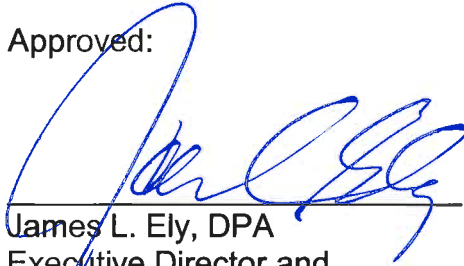




FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE
Lane Closure Policy

Approved:



James L. Ely, DPA
Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer

Effective: March 6, 2009
Office: Traffic Operations

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines to minimize the disruption of the flow of traffic in conjunction with any activity that requires roadway lane closures, including toll plaza lanes, interchange ramp closures, or traffic pacing on Florida's Turnpike System.

AUTHORITY:

Sections 334.046, 335.15, Florida Statutes

DEFINITIONS:

ADT:	Average Daily Traffic Volumes.
Department:	Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.
Emergency:	Any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether accidental, natural, technological, or manmade, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property [F.S. 252.34(3)].
Engineer:	The Department's Engineer(s) authorized to monitor and control activities on the State Turnpike System, [F.S. 334.141].
Indexes:	FDOT Design Standard indexes (600 series), current edition.
Lane Closure:	Temporary closure of one (1) or more through traffic lane(s), auxiliary lane(s), toll lane(s), ramp lane(s), moving operations, or traffic pacing.
Moving Operations:	Some temporary work operations such as pothole patching and striping operations can be performed using moving vehicles in accordance with Standard Index 600 and the MUTCD.
MUTCD:	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, current edition.

**Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Policy # 0006**

- Other Roadways:** Includes Turnpike System roadways such as S.R. 528 Beachline Expressway, S.R. 429 Western Beltway, S.R. 417 Seminole Expressway and Southern Connector, S.R. 869 Sawgrass Expressway, S.R. 589 Veterans Expressway, S.R. 589 Suncoast Parkway, and S.R. 570 Polk Parkway.
- PPM:** Florida Department of Transportation Plans Preparation Manual, current edition.
- TMC:** Traffic Management Centers for Florida's Turnpike, located at Pompano Beach and Turkey Lake (Orlando).
- Traffic Pacing:** Traffic pacing is the slowing of traffic to provide a maximum of 30 minutes of clear travel way for the contractor to work over existing travel lanes.
- TPPPH:** Turnpike Plans Preparation and Practices Handbook, current edition.
- Turnpike Mainline:** Homestead Extension of Florida's Turnpike (HEFT), Southern Coin System, Ticket System, Northern Coin System, and the Golden Glades Spur.
- Turnpike System:** Includes the Turnpike Mainline and Other Roadways owned and operated by the Turnpike.

GENERAL POLICY:

The policy of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is to limit lane closures as described below. With the exception of emergencies, the responsible party will plan and coordinate the lane closure in advance with notice given to Turnpike Enterprise customers.

Unless specified differently in the remainder of this policy, if lane closures are required, a lane closure request will need to be submitted a minimum of two (2) weeks in advance of the proposed closure. The Turnpike's preferred method is for lane closure requests to be submitted electronically. Turnpike Traffic Operations publishes a separate Lane Closure Procedure document that describes the specific process that should be followed when requesting lane closures. This document can also be obtained from Turnpike Traffic Operations at the following:

Turnpike Traffic Operations
(954) 975-4855
PO Box 9828
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310

Personnel involved in the approval process will accommodate any emergency requests that do not meet the two (2) weeks criteria and will address each request on a case-by-case basis.

For all lane closures on the Turnpike System, notification via phone call must be provided to the Turnpike Traffic Management Center (TMC) at the beginning and end of each lane closure activity. Contact information for the TMC will be provided in a

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Policy # 0006

separate document (Lane Closure Procedure) that is published by Turnpike Traffic Operations and is available upon request.

Daytime Lane Closures:

The highest restriction for lane closures shall occur on the Turnpike System during daytime hours, generally defined as the period between the locally published sunup and sundown. Lane closures will only be allowed after all other possible alternatives have been explored and found to be impossible, impractical, or unsafe, with the closure reasons being warranted and documented. Lane closures will not be allowed merely for the convenience of the contractor, permittee, or other requesting party. Providing premium service and safety to Turnpike customers are two of the Turnpike Enterprise's most important priorities; lane closures that infringe on these priorities will not be permitted.

