

State Transportation Board
Statewide Transportation Planning Committee

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November 16, 2016



Study Area



- Study Purpose: Explore range of solutions (small scale to large scale)
- Focus: Common section of I-75 and I-85
- Complete study area includes:
 - Approaches to Connector along I-75, I-85, and I-20 inside I-285
 - I-285
 - Interchange ramps, cross streets, potential parallel routes



Study Goals & Objectives

- Improve Safety
- Improve Mobility
- Use Transportation Funds Efficiently
- Promote Economic Vitality
- Better Manage Accessibility
- Promote Context Sensitive Solutions



Background

- Initial construction late 1940s-mid 1960s
- Reconstructed 1980s
- HOV Lanes added mid 1990s
- Numerous operational improvements (striping, signage) implemented over the years
- Connects outlying areas to Downtown Atlanta (lots of trips to downtown)
- Shortest distance across the region (lots of trips crossing the region)





Statistics

- 2015: 437,000 Vehicles Per Day
- 2040: 460,000+ Vehicles Per Day (*ARC Model*)
- Heavily congested at various times throughout the day
- Through Trips & Local Trips:
 - 60% of traffic enters/exits along Connector “local”
 - 40% of traffic travels the full length “through”



Stakeholder Outreach

- Early outreach to engage key stakeholders (one-on-one meetings)
- Formal stakeholder committee meeting
- Solicit ideas and input on previous activities
- Sample of partners:
 - SRTA & GRTA
 - Atlanta Regional Commission
 - MARTA
 - City of Atlanta
 - Fulton County
 - Central Atlanta Progress
 - Midtown Alliance
 - GDOT District 7
 - GDOT Bridge Design
 - GDOT Roadway
 - GDOT Traffic Operations



Major Themes from Stakeholder Interviews & Stakeholder Committee Meeting

- Safety
- Drainage
- Various incidents (crashes, stalls, flat tires, debris, etc.)
- Arterial Cap
- Zipper
- Express Lanes (GP & HOV)
- HOV/Vanpools/Commuter Bus Access
- Tunnel
- Double Deck
- Impact of Turner Field redevelopment
- Interchanges:
 - Brookwood
 - 15th Street HOV (potential new access)
 - 10th-14th Streets
 - North Avenue
 - Williams Street
 - Courtland Street
 - Freedom Parkway
 - Ellis/Edgewood/MLK
 - I-20
- East-West surface street connectivity across the Connector
- Acknowledge relationship between Connector & surrounding development



Study Data Sources

- Traffic Counts
 - GDOT Automatic Traffic Recorders
 - GDOT Coverage Count Program (including ramp counts)
 - Study specific counts
- Origin & Destination
 - GPS Based (vendor: Streetlight)
 - Determining vehicles entering/exiting along the Connector



Study Data Sources

- Travel Speeds & Queues
 - NaviGator
 - ARC Model
 - Aerial Survey
 - Cross reference to Google Data
- Future Forecasts
 - Regional Model (High Level)
 - Visum (Mid Level)
 - Vissim & Synchro (Micro Level)



Study Data Sources

- Crash Data
 - Georgia Electronic Accident Reporting System (GEARS)
 - ARC adjusted crash data
- GDOT In-House expertise
 - Traffic Operations
 - Road Design
 - Bridge Design
 - District 7
- External Expertise
 - MARTA
 - Atlanta Regional Commission
 - Local Governments, CIDs and other key stakeholders



2013-2015 Crash Data

- Total Crashes
 - Connector: 400 per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (100 MVMT)
 - Statewide Urban Interstate: 200 per 100 MVMT
- Injury Crashes
 - Connector: 90 per 100 MVMT
 - Statewide Urban Interstate: 40 per 100 MVMT
- Fatal Crashes
 - Connector: 0.17 per 100 MVMT
 - Statewide Urban Interstate: 0.40 per 100 MVMT
- Top 3 crash locations
 - Brookwood Interchange
 - Around 5th Street
 - Between Courtland Street & Freedom Parkway

Note: Crash rates are an approximate, rounded average per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (100 MVMT)

