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Missing piece of S.R. 84 West to open Sunday, relieve congestion on I-595

By [Michael Turnbell](#), Sun Sentinel

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State Road 84 is about to become whole again – at least in the westbound direction.

Starting Sunday morning, drivers will be able to cruise west on S.R. 84 without having to get on Interstate 595 for the first time since the highway opened in the fall of 1989.

"To be able to take 84 all the way from Federal Highway to Pine Island will be much safer," said Thomas Hardt, a local commuter who prefers not to contend with tanker trucks from Port Everglades and drivers on I-595.

The new section of S.R. 84 wasn't supposed to open to traffic until the end of 2012 but officials shifted priorities during the \$1.8 billion reconstruction of I-595.

As a result, commuters should notice a huge improvement on westbound I-595 in the vicinity of the turnpike, said project manager Paul Lampley.

S.R. 84 was eliminated in both directions between S.R. 7 and Davie Road when I-595 was built in the late '80s, forcing drivers to piggyback on the interstate for about a mile.

With the reopened road, drivers on northbound S.R. 7 will regain access to westbound I-595, northbound Florida's Turnpike and westbound S.R. 84 courtesy of a new ramp system.

The new westbound S.R. 84 will function as an expressway similar to the lanes that run along I-95 between Broward Boulevard and I-595.

It will collect I-595 drivers headed to S.R. 7 and the turnpike and S.R. 7 drivers headed to I-595, separating them from longer-distance commuters on I-595 and eliminating the need for local traffic to enter I-595.

The missing piece of eastbound S.R. 84 between Davie Road and S.R. 7 is currently under construction.

Sunday's opening is the fifth major I-595 ramp improvement completed in 2011.

In the last three months, new braided elevated ramps have opened on westbound I-595 between Pine Island Road and Nob Hill Road and between Davie Road and University Drive. A new direct ramp from westbound I-595 to northbound turnpike also opened.

There's one last opening scheduled for 2011: a new connection from S.R. 7 to the southbound turnpike. It should open within the next two weeks, said project spokeswoman Melanie Sexton.

The contractor expects the entire I-595 reconstruction to be completed in the summer of 2014.

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