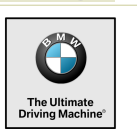


VISTA BMW
 4401 W. Sample Road Coconut Creek
 744 N. Federal Hwy Pompano Beach
 www.VistaBMW.com



NEW 2007 BMW
328i
 All power, CD/MP3 Audio, Alloy wheels, Powerful V6 engine
 LEASE FOR ONLY **\$249**
 PER MONTH FOR 24 MONTHS
 \$0 SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE INCLUDED 4 YR/50,000 MI



- >Search Classified
- >Find a Job
- >Buy a Car
- >Find Real Estate
- >Find an Apartment
- >Place a Classified Ad
- >Buy a LocalLink
- >ShopLocal
- >Boodle Coupons

LOCAL NEWS
NEWS BY AREA

- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Regional/Florida
- Cuba
- Nation/World

NEWS TOPICS

- The Help Team
- Legislature
- Education
- Florida Lottery
- Obituaries
- Traffic
- News by E-mail
- News Quiz
- Next Generation
- Kids of Character
- Character Counts

CHANNELS

- NEWS**
- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Regional/Florida
- Cuba
- Nation/World
- The Help Team
- Legislature
- Education
- Florida Lottery
- Obituaries

WEATHER

- Hurricane
- Webcam

SPORTS

- Miami Dolphins
- Florida Marlins
- Miami Heat
- Florida Panthers
- University of Miami
- High School
- College
- Blogs/Columns

BUSINESS

- Real Estate News

EDITORIAL

- Letters
- Chan Lowe
- Cartoons

BLOGS

COLUMNS

- SOUTHFLORIDA.COM**
- Entertainment
- Events
- Restaurants
- Movies & TV
- Music & Stage
- Nightlife & Bars
- Florida Getaways
- Celebrity News
- Horoscopes
- Dating/Personals
- Attractions/Outdoors
- Visitor's Guide

Widening I-595

Work could take five years if private financing is used or 14 years with traditional funding.

By Michael Turnbull
 South Florida Sun-Sentinel
 Posted April 8 2007

Five years or 14 years.

The \$1.5 billion reconstruction of Interstate 595 is inevitable. The only questions are how long it will take and how the state will pay for it.

Given a choice between dodging barricades for five years or 14 years, most drivers would undoubtedly pick five.

That choice would come with a price: The state may turn over construction and control of the highway to a private company that would recoup its costs through tolls. In turn, the state and drivers get a billion-dollar road project built in a third of the time.

The company would take on risks such as cost overruns that otherwise would be paid by taxpayers. But toll rates could be raised without public input and continue long after the project is paid off.

"This is a potential mechanism to get one large project done much earlier. It's very exciting," said Jim Wolfe, the Florida Department of Transportation's District 4 secretary, speaking to Broward County transportation planners late last year. "It's definitely not business as usual."

Nor is the project.

The state wants to rebuild and widen a 12-mile stretch of I-595 to five lanes in each direction between State Road 7 and the Interstate 75/Sawgrass Expressway junction. Reversible express lanes built above I-595's grassy median would whisk long-distance commuters east in the morning and west in the evening.

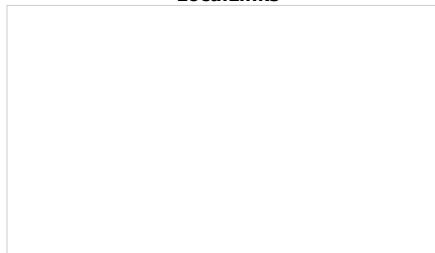
Drivers using the express lanes would pay a toll that would go up at rush hour to keep the lanes from clogging. The concept, called "congestion pricing," relies on simple economics: The higher the price, the more likely some drivers are likely to use the regular travel lanes or drive at a less congested time of day.

HOME STORM PROTECTION WITH IMPACT WINDOWS AND DOORS

CLICK HERE for a FREE in home demonstration & estimate.

