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Nob Hill Rd. closing Saturday for I-595 bridge demolition

By [Michael Turnbell](#), Sun Sentinel

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DAVIE



Gustavo Vargas works on the straddle pier that will support westbound I-595 lanes and the braided ramp at Pine Island Road. (Amy Beth Bennett, Sun Sentinel / April 26, 2011)

Using Nob Hill Road for your pre-New Year's Eve party plans?

You'll need to find an alternate route if your trip will take you north under Interstate 595 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday. That's because the northbound lanes will be closed for bridge demolition.

The southbound lanes, which were closed on Dec. 17 for the same purpose, will remain open on Saturday. Northbound drivers can head east on State Road 84 to Pine Island, then head west on S.R. 84 back to Nob Hill to get around the closure.

"The decision to close Nob Hill during the day was to minimize impacts to the least amount of motorists and the public and to minimize noise at night," said I-595 construction spokeswoman Laila Haddad. "It is a simple widening of the north side of the overpass."

Crews are widening the existing westbound I-595 bridge over Nob Hill Road to accommodate three express lanes in the median and five westbound general travel lanes. The express lanes are already in place.

The eastbound I-595 bridge over Nob Hill also is being widened to the south for a fourth lane that will lead to a new combined two-lane eastbound off-ramp to Pine Island Road and University Drive.

Bridges are a major component of the I-595 reconstruction that is now heading past the midway point in its schedule. The project calls for 26 new bridges, 24 existing spans to be widened, two existing bridges to be demolished, and 10 bridges to be modified.

The new eastbound off-ramp to Pine Island and University will exit from I-595 much farther west than the current ramps.

By combining some exits with one off-ramp, officials hope to reduce the number of entry and exit points to reduce weaving and improve traffic flow. A big reason I-595 is so congested at rush hour is that ramps are too close together.

Once drivers leave I-595, the new off-ramp to Pine Island and University will split into separate lanes. The right lane will merge onto eastbound S.R. 84 and continue to Pine Island. The left lane will continue on a "bypass bridge" and then merge onto eastbound S.R. 84 just west of University.

To prepare for the new ramp system, the contractor I-595 Express initially planned to close the existing eastbound on-ramp from Nob Hill and the existing eastbound off-ramp to Pine Island for 212 days starting sometime in February or March.

However, Haddad said it's possible neither ramp will have to be closed. An updated list of long-term ramp closures will be released sometime in January.

The entire project is on schedule to be completed in the summer of 2014. The \$1.8 billion contract includes \$1.2 billion for construction and the balance on operation and maintenance of the new highway for 30 years.

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