



## FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE

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# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### Turnpike Service Plaza Project Begins Construction on November 1 ~ Pompano Plaza Restaurants Closed During Construction; Shell Stations Remain Open ~

**Ft. Lauderdale, FL (October 12, 2010)** —Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Interim Executive Director Kevin Thibault, and Xavier Rabell, Chief Executive Officer of Areas USA, in a joint press briefing today announced that construction of the \$162 million project to rebuild the Turnpike's service plazas starts on November 1.

Beginning Monday morning, November 1, the restaurants at the Pompano Beach Service Plaza at Milepost 65 will be closed for the remainder of the construction project. The Shell-branded service stations will remain open throughout the project and will offer some food items and coffee. The Pompano Beach restaurants will be combined with a new convenience store into one 11,500 sq-ft. facility, and the new building is expected to reopen to customers in the fall of 2012.

Turnpike Interim Executive Director Kevin Thibault noted that the massive renovation project is the best public-private partnership ever undertaken by the Turnpike because of its unique nature. "It ultimately benefits the more than 27 million customers who visit the service plazas each year. We simply think this partnership with Areas is the most exciting in our history because of all the opportunities for new and cost effective ways of running the business of Turnpike concessions," he said.

"The Florida Turnpike project is the largest capital improvement project in Areas history," said Areas USA CEO Xavier Rabell. "It is an honor for us to be a part of introducing innovative designs and new food and retail concepts that will surely satisfy Floridian's and their guests."

The Pompano Beach and Turkey Lake (Orlando) restaurant buildings are the only two that will be closed entirely during the construction project; all other plazas will remain open for business through the project. The Turkey Lake restaurants will close in the summer of 2011.

During the past year, the design-build process showed that the quickest and most effective way to complete the project was to close these two plazas for a short period of time instead of prolonging the construction over several years due to space limitations. The Pompano Beach plaza serves as the home of the Turnpike's Highway Operations and Traffic Management Center, while the Turkey Lake Plaza houses the Turnpike Headquarters, Orlando Regional Tolls Office and Florida Highway Patrol Troop K.

Mark Beall, the Turnpike's director of Business Development and Concessions Management noted that the types of customers at each plaza are different and that Pompano Beach and Turkey Lake serve mainly commuter traffic—those stopping for a cup of coffee and to fill up their tanks. Motorists at such plazas as those at Ft. Drum and Ft. Pierce serve longer distance travelers who are more likely to stop for a longer period of time and have a meal.

For more information on the Florida's Turnpike Service Plaza Renovation Project, call 800-749-7453.