



Florida Department of Transportation

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Launch of express lanes on I-95 moves a step closer **FDOT awards 95Express design-build contract**

Miami, FL -- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has awarded the first of two construction contracts for the Interstate 95 Express Lanes design-build project to the MCM-FCC CO-C3TS team. The first contract for \$121,526,930 covers the segment of I-95 in Miami-Dade County from just south of the SR-112/I-195 Interchange to just south of the Golden Glades Interchange.

Scheduled to begin construction in early 2008, *95Express* will provide motorists and transit riders a real time-saving option to the usual commute on I-95. By converting the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and re-striping the other travel lanes to create a second express lane, the new express lanes will be implemented without major widening of the highway. The *95Express* project also provides new and enhanced transit service with up to 23 new, low emission buses. The express project concept – developed in partnership with Miami-Dade and Broward County transportation agencies – continues to encourage carpooling and transit use, but also offers a choice to drivers for whom carpooling or transit just doesn't work.

To reinforce and support ridesharing, transit use and reduced emissions, buses, registered carpools, and registered vanpools will be able to use the express lanes for free as will motorcycles and hybrid vehicles. Other drivers will be able to use the lanes by using their Sunpass transponder to pay a toll. The toll, which will vary by time of day and levels of congestion, is intended to keep the express lanes moving near 50 MPH during rush hour. Toll charges will be highest during peak hours, and much lower during other times to encourage better use of the road throughout the day.

“The Florida Department of Transportation is committed to working with our partners to implement a bold, new approach to improve traffic along Miami-Dade County’s busiest corridor,” said Johnny Martinez, FDOT District 6 secretary. “The *95Express* project will give motorists real choices.”

Funding for the *95Express* project was secured from several sources including a \$62.9 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) and a \$35 million allocation from the Florida Legislature. The northbound improvements are expected to be open as early as summer 2008, with southbound improvements open in fall 2009. The second phase of *95Express* from the Golden Glades Interchange north to I-595/Broward Boulevard in Fort Lauderdale will be built with a separate contract expected to be awarded in 2009.

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