



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

November 6, 2009

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Construction to begin on Florida's Turnpike all-electronic tolling conversion between the U.S. 1 and S.R. 836 interchanges in Miami-Dade

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), will begin construction Sunday, Nov. 8, to convert the southern 26 miles of the Turnpike in Miami-Dade County into an all-electronic open road tolling facility in early 2011, transportation officials announced today.

The \$33 million project will upgrade the Homestead and Bird Road mainline toll plazas, and the 17 ramp plazas located between the U.S. 1 (Exit 1) and S.R. 836 (Exit 26) interchanges. New gantries will be fabricated off-site and will then be installed at these locations to support new electronic toll collection equipment over the roadway and ramps.

All-electronic open road tolling will eliminate the collection of cash at the plazas and will replace it with electronic alternatives. Tolls will be collected via SunPass or through Toll-by-Plate — a system where cameras snap a photo of a vehicle's license plate and bills the owner of the vehicle for the toll.

The project also entails removing the existing tollbooths and structures, toll plaza building modifications, roadway improvements, grading, drainage, new signs and new pavement markings.

The contractor will begin work in the vicinity of the Bird Road and Homestead toll plazas, where overnight closures are scheduled as work crews obtain asphalt pavement samples:

- One Turnpike lane in each direction will be closed in the vicinity of the Homestead toll plaza from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, through Tuesday, Nov. 10. One lane in each direction will remain open.
- All SunPass-only open road tolling lanes will be closed at the *northbound* and *southbound* Bird Road toll plazas between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. Monday, Nov. 9 and Tuesday, Nov. 10. All traffic will

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be diverted to the SunPass and cash tollbooths. Should inclement weather prevent the work from being completed as scheduled, the work and closures will take place the following evening.

- One of three *northbound* SunPass-only open road tolling lanes and three traditional tollbooths will be closed from 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, to 6 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11 at the Bird Road toll plaza.

Construction is anticipated to begin in January 2010 at the Okeechobee and Miramar mainline toll plazas, along with the 16 Turnpike ramp plazas located between the S.R. 836 and County Line Road interchanges. This segment of the Turnpike also will transition to all-electronic open road tolling in early 2011.

For more information about all-electronic open road tolling on Florida's Turnpike, visit the Web site at www.FloridasTurnpike.com/all-electronic-tolling or call 1-800-749-PIKE (7453).