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Northbound turnpike widening projects in Broward to be completed in 2011, 2012

Michael Turnbell, on Transportation

Sun Sentinel Columnist

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Q: What is the new scheduled completion date for the construction on northbound Florida's Turnpike in Broward County?

Brad Gordon, Hollywood

A: There are three separate widening projects under way on the turnpike.

A \$20 million project adding a fourth northbound lane and noise walls from Peters Road to Sunrise Boulevard should be finished in the summer of 2011.

Construction to add a fourth lane from Sunrise Boulevard to Atlantic Boulevard began in July. The \$25 million project is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2012.

The stretch from Griffin Road to Peters Road is part of the \$1.8 billion I-595 reconstruction that is just getting under way and won't be finished until 2014.

The I-595 project includes a new direct westbound I-595 ramp to the northbound turnpike and flyovers connecting express lanes that will be built in I-595's median to the median of the turnpike. Other ramps linking I-595 and the turnpike will be reconfigured to eliminating the areas where drivers currently weave to merge from one highway to the other.

Q: Lauderhill Middle School and Paul Turner Elementary School both have two school zone warning flashing signs on Northwest 49th Avenue in Lauderhill. Only one sign is flashing by the middle school and neither are flashing at the elementary school. Who can be contacted to get these lights in working order?

Judy Sousa, Lauderhill

A: A traffic signal technician inspected the flashers and repaired the northbound flasher located just south of Northwest 18th Court, said Ed Davis, interim director of [Broward County's](#) Traffic Engineering Division.

Because school zones times are different for each school, some flashers would not be operating while the flashers for an adjacent school are in flashing mode, even when school guards are present, Davis said.

Residents with questions or comments about traffic signals and school zone flashers can email the Traffic Engineering Division at <http://www.broward.org/traffic>. Click on the "contact us" link on the upper left side of the page.

Q: The Sawgrass Expressway's Deerfield toll plaza also is confusing for drivers who are trying to exit Florida's Turnpike because there is no way to go east on Southwest 10th Street. You must remember to use the Sample Road or Glades Road interchanges. If you forget, you find yourself unfortunately going west on the Sawgrass. Woe to all of us that live east of Powerline Road.

Michelle Gideon, [Boca Raton](#)

A: Ramps connecting the turnpike to Southwest 10th Street were never built because plans to extend the Sawgrass from the turnpike to I-95 were killed in the early '90s by opposition from Century Village.

Residents in the senior condo community didn't want an elevated highway running past their homes.

Officials have said Southwest 10th needs to be upgraded to an expressway in order to handle traffic volumes to and from the turnpike. They say Southwest 10th Street already is suffering from congestion at intersections of Military Trail and Powerline Road.

The idea of upgrading the street into an expressway was revisited about two years ago at the request of officials in the western suburbs. But discussions never went any further.