The lane closure can only occur during specified hours and lane closure requests must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the proposed closure. Approval must be obtained from the Department at least 48 hours in advance of the proposed closure by the Turnpike Deputy Executive Director / Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Operations or designee.

Weekend Lane Closures:

As Florida's Turnpike provides an important transportation link to and from north/central Florida and south Florida for weekend and holiday travelers, closing travel lanes, ramp lanes, or auxiliary lanes during the weekend is a restricted activity. Weekend lane closures will only be allowed after all other possible alternatives have been explored and found to be impossible, impractical, or unsafe, with the closure reasons being warranted and documented. A weekend lane closure is defined as the period beginning Sunup Friday through 10:00 p.m. Sunday.

The lane closure can only occur during specified hours and lane closure requests must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the proposed closure. Approval must be obtained from the Department at least 48 hours in advance of the proposed closure by the Turnpike Deputy Executive Director / Chief Operating Officer and the Director of Operations or designee.

Holiday Lane Closures:

As holiday traffic increases on Florida's Turnpike, and providing all possible travel lanes and toll plaza lanes increases customer satisfaction and safety, no daytime or nighttime lane closures will be permitted during certain holidays throughout the year. Holidays are subject to the same restrictions as Daytime and Weekend lane closures.

A Holiday Calendar will be developed by Turnpike Traffic Operations each year for coordination with other stakeholders in the Turnpike. This Holiday Calendar will be

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Policy # 0006

reviewed each year during the Annual Holiday Traffic Meeting. Holiday Calendar information will be provided in a separate document (Lane Closure Procedure) that is published by Turnpike Traffic Operations and is available upon request.

Other Lane Closure Time Considerations:

During special events of regional significance, no lane closures will be permitted 2 days before the event to 24 hours after the event. These events will be determined by the Director of Communications and Marketing each year and provided to the Turnpike Traffic Operations Office by January 30th for use in approving lane closure requests. Examples of special events of regional significance are Spring Break, College and Professional sporting events (for example, NASCAR) or local cultural events.

Maintenance and Permit Projects:

To facilitate lane closure requests by permitting agencies and Maintenance, the Turnpike Traffic Operations Office will provide lane closure hours concurrent with its Traffic Count Program or as needed on a case-by-case basis.

During Permit and Maintenance plans production the appropriate lane closure hour restrictions shall be inserted into the Traffic Control Plan. During construction, lane closures shall fall within the hours indicated on the plans and shall be allowed after following the appropriate notification process without additional approval. During plans production or construction, an expansion of the allowable lane closure hours will be considered by following these steps:

The Director of Communications and Marketing must concur with all written requests for exceptions to the general policy listed above for daytime, weekend and special event lane closures prior to submitting a daytime or weekend/holiday lane closure as stated in the general policy.

All lane closure requests shall be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance of the proposed lane closure. The Director of Highway Operations or a designee shall have the authority to approve nighttime lane closures. All daytime and weekend lane closure requests shall be approved as stated in the general policy.

I. Operations Activities (Excluding Department Work Program Construction Projects)

1. See general policy. When lane closures are allowed, every possible effort must be made to minimize the length of time of closure.
2. All lane closure requests should be accompanied by a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) that is in compliance with the Department's Design Standards and the MUTCD. If the proposed TCP is not a Standard Index, a separate signed and sealed plan, by an engineer registered in the State of Florida, shall be

**Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Policy # 0006**

provided for the anticipated work activity. The lane closure request shall be submitted through the regional Turnpike Enterprise Office in charge of the corresponding project.

3. Lane closures will not be allowed on the Turnpike during daytime or weekend hours as specified in the General Policy unless site specific conditions dictate otherwise. The requestor shall provide supporting evidence of "site specific conditions" to be approved as stated in the general policy.
4. The basis for establishing time of closure limits, other than above, will be the consideration of ADT, seven (7) consecutive days of peak hour volumes, site specific conditions, available lane capacity, annual growth rate, peak seasonal factor, regional special events, other projects within vicinity, and roadway conditions.
5. Allowable lane closure time for all activities authorized by the Department will be specified by the Department.
6. The Department reserves the right to modify previously approved or specified time of closure when, in the opinion of the engineer, it becomes necessary to do so in the interest of public safety.
7. The Department may require construction of lane shifts or additional (temporary) pavement to maintain the same number of traffic lanes as in the pre-activity condition.
8. Prior to any lane closure, the Engineer must approve in writing, any Exceptions to the criteria established herein.

