

New ramps linking turnpike to I-595 express lanes will be reversible

Michael Turnbull, on Transportation Sun Sentinel Columnist

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Q: I drive south on Florida's Turnpike to westbound Interstate 595 every day to work. Will the new ramp that's under construction from the turnpike to I-595 west of the turnpike allow me to avoid the long "horseshoe" route that goes up and over I-595 and around just to go west on I-595?

— Ray Krause, Pompano Beach

A: Yes, but whether you can access the ramp or not will depend on the time of day you're traveling and which direction.

In your case, it probably won't work in the morning or the afternoon because you're commuting against the predominant flow of traffic.

Two ramps are being built to connect the turnpike to the reversible express lanes being built in the median of I-595. One will serve turnpike traffic coming to and from the north, the other will serve turnpike traffic coming to and from the south.

In the morning, the I-595 express lanes will carry traffic headed east to Fort Lauderdale. In the afternoon, they will move traffic west back to the suburbs. Officials haven't indicated which direction the express lanes will flow during other hours.

Unlike the express lanes on I-95, which are separated from regular traffic by plastic poles, the I-595 express lanes will be separated by concrete barriers.