

Sun-Sentinel.com

New westbound I-595 to northbound Florida's Turnpike connection opens today

By Michael Turnbell

7:31 p.m. EST, November 17, 2011

It's safer, simpler and faster.

The new Interstate 595 ramp system opened Thursday afternoon, allowing westbound motorists easier access to [Florida's Turnpike](#).

One ramp takes motorists to a new direct connection northbound; the other leads to a new southbound bridge.

"Opening this bridge is an important step to eliminating the weaving at the Florida's Turnpike interchange and to ease congestion along westbound I-595," said project manager Paul Lampley.

The old northbound turnpike entrance will remain open a little while longer for motorists who accidentally drive past the new one. The old entrance was the scene of numerous accidents, including one in 2005 when a gasoline tanker overturned and exploded, killing four people in an adjacent car.

As part of the \$1.8 billion reconstruction, crews soon will begin reconfiguring other ramps in the turnpike interchange to separate areas where drivers now have to merge and crisscross one another.

Next up: crews plan to finish the missing link of westbound S.R. 84 between S.R. 7 and Davie Road by mid-December.

mturnbell@tribune.com, 954-356-4155, Twitter @MikeTurnpike