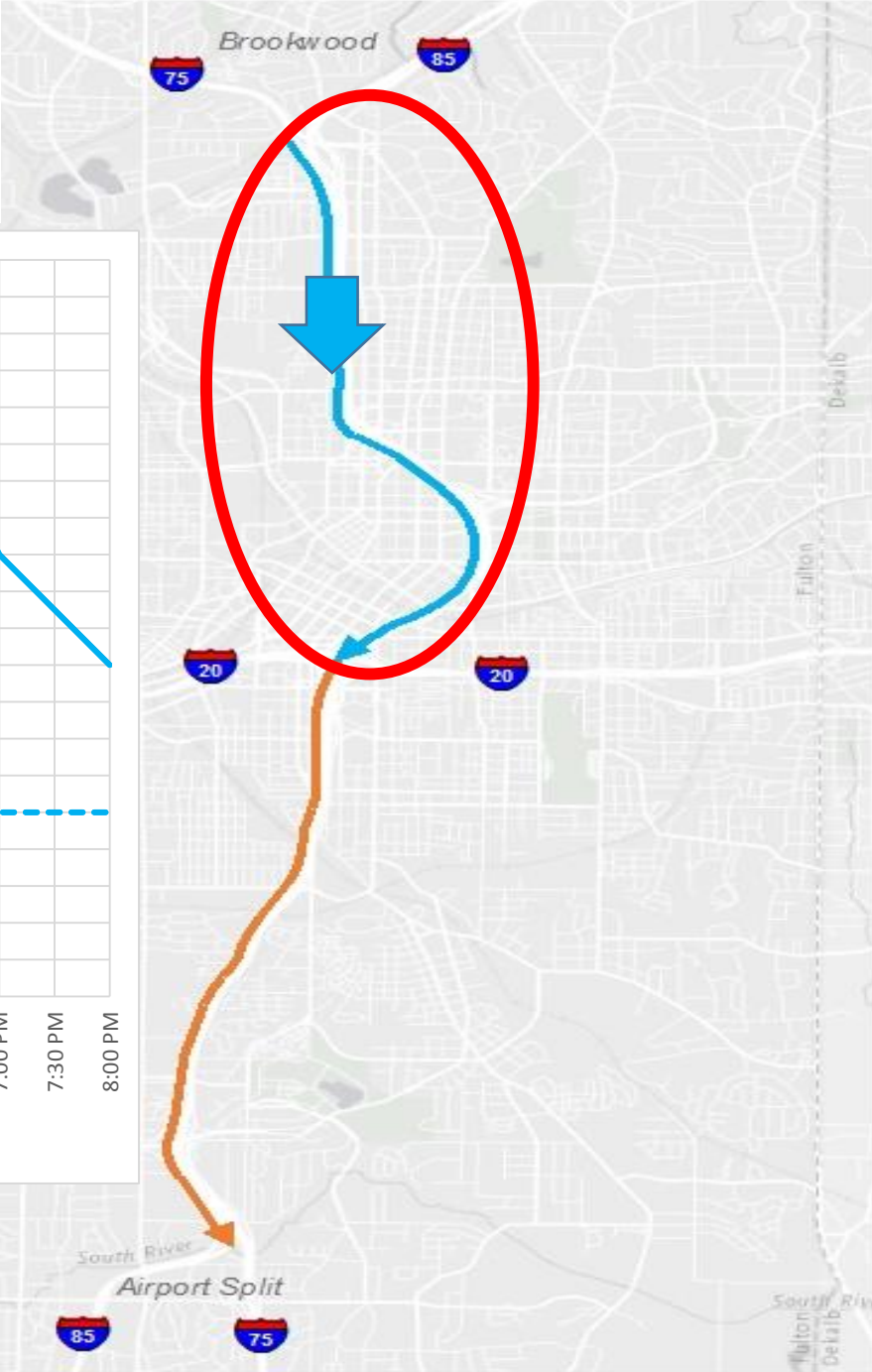
