



NEWS RELEASE

CHARLIE CRIST

Governor

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS

Secretary of Transportation

For Immediate Release

December 17, 2008

Contact:

Sonyha Rodriguez-Miller

954-934-1276

SunPass-only express lanes scheduled to open Friday morning for eastbound traffic at the Sawgrass Expressway's Deerfield toll plaza

FORT LAUDERDALE — The daily commute is about to get better for SunPass drivers on the Sawgrass Expressway. SunPass-only express lanes are scheduled to open for *eastbound* traffic at the Deerfield toll plaza Friday morning, Dec. 19, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise officials announced today. The westbound SunPass-only express lanes opened to traffic earlier this month.

SunPass customers headed east to 10th Street and Interstate 95 will be able to travel at 55 mph under the new open-road tolling (ORT) SunPass 'signature gantry.' These drivers must be in the left or center lanes.

SunPass and cash customers headed to Florida's Turnpike, along with drivers entering the eastbound Sawgrass from Lyons Road, must use the original toll lanes and must be in the right traffic lane as they approach the toll plaza. These motorists will have six toll lanes available — three SunPass-only lanes and three cash/SunPass lanes.

Electronic signs and permanent signs will be in place to advise drivers about the new traffic configuration.

The SunPass-only express lanes will be separated from the cash/SunPass tollbooths by a concrete wall, and motorists will not be able to make last-minute lane changes.

Cash customers who end up on the SunPass-only express lanes *should not stop on the travel lanes*, to avoid potential rear-end collisions. They should continue to their destinations and then call the SunPass customer service center at 1-888-865-5352 to speak with a representative about paying the toll without incurring penalties.

To accomplish the new traffic alignment, the contractor will close lanes as needed from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. east and west of the Deerfield toll plaza, Thursday, Dec. 18, through Saturday, Dec. 20. At least one lane in each direction will remain open.

Construction to convert the Sawgrass Expressway's Deerfield toll plaza into a high-tech, open-road tolling plaza began in August 2007. It is anticipated the project will be completed in the spring of 2009.