



FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE

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For Immediate Release
December 18, 2009

SOUTH FLORIDA AND TREASURE COAST WEEKLY LANE CLOSURES AND WORK ZONE ADVISORY

All regularly scheduled construction and maintenance-related lane closures and restrictions on Florida's Turnpike-operated roads are suspended from 6 a.m., Wednesday, December 23, through 6 a.m., Monday, January 4, 2009, in anticipation of heavy traffic volumes. Motorists should expect heavy congestion at the mainline toll plazas on the busiest travel days, and be prepared for sudden, intermittent stops, especially near the Leesburg (milepost 288), Three Lakes (milepost 236) and Lake Worth/Lantana (milepost 88) mainline toll plazas.

THE FOLLOWING URGENT TRAFFIC ADVISORY HAS BEEN ISSUED FOR MOTORISTS TRAVELING IN CENTRAL FLORIDA:

A catastrophic vehicle fire destroyed a northbound Turnpike bridge located north of Orlando, about 30 miles south of the merge with Interstate 75. While the Turnpike remains open to traffic, travelers should be alert for heavy congestion and intermittent stops and delays near Milepost 282.

In that area, traffic will be narrowed to one lane in each direction to travel through the emergency repair work zone. Posted travel speed in the area is reduced to 60 m.p.h., which will be strictly enforced; however, motorists should be prepared for much lower speeds due to the high volume of traffic anticipated during the holiday season.

Weather permitting, the bridge will reopen and normal operations are scheduled to be restored on December 31.

In the meantime, motorists should be prepared for especially heavy congestion on the following dates and times:

Northbound:

- Saturday, December 19, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Saturday December 26, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Sunday, December 27, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Southbound:

- Saturday, December 19, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Sunday, December 20, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 23, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Thursday, December 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday, December 26, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Sunday, December 27, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Monday, December 28, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 29, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 30, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FORT LAUDERDALE — Florida's Turnpike announces updated lane closures and work zones due to construction and maintenance projects in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin and St. Lucie counties, **for the week beginning Sunday, Dec. 20.**

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

TURNPIKE ALL-ELECTRONIC OPEN ROAD TOLLING U.S. 1 TO S.R. 836 (MILEPOST 0-26)

- No lane closures are scheduled. However, the contractor may close one or two lanes in each direction in the vicinity of the Bird Road toll plaza, as needed, between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Bird Road and Homestead mainline toll plazas and the 17 ramp plazas located between the U.S. 1 and S.R. 836 interchanges are being upgraded to allow for all-electronic tolling on this segment of the Turnpike beginning in early 2011. Cash toll collections will be eliminated simultaneously at all the toll plazas. Approximate cost: \$33 million.

TURNPIKE – MILLING AND RESURFACING PROJECTS (MILEPOST 0-9)

- One **northbound** and shoulder lane will be closed on various segments of the Turnpike between Campbell Drive (Exit 2) and Allapattah Road (Exit 9) from 10 p.m. to 4:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.
- One **southbound** lane and shoulder will be closed on various segments of the Turnpike between Allapattah Road (Exit 9) and S. Dixie Highway from 9:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construction is underway to remove the existing pavement and to resurface and restripe various segments of the Turnpike: from the U.S. 1 (Exit 1) to Allapattah Road (Exit 9). The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2010. Approximate cost: \$5.5 million.

TURNPIKE – NORTHBOUND ON-RAMP AT SW 8TH STREET (MILEPOST 25)

- One of two lanes on the Turnpike's northbound on-ramp from Southwest 8th Street will be closed from 8:30 p.m. to 5:50 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22, as work crews repair barrier wall on the ramp's bridge over the Snapper Creek Canal.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Roadway maintenance crews will perform emergency repairs.

OKEECHOBEE TOLL PLAZA OPEN ROAD TOLLING AND NW 74TH STREET INTERCHANGE (MILEPOST 32)

- All SunPass-only open road tolling lanes, either northbound or southbound, will be closed at Okeechobee toll plaza from 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22, for asphalt work, lighting and maintenance of traffic activities.
 - All SunPass traffic will be diverted to the traditional SunPass and cash toll lanes at the plaza.
- Motorists may find one or two lanes closed at the intersection of Northwest 114th Avenue and Northwest 74th Street between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday, Dec. 21, for paving activities.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Okeechobee mainline toll plaza will be converted into an open-road tolling plaza that will allow motorists with SunPass to travel at highway speeds while their toll is collected via SunPass equipment overhead ... no gates, no tollbooths. Cash-paying motorists will pull off the highway onto ramps with traditional tollbooths and then merge back onto the travel lanes. A new SunPass-only interchange is under construction at Northwest 74th Street. Construction began in January 2007 and is scheduled for completion in the spring 2010. Approximate cost: \$64.8 million.

