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Peach Pass Alerts Customers About Smishing Scams Targeting Express Lane Users Scam Aims to Deceive Drivers into Providing Personal and Financial Information

ATLANTA – Peach Pass is issuing a critical alert to all Peach Pass customers regarding text messaging scams targeting Express Lane commuters throughout Georgia and toll road users in surrounding states. This scam attempts to deceive drivers into disclosing their personal and financial information through a fake website.

Customers receiving text messages claiming to be from "Georgia Tolls Services" or "Peach Pass Tolls Services" with instructions to click a link to settle an alleged outstanding toll balance or an unpaid toll invoice should be cautious. These messages are not from the State Road and Tollway Authority and aim to mislead recipients into providing sensitive information. See below for an example:

Georgia Tolls Services, our records indicate that your vehicle has an unpaid toll invoice. To avoid additional charges of \$78.90, please settle your balance of \$7.89 at https://peachpasstollservices.-com

Here is What Peach Pass Customers Need to Know:

1. These are Fake Messages: The scam texts claim to be from Georgia Tolls or Peach Pass and directs recipients to click on a link to pay a supposed unpaid toll invoice or outstanding

balance. These messages are designed to mimic official Peach Pass communications but are NOT from the State Road and Tollway Authority. The State Road & Tollway Authority/Peach Pass will never verify customers' personal information or toll trips, nor ask for personal or account information by email or text message.

- 2. There are Action Steps Peach Pass Customers Can Take: If you receive a scam text message, do not click on any links or provide any information. Delete the message immediately. If you have already clicked on a link or provided information, contact your financial institution immediately and notify Peach Pass of any suspicious activity related to your account. Always verify any communications claiming to be from Peach Pass by contacting Peach Pass customer service directly at 1-855-PCH-PASS (724-7277).
- 3. **Data Security is a Priority for Peach Pass:** Safeguarding your personal information and data is our top priority. We utilize methods such as advanced encryption, secure systems, restricted access, and regular audits to protect our customers. We understand that trust is crucial when it comes to handling customers' sensitive information, and we take every measure to keep their data secure.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has also issued a public service announcement concerning a surge in similar smishing scams across multiple states. The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has reported numerous complaints about these deceptive texts. The messages often include details about unpaid tolls that are not associated with actual toll records. If Peach Pass customers receive a suspicious text message, file a complaint with the IC3 at http://www.ic3.gov.

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About the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA)

SRTA is a state-level, independent authority created to operate tolled transportation facilities within Georgia and act as the transportation financing arm for the state. SRTA manages the collection of tolls on Georgia's Express Lanes System through the use of Peach Pass. In 2017, SRTA combined with the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) to jointly provide the services of both state authorities. The GRTA board continues to oversee developments of regional impact, air quality reporting and regional transportation plan approval.

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