



## Florida's Turnpike Enterprise U-Turn Policy

Approved:

  
James L. Ely  
Executive Director

Effective: November 1, 2007  
Office: Highway Operations  
Related FDOT Procedure:

**PURPOSE:** To establish a policy to provide for a safe driving environment for employees, consultants, contractors and customers of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.

**AUTHORITY:** F.S. 316.090  
F.S. 315.1515

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to all employees, consultants, contractors and permittees of the Turnpike Enterprise

**GENERAL:** Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) has constructed median crossovers on portions of the Turnpike mainline system approximately every one mile. These crossovers are posted with signs that state "Official Use Only." The intended use of these crossovers is to provide a place for emergency vehicles and authorized vehicles to make a U-turn for emergency situations or Turnpike business activities (when authorized to do so by the Director of Highway Operations). FTE personnel, consultants and contractors, and permittees generally shall not cross over the median or make U-turns at the median crossovers without prior approval from the Director of Highway Operations or when directed by Law Enforcement personnel. Personnel making U-turns, when not authorized to do so in writing by the Director of Highway Operations, may be cited by law enforcement and are subject to internal discipline.

**POLICY:** On the mainline, in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie counties northward to MP152, U-turns are not permitted due to space limitations and sight restrictions. From MP236, Three Lakes Mainline to MP275, north of SR50, no U-turns are permitted. U-turns are not permitted on the Beachline, SR417, Southern Connector, Sawgrass, H.E.F.T., Polk Parkway, Veterans Expressway, Crosstown Expressway, SunCoast Parkway or the Western Beltway. U-turns are never permitted within one mile of a Toll Plaza.

U-turns at a median crossover on the mainline from MP153 to MP236, Three Lakes Mainline, and from MP275 to MP308 are permitted when authorized and necessary to accomplish a Turnpike business activity. When authorized, operators must use caution and the following driving procedure. The vehicle must stop on the right shoulder with emergency lights activated, wait for a clearing in traffic and then proceed to the median crossover. The vehicle should maneuver into the desired direction, and when traffic is clear, proceed to the right shoulder and then back onto the mainline when traffic allows. No vehicle should slow or stop

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in the traffic lane to gain access to the crossover and vehicles should come to a complete stop and look before re-entering the roadway. Once you reach operating speed, turn off the emergency lights. If the right shoulder in either direction is closed for construction or maintenance at a crossover, the next unobstructed crossover should be used.

Contractors may utilize median crossovers for U-turns only when designated in roadway plans approved by FTE Production, Traffic Operations and Construction. The contractor must supply and have approved by the Construction Engineer or his designee, a written ingress and egress plan for work vehicles entering and exiting the work zone.

All "U-turn Authorization Letters" dated prior to the approval date of this policy are no longer valid. Any new requests for authorization must be forwarded to the Director of Highway Operations for written approval. Only authorization letters signed and dated by the Director of Highway Operations after the adoption of this policy will be considered valid, and a copy of the approved authorization letters will be forwarded to the FHP.