



ABOUT PALMETTO EXPRESS

What is Palmetto Express?

The **Palmetto Express** project by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six will add variable tolled express lanes along the SR 826/Palmetto Expressway from W. Flagler Street to NW 154 Street and along I-75 from the Palmetto Expressway to NW 170 Street in Miami-Dade County. The project is approximately 13 miles in length and will provide continuity to the upcoming I-75 express lanes (**75 Express**) currently under construction by FDOT District Four, from NW 170 Street in Miami-Dade County to I-595 in Broward County.

What is the purpose of this project?

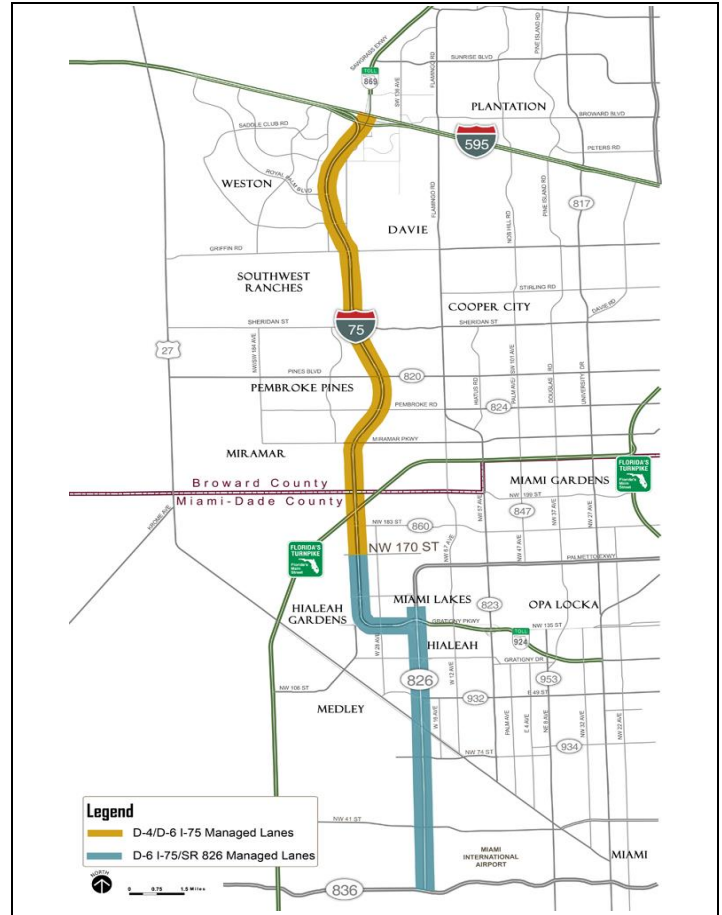
The purpose of the project as envisioned in the emerging South Florida Express Lanes Network is to improve mobility, relieve congestion, provide additional travel options, accommodate future growth and development in the region, and improve system connectivity between key limited access facilities in South Florida: SR 826/Palmetto Expressway, I-75, SR 924/Gratigny Parkway, Florida's Turnpike, I-595 and SR 869/Sawgrass Expressway.

What are the overall improvements of this project?

Tolled express lanes will be incorporated with moderate widening along the Palmetto Expressway mainline. Overall improvements under consideration will include:

- One to two tolled express lanes in each direction along the Palmetto Expressway, from W. Flagler Street to NW 154 Street and one tolled express lane in each direction along I-75 from Palmetto Expressway to NW 170 Street

I-75/Palmetto Express Project Map



- Construction of a new flyover connecting **Palmetto Express** and **75 Express**
- Access points to/from the express lanes system
- Ramp metering at all entrance ramps along the Palmetto Expressway
- Installation of noise barrier walls at specific locations along I-75
- New lighting along **75 Express**

Florida Department of Transportation, District Six

1000 NW 111 Avenue
Miami, Florida 33172-5800

When will construction begin and when will it open?

The Project Development and Environmental phase has been completed. Construction started on April 1, 2014 and it is anticipated to end at the beginning of 2018 at a cost of approximately \$246 million.

What are the benefits?

Express lanes provide an innovative, lower-cost alternative to traditional highway construction that offers a variety of options for managing congestion. The project creates new choices for consistent and dependable travel throughout the day and particularly during rush hours. Dynamic toll pricing within the express lanes limits the number of vehicles using them and keeps traffic flowing. Not all drivers will choose to use the express lanes all the time, but since some drivers may, congestion in the general purpose lanes will be reduced. Dedicated express lanes staff at the Transportation Management Center (TMC) will monitor traffic activity and facilitate response to incidents along the entire corridor.