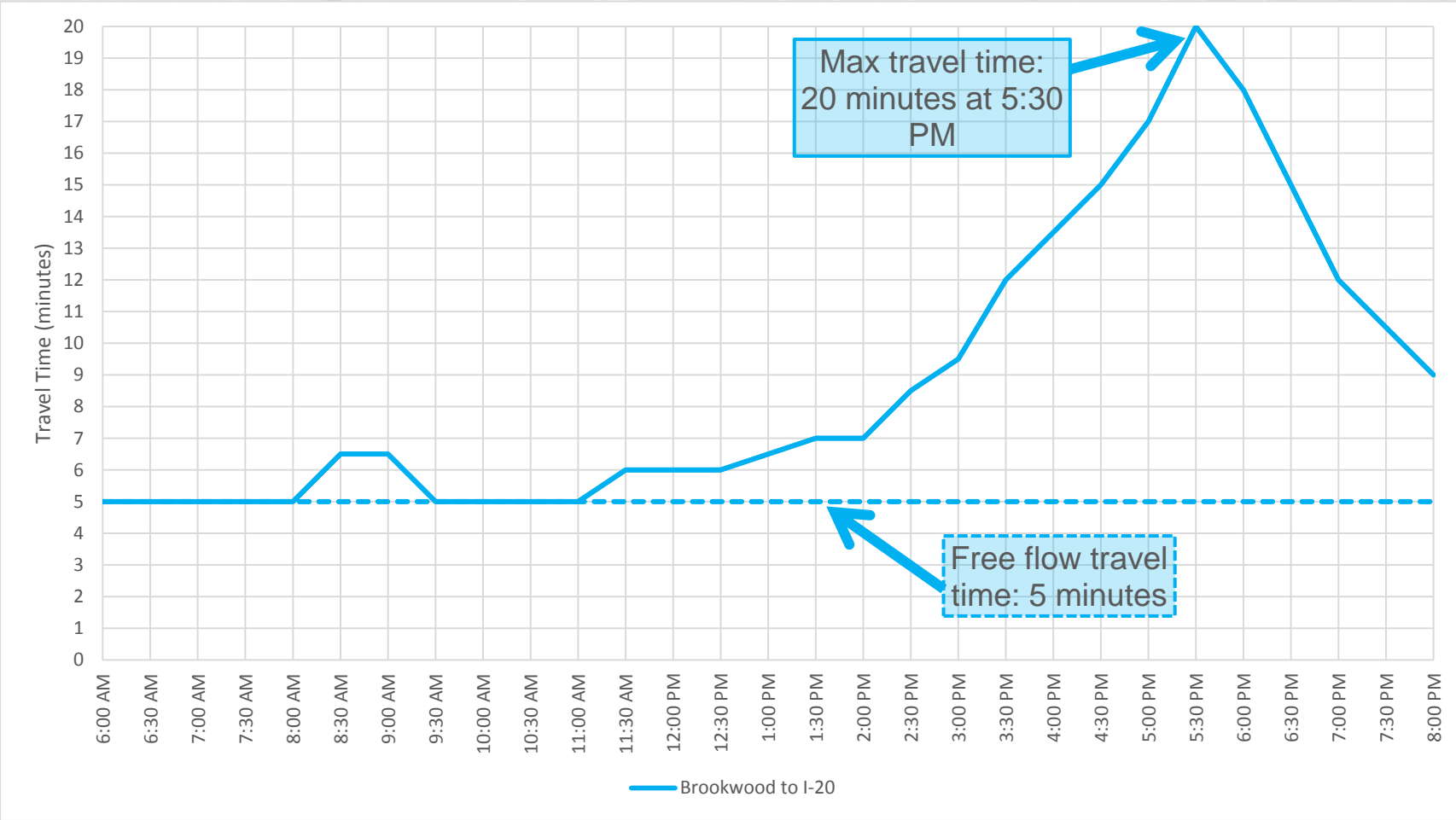


