



# NEWS RELEASE

JEB BUSH

*Governor*

DENVER J. STUTLER, JR., P.E.

*Secretary of Transportation*

Embargoed Until

11 a.m. Thursday, October 26, 2006

Contact:

Chad Huff

954-975-4855 x1289

## Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to Roll Out Toll Enforcement Initiative

FORT LAUDERDALE — Responding to a recent up-tick in toll violations, officials from Florida's Turnpike Enterprise today announced a dynamic, multifaceted effort designed to reduce the number of violators system wide, thus ensuring fairness for all Turnpike customers.

Under the umbrella: 'Toll Abuse-No Excuse,' the initiative will include a number of different components, but will feature stepped up enforcement waves by State Troopers and officers from the Department of Transportation's office of Motor Carrier Compliance.

Motorists will be reminded of the message via outdoor and radio advertising along with roadside electronic message boards.

In fiscal year 2006, toll evasion on Florida's Turnpike is estimated to have amounted more than \$20 million. This compares to \$17 million in FY 2005 and \$11 million in FY 2004.

The increase can be attributed, at least in part, to a system wide increase in the number of electronic toll collection (SunPass-only) lanes which can translate into more opportunities for would be violators.

In the future, other changes may be implemented that would help streamline the way unpaid tolls are collected and increase the amount that could be collected under a uniform traffic citation.