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Michael Turnbell: Interstate 595 tolls in Broward County to be limited to express lanes

Michael Turnbell

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 money, 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 as much as \$63.98 million a year for 30 years — an amount called an availability payment — plus a payment of \$685 million over seven years.

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

Most of I-595 will remain a free road. However, the new reversible express lanes built in I-595's median between State Road 7 and Interstate 75 will have tolls.

The state will collect the tolls and set toll rates.

Q: Street lights on Glades Road east of Interstate 95 in [Boca Raton](#) are on all day. Who is 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. People may call Dania Beach's Public Services Department at 954-924-3742 or the [Broward County](#) Engineering Division at 954-847-2600 to report any missing or damaged signs such as stop, speed limit or school zone signs.

The county is responsible for repairing or replacing the signs.

For traffic updates and contacts,

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