Travel Times

- Southbound and Northbound directions
- Northern and Southern halves of Connector
- “Typical” travel times (excludes special events, incidents, etc.)
- Variation in travel time between inside lanes and outside lanes
- Does not reflect delay approaching the Connector on I-75, I-85 and I-20

Southbound Direction: Brookwood to I-20

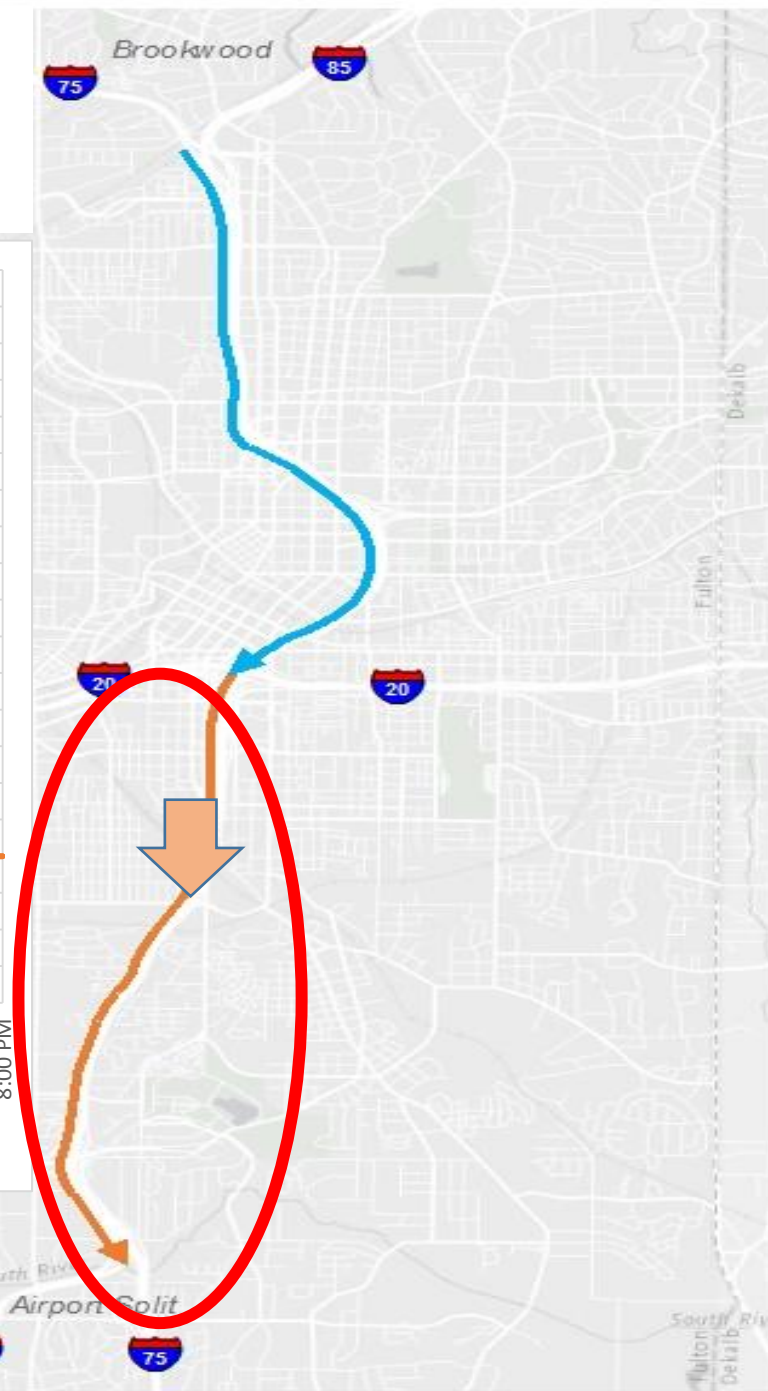
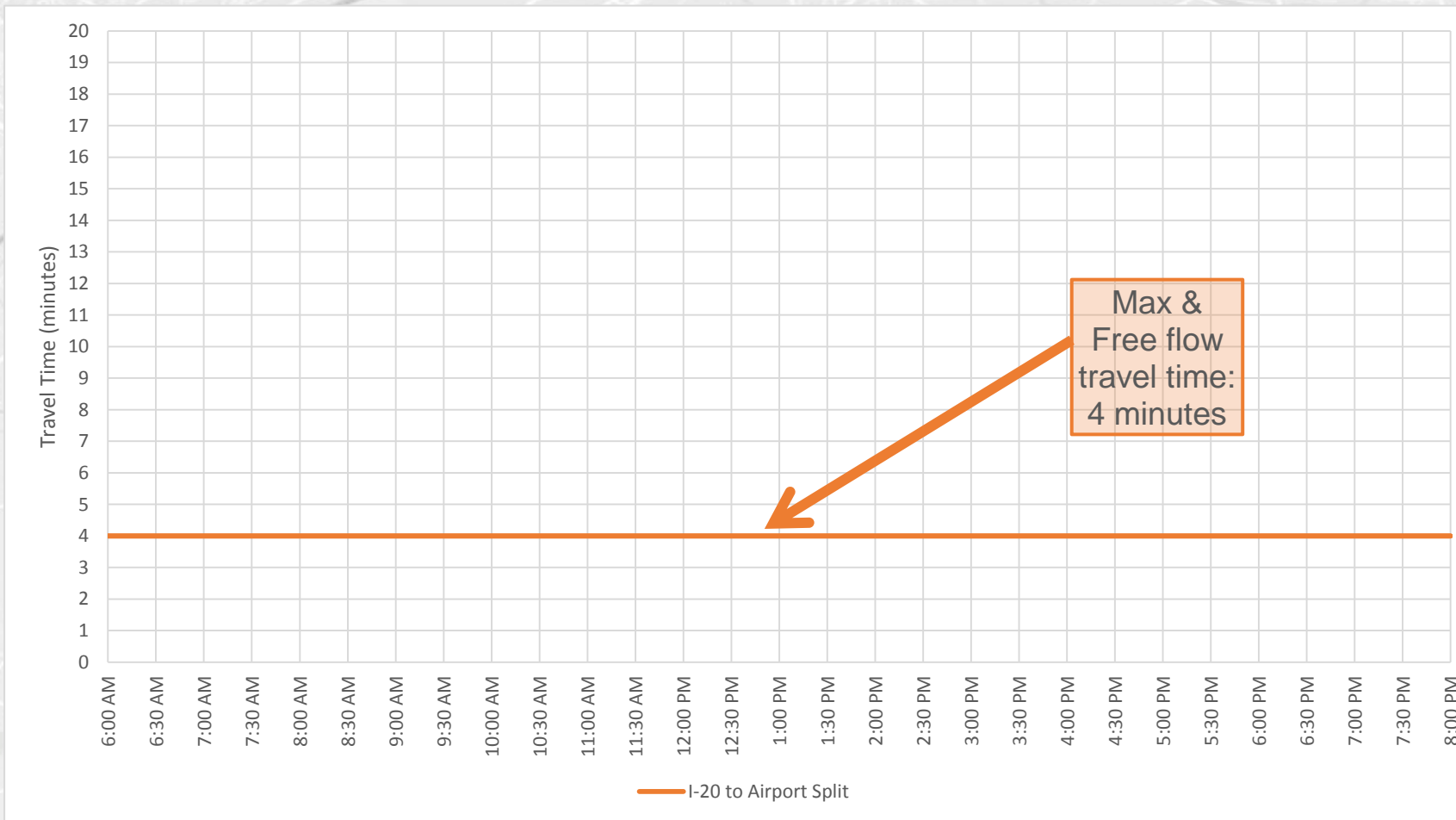
6:00 AM - 8:00 PM



