



Home Broward County Palm Beach County Weather Sports Business Entertainment Consumer Classified

BROWARD Politics

⬅️ **Previous entry:** [Names for county commissioners to know -- a look at fraud convictions](#)

➡️ **Next entry:** [FAA stands by traffic forecasts in runway plans](#)

[Back to main page](#)

ABOUT

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RECENT

- Led by "shylo
- New ti re-ele
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- FAA s
- Davie accide
- Name fraud c
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- Summ
- A diffe official
- Deerfi
- Bogde
- More \
- Video charit
- A new Beach
- Fort L: faith-b

Davie mayor wants construction firm to pay for aid to accidents on rebuilt Interstate 595

> Posted by Russell Small on April 16, 2009 11:08 AM

By Susannah Bryan/Staff Writer

Davie Mayor Judy Paul on Wednesday quizzed an executive with the construction conglomerate overseeing the \$1.2 billion project to rebuild Interstate 595.

Her top question: How did the company plan to reimburse Davie for responding to accidents on the so-called "Lexus lanes," the new reversible express lanes that will be built in I-595's median.

The answer: They don't.

"We are not the owners" of the highway, said Juan Santamaria, chief operating officer with Madrid-based ACS Infrastructure Development. "We are financing the construction."

The state has hired a consortium led by ACS Infrastructure Development to finance, design and rebuild I-595 over the next five years, then maintain the highway until 2044. The state will set rates and retain revenue from tolls collected in the new reversible express lanes.

Vice Mayor Michael Crowley directed Town Attorney John Rayson to research whether the town has any legal right to review plans for the project.

Davie officials are also concerned that some neighborhoods won't be protected by sound walls. Councilwoman Susan Starkey asked whether the town would have input on the art, if any, that will grace the sound walls.

Again, the answer was a polite no.

"All of the designs are being controlled by DOT," Santamaria said.

Paul asked Town Administrator Gary Shimun to set up a meeting between officials with the town, the contractor and state Department of Transportation to discuss Davie's concerns.

For the past couple years, Davie officials have grouched about the cost of responding to accidents on I-595 and other highways that surround the town.

But the town's two attempts to pass an accident tax have failed. The "cost recovery fee," an estimated \$840, would have targeted nonresidents who cause crashes and need help from Davie police or firefighters.

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CATEGORIES

- [African-American community \(32\)](#)
- [Alcee Hastings \(23\)](#)
- [Barack Obama \(127\)](#)
- [Bill Nelson \(4\)](#)
- [Campaign money \(20\)](#)
- [Charlie Crist \(84\)](#)
- [City-Town-Village Elections \(202\)](#)
- [City-Town-Village Government \(163\)](#)
- [Community activists \(11\)](#)
- [County Commission \(217\)](#)
- [County elections \(91\)](#)
- [County government \(112\)](#)
- [Debbie Wasserman Schultz \(40\)](#)
- [Democratic clubs \(17\)](#)
- [Democrats \(294\)](#)
- [Development \(10\)](#)
- [Economy \(14\)](#)
- [Education \(15\)](#)
- [Elections \(26\)](#)
- [Endorsements \(9\)](#)
- [Famous People \(2\)](#)
- [Florida House \(110\)](#)
- [Florida Legislature \(53\)](#)
- [Florida Senate \(107\)](#)
- [Fort Lauderdale City Commission \(18\)](#)
- [Fort Lauderdale City Commission races \(125\)](#)
- [Fort Lauderdale mayor's race \(111\)](#)
- [Gambling \(4\)](#)
- [Gay community \(63\)](#)
- [Government in the Sunshine \(2\)](#)
- [Hispanic community \(12\)](#)
- [Hollywood \(1\)](#)
- [Hospital District \(11\)](#)
- [Jack Seiler \(1\)](#)
- [Jewish community \(37\)](#)
- [John McCain \(75\)](#)
- [Judicial races \(23\)](#)
- [Kendrick Meek \(15\)](#)
- [Lobbying \(12\)](#)
- [Local Politicians \(65\)](#)
- [Local personalities \(26\)](#)
- [Media \(43\)](#)
- [Mel Martinez \(10\)](#)
- [Money and fundraising \(16\)](#)
- [Obituaries \(14\)](#)
- [Police/Fire/Public Safety \(17\)](#)
- [Political campaigns \(12\)](#)
- [Polls \(19\)](#)
- [Presidential candidates \(212\)](#)
- [Religion \(1\)](#)
- [Republican clubs \(6\)](#)
- [Republicans \(189\)](#)

child support.

Posted by: Frank | April 16, 2009 12:19 PM

so they can collect the revenue & shut the hell up. Jesus, police department?

Posted by: jeff | April 16, 2009 5:56 PM

they would not have to worry about this so much

Posted by: Kevin | April 16, 2009 11:09 PM

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