



FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE

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SUNCOAST PARKWAY INTERCHANGE AT LUTZ-LAKE FERN ROAD OPENS SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

OCOE, FL (August 13, 2009) —The Suncoast Parkway’s new interchange in northern Hillsborough County at Lutz Lake Fern Road will open to traffic at 10 a.m., Saturday, August 15. This fulfills a commitment to the school board and the Hillsborough County Commission by Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise to complete the interchange by the fall opening of the new Steinbrenner High School.

This full, non-tolled, partial-cloverleaf interchange, located at Milepost 16, will greatly reduce traffic congestion on Lutz-Lake Fern Road, and near the existing Suncoast Parkway on-and-off ramps on at Van Dyke Road to the south and State Road 54 to the north.

A cooperative effort between the Turnpike and the Hillsborough County Commission, the \$10 million design-build project took just 17 months to design and construct. The new ramps are projected to carry as many as 10,000 vehicles per day by 2011.

In addition to the Turnpike’s investment of \$10 million for the ramp construction, the project included the redesign and construction of the trailhead at the popular multi-use Suncoast Trail. Hillsborough County contributed an additional \$6 million to the project for improvements to Lutz Lake-Fern Road, including widening the road to four lanes near the new interchange, and adding sidewalks and pedestrian crosswalks.

Motorists using the new ramps should be alert for construction vehicles as work on the enhancements to Lutz Lake-Fern Road are expected to continue until February 2010.

Greenhorne and O’Mara provided construction engineering and inspection services. The contractor was Cone and Graham.

For more information, call 407-264-3492.



Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, part of the Florida Department of Transportation, oversees a 454-mile system of limited-access toll highways: the Florida’s Turnpike, extending north from Homestead in Miami-Dade County to Wildwood in Sumter County, the Seminole Expressway and Southern Connector (Toll 417) in Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties, the Beachline Expressway West (Toll 528) in Orange County, the Polk Parkway (Toll 570) in Polk County, the Veterans Expressway and Suncoast Parkway in Hillsborough, Pasco and Hernando counties (Toll 589), the Sawgrass Expressway (Toll 869) in Broward County, and the Daniel Webster Western Beltway Part C (Toll 429) in Orange County.

SunPass is the Florida Department of Transportation’s innovative Prepaid Toll Program. SunPass may be used on Florida’s toll roads and most toll bridges. For information on SunPass®, please contact 1-888-TOLL-FLA (865-5352).

Travelers on the Florida's Turnpike system of roads may view real-time traffic information by visiting our website at <http://www.floridasturnpike.com>. While traveling in the Orlando, South Florida and Tampa Bay regions, motorists should dial 511 for real-time regional traffic information on the Turnpike and other major roads. This information system is voice-activated; motorists should speak the name of the road they wish to use. They may also visit <http://www.fl511.com> for information. This free service of the Florida Department of Transportation is available 24/7.