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## Florida signs \$1.2 billion construction contract to rebuild Interstate 595

Deal projected to pump up to \$1 million a day into local economy

By Michael Turnbull | South Florida Sun-Sentinel  
March 6, 2009

Weather



The \$1.2 billion project to rebuild Interstate 595 will soon be under way.

Gov. [Charlie Crist](#) on Thursday announced that the [Florida Department of Transportation](#) has signed an agreement with ACS Infrastructure Development Inc., a Spanish construction conglomerate.

The project will be Florida's first public-private road deal. It will provide South Florida with a significant economic boost, pumping up to \$1 million a day into the economy.

"Two years ago, I challenged the Florida Department of Transportation to accelerate construction projects so that we could relieve traffic congestion in South Florida, and they have met the challenge," Crist said in a news release. "This project will also boost the economy by getting shovels in the dirt and supporting more than 34,000 jobs in the region."

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The ACS team members includes company subsidiary Dragados USA Inc. as the lead contractor; [Long Beach](#), Calif.-based AECOM Technical Services Inc. as the lead engineering firm and I-595 Express LLC as the lead operations and maintenance firm.

State officials have said the vast majority of design and construction work will be done by local engineering firms, local contractors and local workers.

The construction contract is \$1.2 billion, the figure state officials are relying on to estimate the 30,000-plus jobs the job is expected to create. The total project cost of \$1.79 billion includes maintaining the highway over 30 years once the construction is finished in 2014.

When finished, the highway will feature reversible express lanes for long-distance commuters, new entrance and exit ramps, and a safer, less confusing [Florida's Turnpike](#) interchange.

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Some off-road work, including relocating utility lines and construction of noise walls and a new bike path along the North New River Canal, could begin this spring. Major road work will start in July.

Officials plan public meetings over the next several months to inform the public on the project.

Michael Turnbull can be reached at [mturnbell@SunSentinel.com](mailto:mturnbell@SunSentinel.com), 954-356-4155 or 561-243-6550.

On ramp  
Check out our interactive presentation to get more details on the project at [SunSentinel.com/roadwork](#)

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