FHA
 Florida Home-Improvement Associates

LocalLinks



- E-mail story
- Print story
- Most e-mailed
- News on your cell
- RSS news feeds

LATEST VIDEOS

ADD TO PLAYLIST

- [Haitian American continues his hunger strike](#)
 - [Journalist Daniel Pearl added to Holocaust Memorial Wall](#)
 - [Strong storms strand travelers at Florida airports](#)
 - [Cam Cameron on the Miami Dolphins' first minicamp](#)
 - [Town hall meeting on property taxes](#)
 - [Gay rodeo competes in South Florida](#)
 - [Monday's South Florida weather update](#)
 - [Workers protest in Fort Lauderdale](#)
- [Check All](#) | [Clear All](#)
- PLAY ALL CHECKED**

MOST E-MAILED (last 24 hours)

1. How safe is your favorite restaurant?
 2. Five years after a South Florida family joined a historic *aliyah* to Israel, Laura Ben-David's letters tell of 'the real life that goes on'
 3. Green trade imminent; Culpepper likely to be released
 4. For Weston's Cleveland Clinic, cutting ties with Tenet was the right prescription
 5. Gay rodeo shows South Florida how West was fun
- [See the complete list ...](#)

FEATURES

- [Lifestyle](#)
- [Arts](#)
- [Food & Recipes](#)
- [Home & Garden](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Books](#)

HEALTH & SCIENCE

COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTERS


RSS NEWS FEEDS

CORRECTIONS

OTHER SERVICES

- [Archives](#)
- [Customer Service](#)
- [News by E-mail](#)

I-595's toll express lanes would feature high-tech overhead sensors that eliminate the need for gridlocked toll plazas. The regular lanes of I-595 would remain toll-free but more crammed than the free-flowing express lanes.

 [Click here to subscribe today to the Sun-Sentinel](#) or call 1-877-READ-SUN.

While Donna Guthrie likes the idea of having the option of paying a toll for a swifter drive, she's not so sure about letting a private company control the road's purse strings.

"I'm not too keen on a private entity owning something that is traditionally a government responsibility," said Guthrie, who uses I-595 in her daily commute from Fort Lauderdale to Coral Springs.

"I would take advantage of the express lanes, but I wouldn't use them all the time if it's going to cost me. If I'm late to work or if I'm headed to the airport, then I might use them."

With state and federal officials opposed to raising gas taxes, which paid for the interstate highway system, Florida and a host of other states are considering leasing roads and bridges to private companies to pay for new construction.

Faced with rising construction costs and a \$700 million shortfall for I-595 in Broward, the state will meet in May with investors and contractors from all over the world to consider financing options for the mammoth I-595 project.

If plans go forward, construction of the highway and noise walls would begin in 2009 and be finished in 2014. If the state waits until public money becomes available, construction would start in 2010 and take until 2024.

The state has secured about \$805 million, about half the money needed for the overall I-595 project. Without private financing, the I-595 corridor would be divided into 12 separate projects built over 14 years.

If the state gets a favorable reaction from investors and contractors in May, then it could hold a public hearing this summer and begin the process of seeking qualified firms. By February 2009, a firm could be chosen and construction would begin that year.

The firm would design, build and finance the entire project. Over the course of the lease, the firm would be responsible for any maintenance or improvements necessary to keep traffic moving at acceptable speeds.

Michael Turnbell can be reached at mturnbell@sun-sentinel.com, 954-356-4155 or 561-243-6550.

Online

Check out a simulation video of the future Interstate 595, showing the elevated toll express lanes as well as new `braided' entrance and exit ramps, at Sun-Sentinel.com/595.

[Read 1 comment »](#)


Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:

Post Comment



Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the

Terms of Service and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.**
Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator.



Subscribe today to the Sun-Sentinel
and find out how to get one week extra!

[Click here](#) or call 1-877-READ-SUN

Ads by Google

South Florida FixerUppers

Make \$3k to \$50k per House Miami, Broward, & Palm
Beach Houses

www.MyFloridaDeals.com

What's Your Flood Risk?

Protect your home from floods. Get your Flood Risk
Profile today.

www.floodsmart.gov

Broward County Appraisers

Free search of top-rated Broward County property
appraisers now.

www.AppraiserMatch.com

Shiff Group Architect

Design, Construction & Development Services for
Luxury Residential

www.Shiff.com

Broward County Records

Florida State and County Government Records,
Instant Access.

governmentregistry.org

Copyright © 2007, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*

Partners: [CareerBuilder.com](#) for Jobs | [Cars.com](#) for Autos | [Apartments.com](#) for Rentals | [ShopLocal.com](#) for Shopping
FSBO | [Boodle coupons](#) | [Houses for Rent](#) | [Open Houses](#)

Sun-Sentinel.com

[Questions or comments?](#) | [Paid archives](#) | [Start a newspaper subscription](#) | [How to advertise](#) |

[Privacy policy](#)

Copyright 2007, Sun-Sentinel Co. & South Florida Interactive Inc.

Sun-Sentinel.com, 200 E. Las Olas Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301