TURNPIKE – BRIDGE PAINTING AT MIAMI GARDENS DRIVE

- The project has been completed ahead of schedule, and lane closures are no longer needed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of cleaning and painting the Turnpike bridge over Miami Gardens Drive. Work began in late August and is now completed. Approximate cost: \$260,000.

BROWARD COUNTY

TURNPIKE WIDENING – GRIFFIN ROAD TO SUNRISE BOULEVARD (MILEPOST 53 to 58)

- One to two lanes in both directions will be closed periodically on the Turnpike between Griffin Road (Exit 53) and Sunrise Boulevard (Exit 58) from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Local interchanges affected:

- Intermittent ramp closures at I-595 westbound ramp from the Turnpike between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. from Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

TURNPIKE WIDENING – SUNRISE BOULEVARD TO ATLANTIC BOULEVARD (MILEPOST 58 to 66)

- One to two lanes in both directions will be closed periodically on the Turnpike between Sunrise Boulevard (Exit 58) and Atlantic Boulevard (Exit 66) from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Local road affected:

- Periodic, off-peak, nighttime lane closures in both directions on Commercial Boulevard from Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project is a multi-million dollar construction program to widen Florida's Turnpike in Broward County; an additional travel lane is being added to both the northbound and southbound directions. There are three active phases in progress between Griffin Road (Exit 53) and Atlantic Boulevard (Exit 66). Approximate projects cost: \$260 million.

PALM BEACH COUNTY

TURNPIKE INTERCHANGE RECONFIGURATION – LAKE WORTH ROAD (MILEPOST 93)

- A lane in each direction will be closed periodically on the Turnpike between the West Palm Beach Service Plaza (Milepost 94) and Hypoluxo (Milepost 90) between 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This project is an interchange reconfiguration at the Turnpike's Lake Worth Interchange (Exit 93) which will split the existing plaza. A new plaza will be built in the southwest quadrant, providing separate access for northbound and southbound drivers. Approximate project cost: \$17.5 million.

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

TURNPIKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – FT. PIERCE (EXIT 152) & ST. LUCIE (EXIT 142)

- No lane closures to report this week.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Two improvement projects are underway in St. Lucie County. The Port St. Lucie (Exit 142) northbound interchange ramps are being resurfaced and realigned. The project began in July and is projected to be completed in February 2010.

The second project is an improvement of the northbound off ramp at the Ft Pierce interchange (Exit 152). The ramp is being realigned. This project started in June and is projected to be completed in February 2010.

Combined costs for these two projects are approximately: \$2.8 million.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

TURNPIKE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – (Milepost 173 to Milepost 179)

- Periodic nighttime and daytime off peak lane closures will take place on the northbound and southbound lanes of the Turnpike Sunday, Dec. 20, through Tuesday, Dec. 22.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Resurfacing and safety improvement are being performed on the Turnpike between the Fort t Pierce area and Fort Drum Service Plaza. This project started in August and is projected to be complete in January 2010. Cost for this project is approximately: \$4.3 million.



Traffic and Travel Info

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is part of the Florida Department of Transportation overseeing a 460-mile system of limited-access toll highways: *THE FLORIDA'S TURNPIKE, EXTENDING NORTH FROM HOMESTEAD IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO WILDWOOD IN SUMTER COUNTY, THE SEMINOLE EXPRESSWAY AND SOUTHERN CONNECTOR (TOLL 417) IN SEMINOLE, ORANGE AND OSCEOLA COUNTIES, THE BEACHLINE EXPRESSWAY WEST (TOLL 528) IN ORANGE COUNTY, THE POLK PARKWAY (TOLL 570) IN POLK COUNTY, THE VETERANS EXPRESSWAY AND SUNCOAST PARKWAY IN HILLSBOROUGH, PASCO AND HERNANDO COUNTIES (TOLL 589), THE SAWGRASS EXPRESSWAY (TOLL 869) IN BROWARD COUNTY, AND THE Daniel Webster Western Beltway Part C (Toll 429) in Orange County.*

SunPass is the Florida Department of Transportation's innovative Prepaid Toll Program. SunPass can be used on Florida's toll roads and most toll bridges. SunPass customers typically pay 25 cents less than cash customers at most toll plazas and exits on Turnpike roads. For information on SunPass®, please contact 1-888-TOLL-FLA (865-5352).

Travelers on the Florida's Turnpike system of roads may view real-time traffic information by visiting our website at <http://www.floridasturnpike.com>. While traveling in the Orlando, South Florida and Tampa Bay regions, motorists should dial 511 for real-time regional traffic information on the Turnpike and other major roads. This information system is voice-activated; motorists should speak the name of the road they wish to use. They may also visit <http://www.fl511.com> for information. This free service of the Florida Department of Transportation is available 24/7.

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