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Will Interstate 595 become a toll road?

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TRANSPORTATION COLUMNIST

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Q: How will ACS Infrastructure Development Inc., the Spanish company that won the Interstate 595 reconstruction contract, make a profit? Will I-595 become a toll road when the project is finished in 2014? Janet Goldfarb, Southwest Ranches

A: ACS will make a profit by building a top-quality project that meets the Florida Department of Transportation's standards.

ACS has created a consortium called I-595 Express LLC to design, build and finance the reconstruction of I-595, then operate and maintain the highway for 30 years after construction is complete.

ACS is financing the project upfront with a combination of its own funds, loans from banks and a federal grant. The state won't pay a dime until the construction is finished.

At that time, ACS will be repaid up to \$63.98 million a year for 30 years -- an amount called an availability payment -- plus a "lump sum" payment of \$685 million over seven years.

The availability payment will be based on how well the concessionaire maintains I-595.

I-595 will remain a free road. However, the new reversible express lanes built in I-595's median between State Road 7 and I-75 will be tolled. The state will collect tolls and set toll rates.

Q: Street lights on Glades Road east of Interstate 95 in Boca Raton are on all day. Who's paying for those lights? Mark Burch, Boca Raton

A: The city pays a fixed rate of \$13 to \$18 per light depending on wattage and assuming a 12-hour burn time.

The city pays for just about every street light in the city, except lights on I-95, the entrance and exit ramps, the Intracoastal Waterway and Boca Inlet bridges and private gated communities. About 100 security lights in the city are paid for by private property owners.

FPL assumes a certain number of their lights are out each month and a credit is given based on that number.

Q: Speed limit signs on Gulf Stream Road in Dania Beach blew down during Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and have never been replaced. Can you help? Ray Bonin, Dania Beach

A: I reported the missing signs on your behalf. In the future, call Dania Beach's Public Services Department at 954-924-3742, or Broward County Engineering Division at 954-847-2600, to report any missing or damaged

sign such as a stop, speed limit or school zone signs.

The county is responsible for repairing or replacing the signs.

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