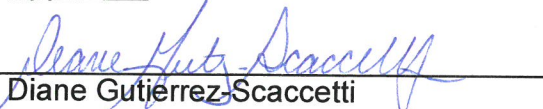




LANE CLOSURE POLICY

Approved:


Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
Executive Director

Effective: MAY 25, 2017
Office: Traffic Operations
Related FDOT Procedure: N/A

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines to minimize the disruption of the flow of traffic in conjunction with any activity that requires roadway lane closures along the mainline, toll plaza lanes, interchange ramps, or during traffic pacing on Florida's Turnpike System.

AUTHORITY:

Sections 338.2216, Florida Statutes

DEFINITIONS:

- ADT:** Average Daily Traffic Volumes.
- Department:** Florida Department of Transportation, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
- Emergency:** Any occurrence, or threat thereof, whether accidental, natural, technological, or manmade, in war or in peace, which results or may result in substantial injury or harm to the population or substantial damage to or loss of property [F.S. 252.34(3)].
- Engineer:** The Engineer refers to the Turnpike Traffic Operations Engineer, Turnpike Maintenance Engineer, Turnpike Construction Engineer or other designee (who is a Professional Engineer) involved in the approval process based upon the type of lane closure being requested.
- Indexes:** FDOT Design Standards indexes (600 series), current edition
- Lane Closure:** Temporary closure of one (1) or more through traffic lane(s), auxiliary lane(s), toll lane(s), ramp lane(s), moving operations, or traffic pacing.
- Moving Operations:** Some temporary work operations such as pothole patching and striping operations can be performed using moving vehicles in accordance with Standard Index 600 Series and the MUTCD. Moving Operations are considered lane closures.
- MUTCD:** Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, current edition.
- Other Roadways:** Other FDOT Districts, counties, municipalities affected by roadway closures.
- PPM:** Florida Department of Transportation Plans Preparation Manual, current edition.
- TMC:** Traffic Management Centers for Florida's Turnpike, located at Pompano Beach and Turkey Lake (Orlando) offices.
- Traffic Pacing:** Traffic pacing is the slowing of traffic to provide a clear travel way for a maximum duration of 30 minutes for the contractor to work in existing travel lanes.
- TPPPH:** Turnpike Plans Preparation and Practices Handbook, current edition.



Turnpike Mainline: Homestead Extension of Florida's Turnpike (HEFT), Southern Coin System, Ticket System, Northern Coin System, and the Golden Glades Spur.

Turnpike System: Includes the Turnpike Mainline and other Expressways/Parkways/Beltways owned and operated by the Turnpike. Including S.R. 528 Beachline Expressway and Beachline East, S.R. 429 Western Beltway, S.R. 417 Seminole Expressway and Southern Connector, S.R. 869 Sawgrass Expressway, S.R. 589 Veterans Expressway, S.R. 589 Suncoast Parkway, S.R. 570 Polk Parkway, SR 23 First Coast Expressway, and SR 408 East-West Expressway.

GENERAL POLICY:

The policy of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is to limit lane closures as described below. With the exception of emergencies, the requesting party shall plan and coordinate the lane closure in advance. The requesting party is responsible to provide portable changeable message signs (PCMS) to advise the motoring public at least one (1) week in advance of any planned lane closure.

All lane closure requests should be accompanied by a Traffic Control Plan (TCP) that is in compliance with the latest Department's Design Standards and the MUTCD. If the proposed TCP is not covered in a Standard Index, a separate plan, signed and sealed by an engineer registered in the State of Florida, shall be provided for the anticipated work activity.

Lane closure requests shall be submitted to Turnpike Traffic Operations a minimum of two (2) weeks in advance of the proposed closure. The lane closure request shall be submitted through the regional Turnpike Enterprise Office in charge of the corresponding project. The Turnpike's required method for lane closure requests is electronic submittal. Turnpike Traffic Operations publishes a separate Lane Closure Guidelines document that describes the specific process to be followed when requesting lane closures.

Personnel involved in the approval process will attempt to accommodate priority or emergency requests on a case-by-case basis, however these may not allow adequate notice to Turnpike customers, resulting in disapproval. All lane closure approvals shall be restricted to the specified hours based on a review of the current and projected traffic volumes.

