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## Reversible Lanes To Be Added To I-595

### \$1.2 Billion In Improvements Means Years Of Construction

POSTED: Friday, February 19, 2010

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**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.** -- A major construction project to improve the traffic flow on Interstate 595 began on Monday.

It's been 21 years since I-595 opened and paved the way for the massive development of western Broward County, but the highway is about to get a makeover.

The centerpiece of the four-year project is the "reversible express lanes" that will be built between the existing lanes of travel. The three express lanes will carry traffic eastbound during the morning rush and westbound during the evening rush.

#### [Video](#)

There will be a toll to use these lanes, but with only so much room and money to work with, project managers said this will be like getting six travel lanes for the price of three.

"Of course we'll have lots of gates and signage to make sure that drivers don't go in the wrong direction," said project manager Joseph Borello.

Two-thirds of the cost of this \$1.2 billion dollar project will be spent to widen or replace the 66 bridges over the 10-mile stretch and improve the on and off ramps. Right now, the area where drivers have to merge on and off the highway in the same place is a real problem.

There will be no more jockeying for position in those spots. The new I-595 will have separate ramps so that traffic getting on the highway will go up and over cars getting off.

The project will also include an overhaul of the Turnpike interchange, noise barriers and a pedestrian greenway along the 84 canal.

Much of the work will be done at night. In fact, the contractor isn't allowed to shut down primary travel lanes during the day.

Reversible lanes are in use in several major cities, including Dallas, Chicago and Tampa. Planners there keep cars from going the wrong way by providing plenty of signage and railroad-style gates that block the entrance to the express lanes when traffic is going in the opposite directions.

The I-595 project began Monday, with workers putting up temporary traffic cameras to replace the ones that will be removed as the interstate undergoes a makeover.

For more information on the I-595 Express project, visit [www.i-595.com](http://www.i-595.com).

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 **USAMade** 3 hours ago

We have this where I live (no toll) It works ok but is only 2 lanes not 3. I've used them and sometimes the local lanes actually move faster. I think the biggest problem is, it is only 2 lanes, so when others merge on, it slows things down

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 **barkway** 14 hours ago

Of course there will be tolls...just another way for for-profit co's who take over state highways to discriminate against those who can't pay the tolls. Got money? You'll get to work/school on time. Don't?? Awww, sucks to be you.

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