



95 EXPRESS



News Clip

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Subject: **I-95's northbound express lanes make successful debut**

I-95's northbound express lanes make successful debut

By Michael Turnbell / South Florida Sun-Sentinel

No confusion. No chaos.

It was a smooth start Friday for Interstate 95's new northbound express lanes in Miami, which began charging tolls at 6 a.m.

In the first hour, 430 vehicles used the lanes. By the end of the day, officials expected about 18,000.

The heavier the traffic, the higher the toll. Drivers paid 25 cents for the first half of the day. But at 4 p.m., evening rush-hour drivers were paying \$1.50 to drive the 7-mile stretch from I-195 to the ramps for Florida's Turnpike and the Palmetto Expressway.

Express lane traffic zoomed along at full speed while drivers in the free lanes moved about 30 mph, Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Pat Santangelo said.

"It appears everybody got the 95 memo," Santangelo said at about 5 p.m. "We've not had any major incidents nor any minor accidents."

The easy start of tolling contrasted with the disarray and confusion in July when the plastic poles separating the express lanes first appeared.

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