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I-595 lanes are narrower, but only temporarily

Lanes are 11 feet, except for middle lane, which is 12 feet for trucks. Once highway is reconstructed, all lanes will be 12 feet.

Michael Turnbell, on Transportation

Sun Sentinel Columnist

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Q: Is it my imagination, but have the lanes on Interstate 595 gotten narrower? Is there a standard for lanes in general? With all the large vans and even some of the cars, we find drivers entering our lane more often.

Ira Pevar, Weston

A: The lanes in the construction zone between State Road 7 and I-75 have been narrowed from 12 feet to 11 feet with the exception of the lane next to the far inside left lane (also sometimes called the high speed or passing lane).

The center lane in both directions is still 12 feet.

Signs that say "No Trucks Left Lane" are posted and truckers are supposed to understand that to mean that the lane next to it is wider, said Laila Haddad, a Florida Department of Transportation spokeswoman for the I-595 reconstruction.

Lanes for the new I-595, including the new reversible express lanes, will all be 12 feet, which is the standard lane width for interstate highways.

In some urban areas, lanes are 11 feet. In Miami, all lanes but the outside right lane of I-95 were narrowed to 11 feet to create an additional lane in each direction between the Golden Glades interchange and I-395. The additional lane allows two express lanes plus four general travel lanes in both directions.

As the I-95 express lanes are extended from the Golden Glades to Broward Boulevard beginning this year, lanes will shrink from 12 feet to 11 feet with the exception of the two right general travel lanes, which will remain 12 feet wide.

Q: On westbound Sunrise Boulevard at Northeast 10th Avenue in Fort Lauderdale, there is a traffic signal that used to turn green to let drivers turn left into Holiday Park. But the signal now flashes

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