Data source: Google Maps typical Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday traffic

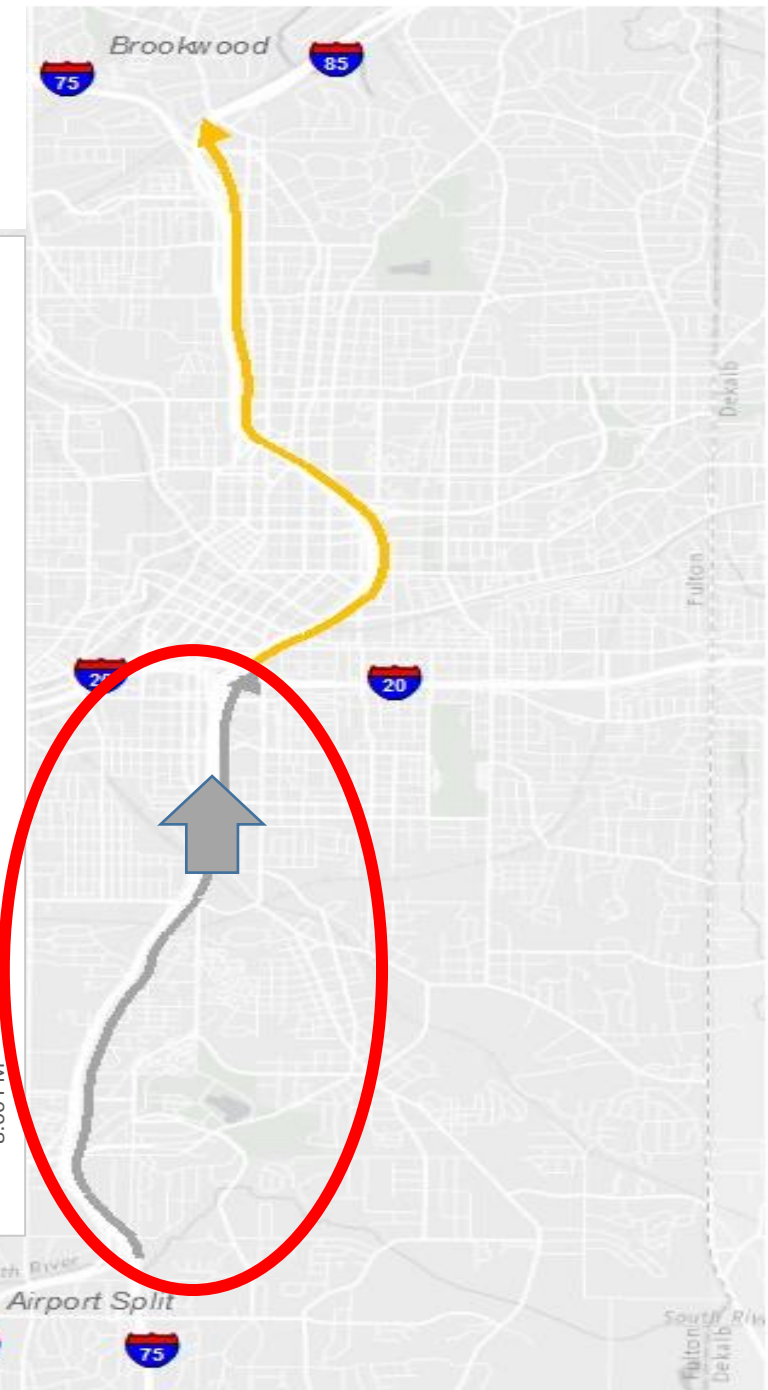
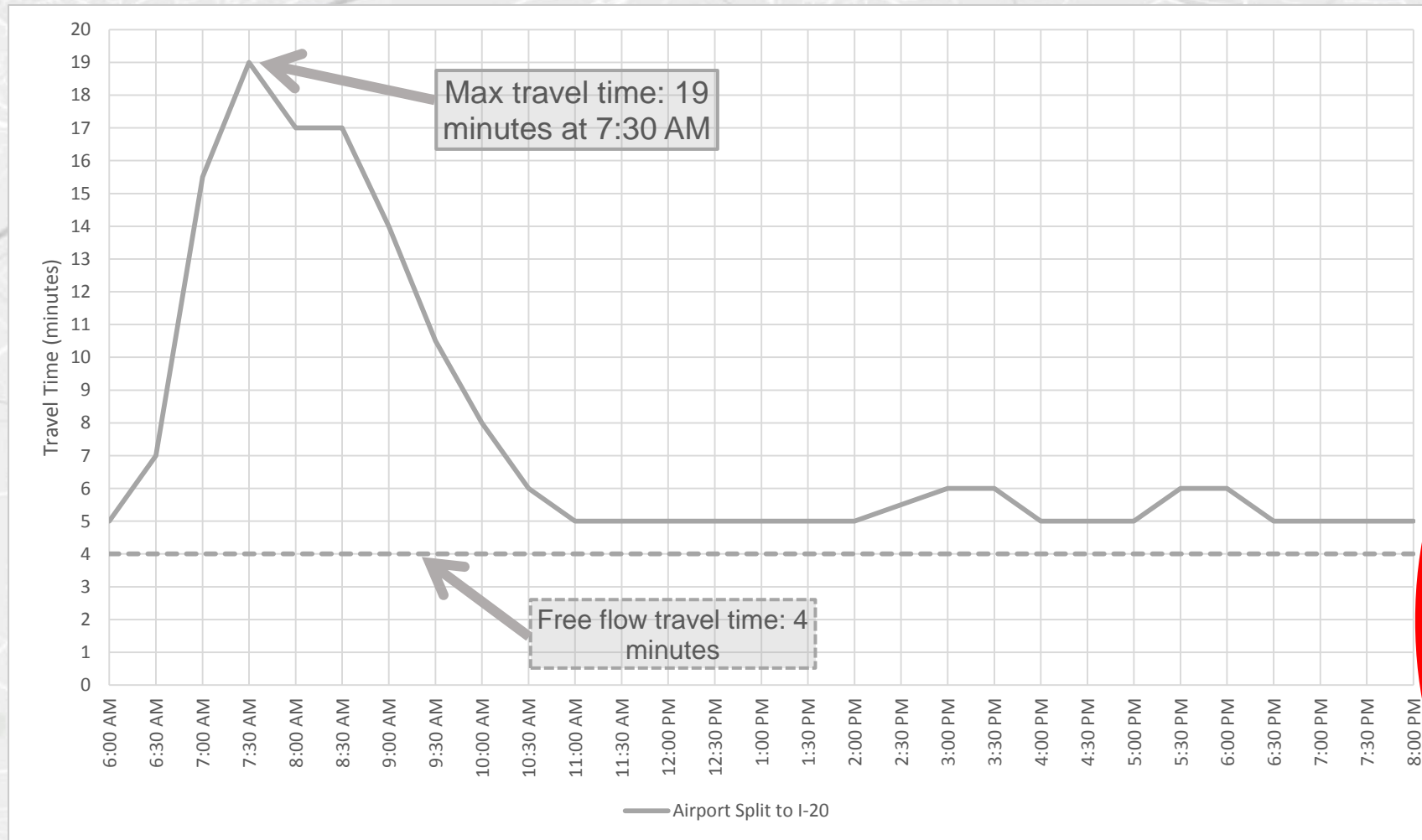
Southbound Direction: I-20 to Airport Split (I-85)

