



NEWS RELEASE

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Florida's Turnpike Enterprise moves forward with all-electronic toll collection conversion projects on the Turnpike's Homestead Extension in Miami-Dade County

FORT LAUDERDALE — The Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), has issued requests for proposals to solicit competitive bids and proposals for two design/build projects that will convert the Homestead Extension of Florida's Turnpike (S.R. 821) in Miami-Dade County into an all electronic open-road tolling (ORT) facility by the end of 2011, if not sooner. All electronic toll collection (AET) eliminates the collection of cash and replaces it with an electronic alternative.

One project will revamp the Homestead and Bird Road mainline toll plazas, and the 17 ramp plazas located between the U.S.1 and S.R. 836 interchanges at an estimated cost of \$43.1 million. The second project, estimated at \$36.3 million, will convert into AET facilities the Okeechobee and Miramar mainline toll plazas, along with 14 ramp plazas located between the S.R. 836 and County Line Road interchanges.

FTE is looking to award the contracts in June and July, and plans to break ground in the fall.

The scope of the projects includes the fabrication and installation of SunPass gantries at each location, to house the new toll collection equipment. Additional work consists of the removal of existing tollbooths and structures, building modifications, roadway improvements, grading, drainage, and signing and pavement markings.

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.

(more)

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.