



NEWS RELEASE

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Construction to begin the week of April 2 to add SunPass-only lanes at Sawgrass Expressway toll plazas

FORT LAUDERDALE — Construction is scheduled to begin the week of Monday, April 2, to add SunPass-only lanes at eight ramp toll plazas at four Sawgrass Expressway (Toll 869) interchanges, including those at Commercial Boulevard, Atlantic Boulevard, Sample Road and University Drive. The project is part of an ambitious construction program to convert the Sawgrass Expressway into an open road tolling facility.

Each of the eight toll plazas currently has one unstaffed, mixed-use (exact coin/SunPass) toll lane. The project will add one new SunPass-only lane — without gates — at each plaza. When the work is completed, the toll plazas will be identical to the US 441 and Lyons Road toll plazas, where SunPass-only lanes were constructed approximately two years ago.

Other improvements include installation of overhead sign support structures, advance and gantry signing, plaza island construction/modification, pavement markings, minor ramp and road construction, the addition of new equipment rooms and screen walls, and landscaping.

Work will begin at the Commercial Boulevard interchange and will proceed north. Except for occasional night work, one toll lane will remain open at each toll plaza during construction.

It is anticipated that construction will be completed in the summer of 2008.

The \$13.9 million project was awarded to the design-build team comprised of State Contracting and Engineering Corp. and Keith & Schnars.

SunPass, the Florida Department of Transportation's version of electronic toll collection, was launched in 1999. Since the program's inception nearly 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.