



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

August 7, 2009

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## Florida's Turnpike Enterprise awards \$33 million design-build contract for all-electronic tolling conversion project on the Turnpike's Homestead Extension

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), has awarded a \$33 million design-build contract to convert a segment of the Turnpike's Homestead Extension into an all-electronic open road tolling (ORT) facility, transportation officials announced today.

All-electronic open road tolling will eliminate the collection of cash at the plazas and will replace it with SunPass and Toll-by-Plate electronic tolling alternatives. Toll-by-Plate is a toll collection system where cameras snap a photo of a vehicle's license plate and a bill is mailed to the registered vehicle owner.

The design-build contract was awarded to Miami-based firm MCM on Aug. 3, and is the first of two contracts to convert the entire Homestead Extension to the all-electronic technology in early 2011. The project entails the conversion of the Homestead and Bird Road mainline toll plazas, along with the 17 Turnpike ramp plazas located between the U.S. 1 (Florida City) and S.R. 836 interchanges in Miami-Dade County.

Construction is anticipated to begin in September.

The project includes the fabrication and installation of SunPass gantries at each location to support the new toll collection equipment. One additional lane in each direction also will be constructed from north of Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street/Bird Road to south of S.R. 836 to help ease congestion for merging traffic entering and exiting the Turnpike. Additional work consists of the removal of existing tollbooths and structures, toll plaza building modifications, roadway improvements, grading, drainage, and signing and pavement markings.

In the fall, a second design-build contract will be awarded to convert the Okeechobee and Miramar mainline toll plazas, along with 14 ramp plazas located between the S.R. 836 and County Line Road interchanges into all-electronic facilities.

(more)

All-electronic tolling is the most efficient way to collect tolls because it adds vehicle capacity at toll plazas and roadways, while reducing the cost of collecting the tolls. It also enhances safety by eliminating conflicts between motorists stopping to pay cash and those traveling at high speeds through the SunPass lanes. Benefits to the environment are significant — lower vehicle emissions and reduced fuel consumption.

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is a leader in the worldwide toll industry and new technologies now allow Florida's Turnpike to collect tolls electronically from customers with and without SunPass while providing a safe, cost-effective and efficient transportation system for residents, businesses and visitors.