6:00 AM - 8:00 PM



Northbound Direction: Airport Split (I-85) to I-20

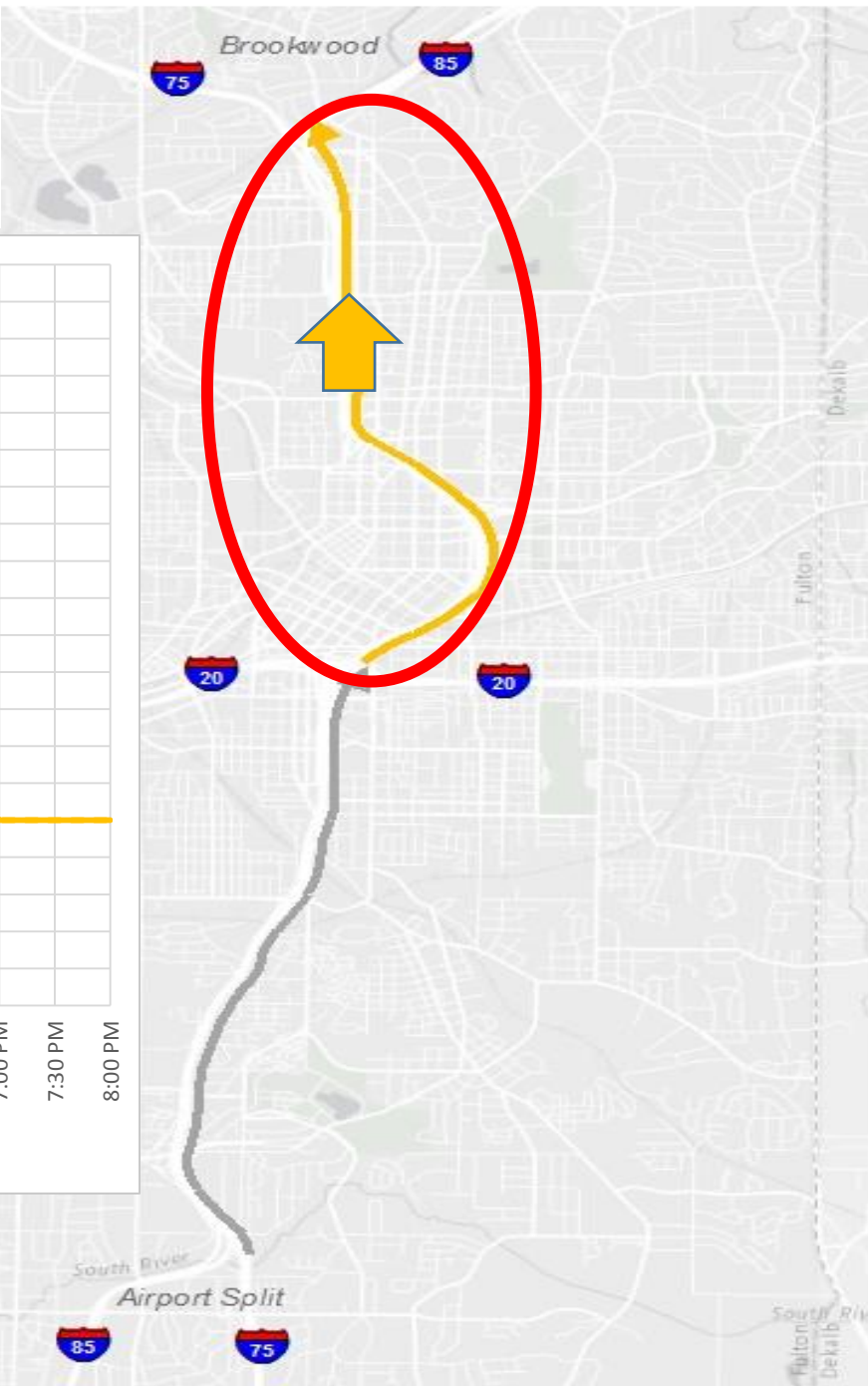
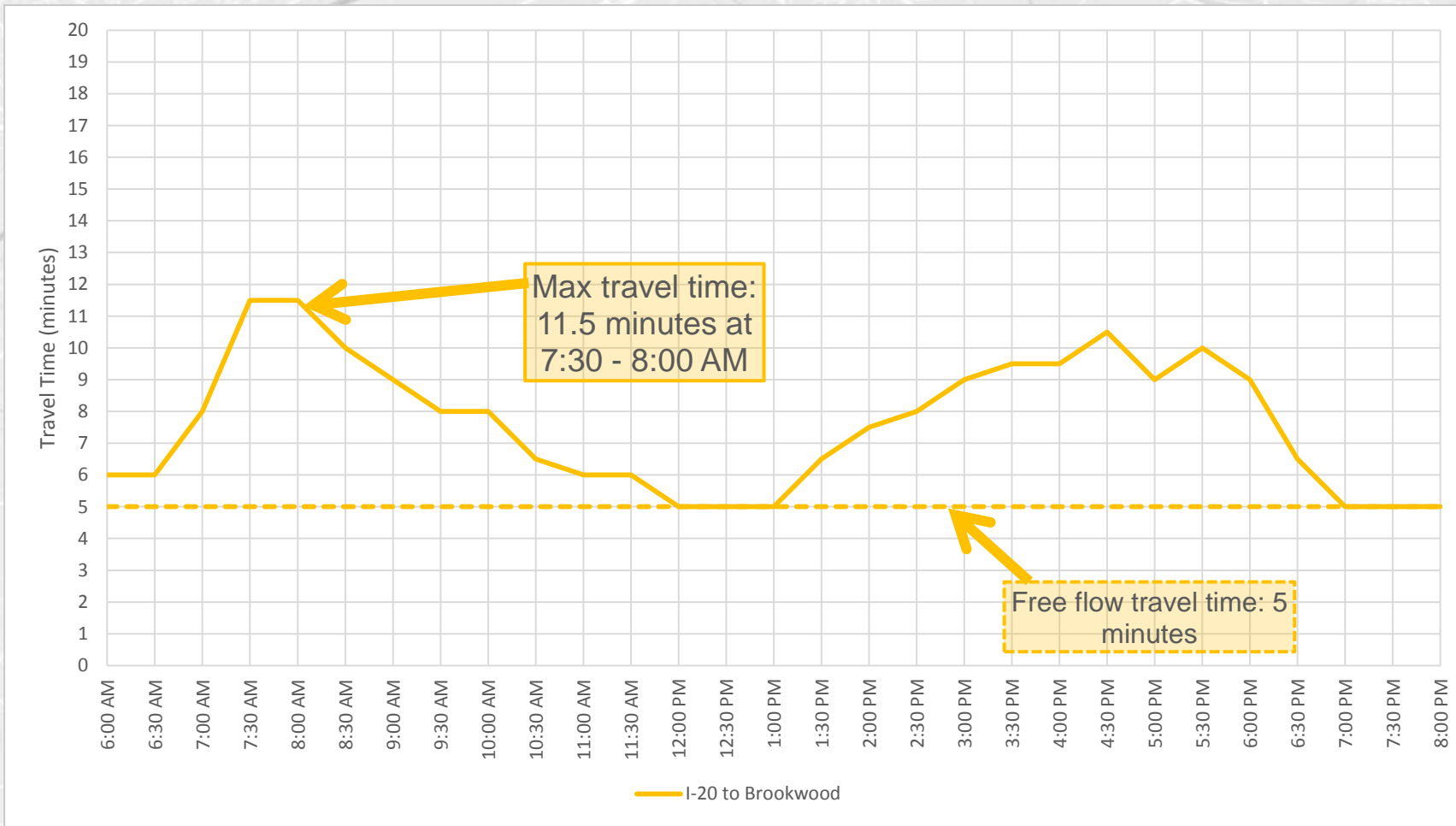
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Data source: Google Maps typical Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday traffic

