

## South Florida Sun-Sentinel.com

### New turnpike ramp from State Road 7 open for Friday commute

September 30, 2011|By Michael Turnbell, Sun Sentinel

Going north on Florida's Turnpike is about to get a lot easier for some commuters. Others will have to wait a bit longer.

A new direct ramp from southbound State Road 7 to the northbound turnpike should be open for the Friday morning commute. It was scheduled to open between 10 p.m. and midnight Thursday.

It's the first of three new ramp systems that will open for westbound motorists along I-595 this year.

"These ramp systems are designed to eliminate weaving conflict at interchanges and will greatly improve westbound traffic flow," said Paul Lampley, I-595 project manager for the Florida Department of Transportation.

By the end of 2011, all westbound I-595 drivers as well as those from westbound S.R. 84 and northbound S.R. 7 will use the new northbound turnpike ramp.

The new direct connection will eliminate the current S-curve ramp that's been the scene of numerous accidents over the years, including one in 2005 involving a gasoline tanker that overturned onto an adjacent car and exploded, killing four people.

The \$1.8 billion reconstruction I-595 is scheduled to be finished in the summer of 2014.