II. Department Work Program Construction Projects

Design:

1. Lane closure requirements within the limits of individual Department construction projects will be established during the development of Traffic Control Plans (TCP) for each project (or during the PD&E phase for large, complex projects). These will be developed using seven consecutive days of twenty-four (24) hour counts to determine peak hour restrictions and will comply with the limitations of the other categories of work. Traffic counts may be provided by Florida's Turnpike Traffic Planning and/or Traffic Operations staff or may be provided by a qualified Consulting Traffic Engineer. Twenty-four (24) hour traffic counts must be taken within the project limits and upstream and downstream traffic flow impacts such as interchanges and mainline toll plazas must be taken into account. Accurate traffic counts are necessary to provide lane closure times that will provide the least disturbance to through traffic. In addition to traffic counts, the design consultant must

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Policy # 0006

request the peak seasonal factor, truck percentage and annual growth factor to be used for each Turnpike production project from Turnpike's Traffic Planning Staff.

2. If daytime or weekend lane closures are specified in the design plans, the Designer must obtain approval of these closures prior to final plans processing. This approval process shall begin between the Phase II and Phase III plan submittals via a written request for the lane closure to the Turnpike Production Project Manager. This request shall include all supporting documentation including, but not limited to, lane closure analyses (Plans Preparation Manual Volume I - Chapter 10), and traffic operations simulation, signed and sealed by the Engineer of Record. Specific reasons for the lane closure and any backup information must be included with the request. This written request must be processed through the Turnpike Roadway Engineer, Turnpike Design Manager, and Turnpike Construction Engineer, for approval as stated in the general policy above.

Construction:

1. See general policy.
2. The Contractor shall comply with all the provisions outlined in the Traffic Control Plans.
3. The Maintenance-of-Traffic (MOT) implementation phase involving lane closures will not be allowed until the construction work requiring the lane closure is ready to begin and it will not be allowed to remain in place for longer than the work's duration.
4. If, in the opinion of the engineer and the Turnpike Construction Project Manager, the lane closures are unsafe, unnecessary, create undue traffic delay and congestion, or if field conditions have changed, he/she may suspend the contract or modify the MOT plans. This includes maintenance, permits, utilities, and other work within the limits of an active construction project.

III. Toll Plaza Lane Closure

1. See general policy.
2. All projects requiring a lane closure within the merge/diverge area of a mainline or ramp toll plaza must receive concurrence from the State Toll Facilities Engineer (STFE) and the Toll Plaza Manager.
3. Toll lane closures must be coordinated and approved by the STFE and the Toll Plaza Manager prior to final traffic control plans.

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Policy # 0006

4. Projects not requiring Traffic Control Plans must obtain approval for a toll lane closure. Approval by the STFE and Toll Plaza Manager must be obtained two (2) weeks prior to implementing the toll lane closure.

IV. Traffic Pacing

1. See general policy.
2. Traffic pacing procedures shall comply with the following:
 - Traffic pacing procedures are not allowed during daytime hours.
 - Unless specific hours are included in the plans, traffic pacing activities will only be allowed from 12:30 a.m. through 4:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday.
 - Hours of traffic pacing shall be the lowest volume weeknight hours as determined by traffic data or as directed by Florida's Turnpike Traffic Operations and/or Production staff.
 - TPPPH, Section 10.12.8.1 Traffic Pacing
 - TPPPH, Section 10.14.2 Additional Use of Traffic Control Officer Law Enforcement
 - PPM Section 10.14 Law Enforcement Services
 - PPM Section 10.14.1 Speed and Law Enforcement Officer
 - Florida's Turnpike Traffic Pacing Guide Drawings (1&2)

V. Emergency Conditions

1. Restricted hours of lane closures are waived under emergency conditions as defined under Florida Statute 252.34 (2).
2. Unless otherwise approved by the Engineer, work is to be performed on a continuous round-the-clock basis to minimize time of closures.
3. The Turnpike Public Information and Traffic Operations Offices are to be notified of any emergency lane closure that exceeds or is expected to exceed two (2) hours.

VI. Moving Operations

1. See general policy.
2. Includes testing and sampling procedures.