For all lane closures on the Turnpike System, notification via telephone **shall be provided** to the Turnpike Regional Traffic Management Center (TMC) at the beginning (approximately 15 to 30 minutes before implementation of each lane closure) and end of each lane closure activity. Contact information for the TMC is provided below:

Pompano TMC at (954) 934-1370: Mile Post 0 to Mile Post 99, SR-91 SPUR (MP 0x - 4x), and Sawgrass Expressway.

Turkey Lake TMC at (407) 264-3363: Mile Post 100 to 309, Other Roadways not including Sawgrass Expressway.

Daytime Lane Closures:

The highest restriction for lane closures shall occur on the Turnpike System during daytime hours, generally defined as the period between sunrise and sunset. Daytime lane closures may be



allowed only after all other possible alternatives have been explored and found to be impossible, impractical, or unsafe, and with documentation that the lane closure is warranted. Daytime lane closures shall not be allowed merely for the convenience of the contractor, permit applicant, or other requesting party.

Daytime Lane closures will be approved for specified hours. Approval by the Director of Transportation Operations or designee(s) shall be obtained at least one (1) week in advance of the proposed closure to allow for PCMS placement and notification to the motorist.

Weekend Lane Closures:

Weekend lane closures may be allowed only after all other possible alternatives have been explored and found to be impossible, impractical, or unsafe, with the closure reasons being warranted and documented. Any lane closure requested between 6:00 A.M. Friday to 10:00 P.M. Sunday shall be considered a Weekend Lane Closure.

Holiday Lane Closures:

No lane closures shall be permitted during certain holidays throughout the year. Holiday lane closure requests are subject to the same restrictions as Daytime and Weekend lane closures.

A Holiday Calendar is developed by Turnpike Traffic Operations each year for coordination with other stakeholders in the Turnpike. The Holiday Calendar is provided in the Lane Closure Guidelines that is published by Turnpike Traffic Operations and is available upon request.

Other Lane Closure Time Considerations:

During special events of regional significance, no lane closures shall be permitted during a time period between two (2) days before the event and 24 hours after the event. The requestor is required to evaluate these events as determined each year to assist in the generation and review of lane closure requests. Examples of special events of regional significance are Spring Break, College and Professional sporting events (for example, NASCAR, bowl games, etc.) or local cultural events.

Maintenance and Permit Projects:

To facilitate lane closure requests by permitting agencies and Maintenance, the Turnpike Traffic Operations Office shall specify allowable hours for lane closures on a case-by-case basis.

During Permit and Maintenance plans production the appropriate lane closure hour restrictions shall be inserted into the Traffic Control Plan. During construction, lane closures shall be in accordance with the allowable hours indicated on the plans.

Toll Plaza/Gantry Lane Closure:

In addition to the requirements of the general policy Construction projects requiring a lane closure within the influence area of a mainline or ramp toll plaza shall obtain concurrence from the Construction Project Manager within two (2) weeks prior to implementing the toll lane closure.



Tolls Maintenance efforts will be coordinated closely between SunWatch and Traffic Operations. As a result, specific notifications and timeframes will be coordinated on a case-by-case basis.

Traffic Pacing:

Traffic pacing shall only be allowed after all other possible alternatives have been explored and found to be impossible, impractical, or unsafe, and with documentation that the traffic pacing operation is warranted. In addition to the requirements of the general policy, traffic pacing procedures shall only be considered between the hours of 11:00 p.m. through 4:30 a.m., Monday through Thursday, or the lowest volume weeknight hours as determined by Florida's Turnpike Traffic Operations office.

In addition, traffic pacing operations shall be limited to a duration of 30 minutes or less and shall comply with the following:

- FDOT Design Standard Index 655 Traffic Pacing.
- TPPPH, Chapter 10.
- PPM Section 10.14 Law Enforcement Services.

Emergency Conditions:

1. The Department reserves the right to grant and/or limit lane closures during emergency conditions as defined under Florida Statute 252.34 (3).
2. Unless otherwise approved by the Engineer, work is to be performed on a continuous round-the-clock basis to minimize time of closures.
3. The Turnpike Public Information and Traffic Operations Offices are to be notified of any emergency lane closure that exceeds or is expected to exceed thirty (30) minutes.
4. The Turnpike Traffic Operations Office is authorized to cancel or reduce approved lane closure hours during unexpected incidents or events (i.e. Presidential visits, crashes, etc.).