th</sup> Street will be open throughout ATLANTIC STATION<sup>®</sup> beginning Wednesday at 2:00 p.m., completing the much-anticipated connection from Northside Drive to Peachtree Street in Midtown.

“We’ve been looking forward to this for a long time,” said Georgia DOT Commissioner Harold Linnenkohl. “This connection will provide a much needed alternative for motorists who are now using other more congested routes to transition from the I-75 corridor to the I-85 corridor. It also is the primary access point for ATLANTIC STATION<sup>®</sup>.”

"From the beginning, ATLANTIC STATION<sup>®</sup> has been about connectivity—connecting neighborhoods separated for almost a century first by a steel mill, then by the current 21-lane interstate highway,” stated Jim Jacoby, chairman of Atlantic Station L.L.C. “This connection to Northside Drive is the completion of the collective vision of a true east-west link between two significant north-south thoroughfares—Northside Drive and Peachtree Street.”

The extension project, which began in November of 2002 and cost just over \$7.1 million, included widening and turn lane construction on 17<sup>th</sup> Street and on Northside Drive as well as the construction of a new bridge over the Norfolk Southern Railroad line.

“We are very pleased with the partnerships we have had with our contractor, Sunbelt Structures, and with ATLANTIC STATION<sup>®</sup> throughout the progress of these projects,” said Linnenkohl. “It’s great when public-private partnerships like this come together to get quality projects completed on time.”

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