Northbound Direction: I-20 to Brookwood

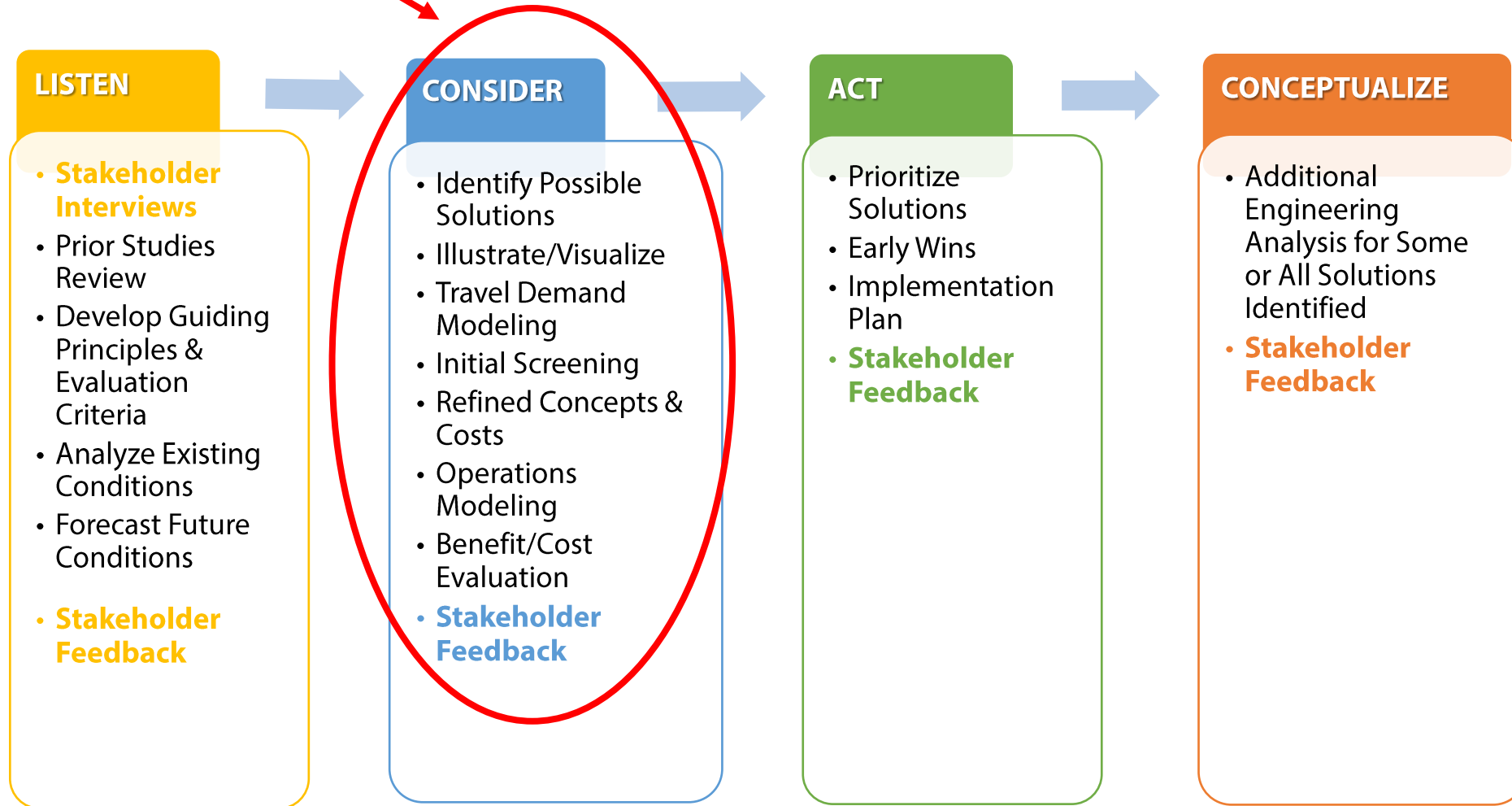
6:00 AM - 8:00 PM



Data source: Google Maps typical Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday traffic



Next Steps





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www.dot.ga.gov/DowntownConnector