



NEWS RELEASE

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Construction to bring open road tolling to the Sawgrass Expressway's Deerfield toll plaza set to begin the week of Aug. 6

FORT LAUDERDALE — Construction on a project that will bring open road tolling to the Sawgrass Expressway's (Toll 869) Deerfield toll plaza is set to begin the week of Monday, Aug. 6, transportation officials announced today.

The project entails converting the Deerfield toll plaza, located between the Lyons Road and Turnpike interchanges, into a high-tech plaza — no gates, tollbooths nor need to slowdown for drivers with SunPass.

The converted toll plaza will allow motorists with SunPass to travel at highway speeds while their toll is collected via SunPass equipment overhead. Cash-paying motorists will need to pull off the highway onto ramps with traditional tollbooths and then merge back onto the travel lanes.

It is anticipated that construction will be completed in the summer of 2009.

During construction, motorists will encounter periodic nighttime lane closures. In addition, the traffic lanes will be shifted and reconfigured. While the same number of toll lanes will remain open during most of the construction period, the location of the toll lanes will change as the toll plaza is reconfigured.

The \$39.2 million project was awarded to the design-build team comprised of Community Asphalt Corp. and Jacobs Civil Engineering, Inc. The project is part of an ambitious construction program to convert the Sawgrass Expressway into an open road tolling facility.

SunPass, the Florida Department of Transportation's version of electronic toll collection, was launched in 1999. Since the program's inception more than 3 million transponders have gone into circulation. SunPass customers enjoy the ease of not fumbling for change while taking advantage of numerous SunPass-only lanes throughout the Turnpike System.

SunPass may be purchased at any Publix or CVS Pharmacy, at the Turnpike service plazas, by calling 1-888-TOLL-FLA, or online at www.sunpass.com.