



Aggressively Making the Call – to Travel or Not to Travel

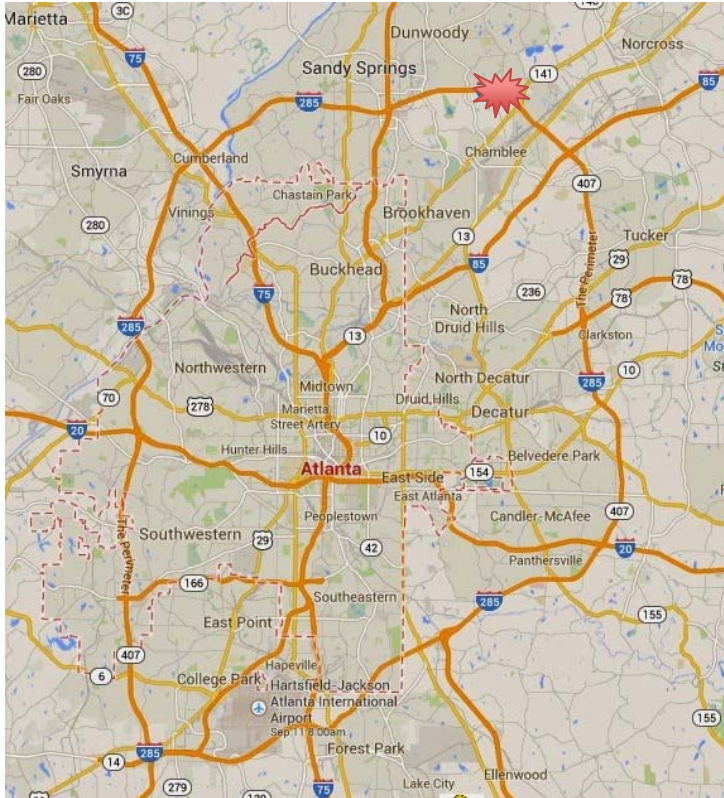
Or: What Did Georgia Learn from Snowmageddon?

Presented at the *Significant Event Conference*, Maritime Institute, Linthicum Heights, MD

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I-285 Plane Crash: 5/8/15



Winter Weather in Georgia

- Always on the edge:
 - Rain/snow
 - Rain/ice
 - Snow/ice
 - Or: Nothing at all
- Since 1929, 13 occasions where max temp < 30 AND snow fell. 2014 was one of those...

2014: Never Again

- Kids spending the night on school buses?
 - Or at school?
- People camped out in Home Depot stores?
- 13+ hour commutes?
- Yes. All true



2014: Never Again

- What happened?
 - A slight shift in predicted weather, announced by the NWS overnight
- How were plans adjusted?

So – Winter Weather Task Force

- Organized by Governor
 - Covered All State Departments
 - TV stations
 - Politicians
 - School Boards
- DOT direction
 - Brine program
 - Additional snow plows
 - Salt barns
 - Strike team participation
 - ITS deployment
 - On I-20 west of Atlanta
 - Additional CCTV cameras on I-75 & I-85 north of Atlanta
 - RWIS Installations Atlanta and northward

We Had A Plan

Extensive internal planning involving:

- Maintenance Office
- Equipment Management
- Traffic Operations
- Procurement
- IT



And involving our other state partners:

- Georgia State Patrol
- Department of Natural Resources

All Led by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency

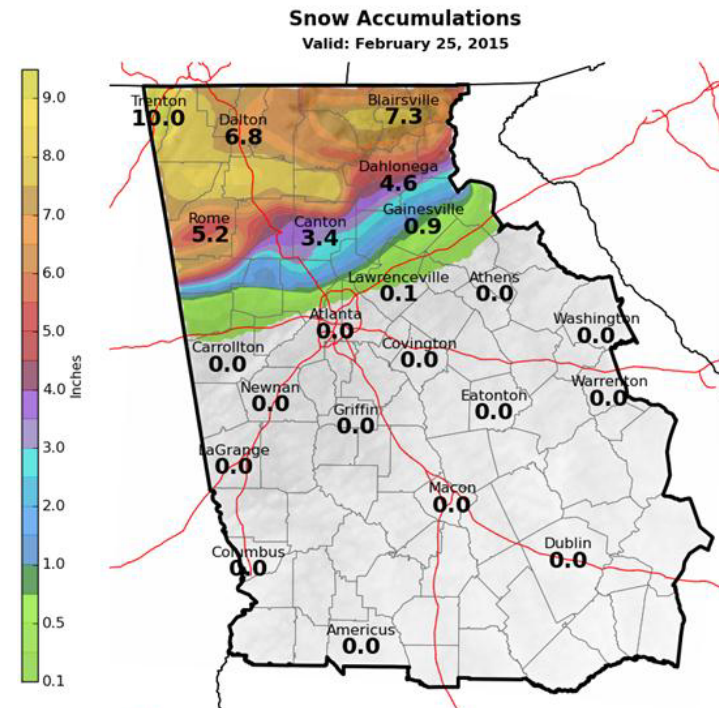
Winter Weather in Georgia

- 10 days of State Operations Center at “Elevated Status”
 - January 25-27
 - February 2
 - February 15-17
 - February 19-21
 - February 23-26



We Had Snow

Near-record snowfalls in N. Ga. – Wednesday to Thursday, 2/25-26



National Weather Service
Peachtree City, GA
02/27/2015 06:19 AM EST

Follow Us:



weather.gov/atlanta

Brine!

We used 900,000 gallons of brine

- It took only 800 tons of salt to make that brine



We treated 20,500 lane-miles with brine

We Used Technology

- “GDOT Road Sensors”
 - Media loved them
 - We did, too
- Traffic Cameras



Georgia travelers did their part

I-75 NB @ SR 5/Canton Rd (NW of Atlanta)

Normal Wednesday vs Wednesday February 25th



So . . .

- Was the winter of 2015 handled better than winter 2014?
 - Of course
 - Government Improved
 - Better planning
 - Better execution
 - People Improved
 - Better execution?