



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **95 Express (SR 9A) Project Begins February 2008**

**Miami, FL** – This month, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Six, will begin construction of the first of two 95 Express projects (FIN No.: 415456-1-52-01) designed to create “Express” toll lanes (two in each direction) along I-95 in the existing High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes. 95 Express is the first project of its kind in South Florida and heralds a new era in congestion management along the region’s major corridors.

The project includes the portion of I-95 between SR 112 (also known I-195 and the Airport Expressway) and the Golden Glades Interchange. Construction will last approximately two years and cost an estimated \$122 million. Future projects are expected to provide Express Lanes from the Golden Glades Interchange north to I-595 in Broward County by 2010.

The scope of work includes: re-striping I-95 and modifying shoulders to provide two 11-foot Express Lanes and four 11-foot regular travel lanes in each direction; installing electronic Open Road Tolling (ORT) equipment similar to that already in use along SR 836 and the Florida Turnpike; implementing Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)-related equipment including electronic message signs and ramp signals; widening I-95 in the vicinity of SR 112 and modifying existing on and off ramps between I-95 and SR 112 to accommodate the new Express Lanes; modifying storm water drainage; and converting the NW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue on ramp to northbound I-95 to a dedicated Express Lane. In order to minimize impacts and construction time, this work has been broken into two separate phases.

**Phase 1A** includes work along northbound I-95 between SR 112 and the Golden Glades Interchange. This phase will begin in February, with Express Lanes expected to open to traffic by summer 2008. The on ramp from NW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to northbound I-95 will be converted in to a 95 Express Lane ramp during this phase of construction.

**Phase 1B** includes significant modifications to the on and off ramps between I-95 and SR 112 as well as all necessary work along the southbound lanes of the interstate. This work is expected to begin by fall 2008 with southbound Express Lanes open to traffic by fall 2009.

The Department strives to minimize construction-related impacts to motorists, especially when work affects major corridors such as I-95. However, this project will require closing I-95 travel lanes and on and off ramps through the SR 112 Interchange in order to complete work safely. Lane closures will be scheduled for non-peak nighttime hours (9 p.m. – 5 a.m.) except during work that requires closing ramps between I-95 and SR 112. There will be at least four travel lanes open during daytime hours on I-95 and the contractor will maintain one dedicated HOV lane as long as construction permits.

Motorists will be provided advance notice of project-related traffic impacts through media releases, public service announcements and the use of existing overhead electronic signs along I-95 and SR 112. The Department will provide two additional Road Rangers to assist disabled vehicles, clear accidents from travel lanes and minimize additional impacts during construction.

95 Express Lanes will be available for motorists with a SunPass transponder. Express lanes will be free for express transit services, carpools with three or more passengers that are registered with South Florida Commuter Services, registered van pools, hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles and motorcycles. Trucks will not be allowed to use 95 Express lanes and will be required to travel in one of three outside general travel lanes.

Express lanes will be separated from regular travel lanes by a series of plastic tubes called delineators. Access points will be located at the southern and northern ends of the project only. There will be a toll for using these lanes and the toll rate will vary depending on the time of day and the number of vehicles in these lanes.

Motorists are encouraged to **call 511** before they drive or log on to [www.SunGuide.org](http://www.SunGuide.org) to get real-time traffic and lane closure information. For a detailed overview of the 95 Express Project, please contact the FDOT District Six Public Information Office at 305-470-5349 or visit [www.95express.com](http://www.95express.com). For construction-related questions, contact Construction Public Information Specialist Tish Burgher at 305-499-2391.