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New westbound I-595 ramp to Nob Hill opens Monday morning

By Michael Turnbell
Sun Sentinel

A pair of new ramps that should ease congestion on westbound Interstate 595 between Pine Island and Nob Hill roads will open Monday morning.

A new off-ramp to Nob Hill and a new entrance from State Road 84 just west of Pine Island will open by 5 a.m.

The old ramps were closed July 5 so the new ramps could be constructed.

The new "braided" off-ramp to Nob Hill will split from I-595 at the Pine Island overpass and follow a bridge over the on-ramp.

It's called a braided ramp because it involves building the exit ramp on a bridge over the entrance ramp, and it sort of looks like braided hair.

The design should eliminate the dangerous weaving that occurred with the old ramps when traffic entered I-595 as drivers tried to cut over to make the next exit.

"Opening the new ramp and bridge will create a new traffic pattern which will look very different than what motorists expect to see," said Paul Lampley, the Florida Department of Transportation's I-595 project manager.

"We just want to remind motorists how important it is to pay attention to the signs and look for these changes as they use the new braided ramps," he said.

Crews will work through Sunday night to open the new ramps and realign the travel lanes on westbound S.R. 84 and I-595 between University Drive and Nob Hill.

Monday's ramp opening is the third major milestone completed for the massive \$1.8 billion reconstruction between S.R. 7 and I-75.

A similar braided ramp opened last month on westbound I-595 between Davie Road and University Drive. In September, a new ramp to northbound Florida's Turnpike opened for traffic coming from southbound S.R. 7.

There's one more milestone to be completed in December: the missing link of S.R. 84 between S.R. 7 and Davie Road. Once that opens, drivers on westbound I-595 or northbound S.R. 7 will be able to use the new northbound turnpike onramp.

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