How are the express lanes separated from the general purpose lanes?

The **Palmetto Express** lanes will be constructed on the far left side of the road and separated from the general purpose lanes by a barrier of flexible plastic poles. The **75 Express** lanes will be constructed along the median and separated from the general purpose lanes by parallel sections of grass.



ACCESS POINTS (Access maps enclosed)

Where can I enter the Palmetto Express lanes northbound?

- North of SW 8 Street (between SW 8 Street and W. Flagler Street)
- North of NW 25 Street (between NW 25 Street and NW 36 Street)
- North of NW 74 Street (between NW 74 Street and Okeechobee Road)

Where can I exit the Palmetto Express lanes northbound?

- North of 154 Street
- By connecting directly from the **Palmetto Express** lanes to the **75 Express** lanes. The first exit from the **75 Express** lanes will be just south of NW 170 Street in Miami-Dade County

Where can I enter the Palmetto Express lanes southbound?

- North of NW 154 Street
- By connecting directly from the **75 Express** lanes to the **Palmetto Express** lanes. The entrance on I-75 to **75 Express** in Miami-Dade County will be south of NW 170 Street.

Where can I exit Palmetto Express lanes southbound?

- At NW 74 Street
- At NW 25 Street
- At SW 24 Street/Coral Way

Where can I enter the 75 Express lanes southbound, between NW 170 Street and the Palmetto Expressway?

- Just south of NW 170 Street

Where can I exit the 75 Express lanes northbound, between the Palmetto Expressway and NW 170 Street?

- Just south of NW 170 Street (for traffic heading to Miami Gardens Drive)

(See enclosed access map for 75 Express north of NW 170 ST)

HOW TO USE PALMETTO EXPRESS

Be alert and pay attention to all advisories, signage, pavement markings and posted speed limits.

- The express lanes are for long distance trips **ONLY**
- Once you enter the express lanes:
 - You cannot exit until the end
 - You cannot drive through the plastic poles to break out of the express lanes

What if I enter the express lanes unintentionally?

- Remain calm and **RIDE THROUGH** to the end
- If you get confused, **DO NOT STOP** at any time whether in the general purpose lanes or express lanes
- Weaving in and out of the express lanes is illegal. Drivers who do:
 - Cause crashes and
 - Will be subject to fines and incur points on their licenses

Will the speed limit be the same in the express lanes as in the general purpose lanes?

Yes. The speed limit will be 55 mph, both in the express lanes and the general purpose lanes along the Palmetto Expressway and 70 mph along I-75.

Do the Palmetto Express lanes guarantee travel speeds of 45 mph or above?

Travel speeds are not guaranteed on the express lanes. While FDOT aims at maintaining speeds at 45 mph or above, the main goal is to optimize the express lanes' vehicle throughput by moving the highest number of vehicles possible in the safest and most efficient manner.

What if my vehicle breaks down or I have an accident in the express lanes?

Pull over to the left shoulder if you are able and dial *FHP (*347) on your mobile phone. An operator will assist you and dispatch help. Wait in your vehicle with the doors locked. Do not stand behind your car or next to the lane of moving traffic.

TOLLS

Will it be the same toll all the time on Palmetto Express?

No. The toll will vary based on the level of traffic congestion as you enter the express lanes. Toll rates on **Palmetto Express** will be based on traffic conditions on the express lanes only and not on the conditions of the general purpose lanes. Traffic detectors placed along the project limits of the highway will provide continuous information about how many vehicles are on the express lanes; how fast they are going and how close together they are. This information will be used to determine whether tolls go up or down to provide the best condition possible. As the express lanes become more congested, toll rates increase. As the congestion goes down, toll rates decrease. This is called "Dynamic Tolling".

Tolls on express lanes are collected electronically, so drivers who use the express lanes must own and display a SunPass® transponder.

How will I know the toll amount?

The toll amount will be displayed on the overhead electronic signs before each of the **Palmetto Express** entrances so drivers have time to decide to use the express lanes or stay in the general purpose lanes.

EXPRESS LANES		
SUNPASS ONLY		
TO	 Miami Gardens Dr	\$ XX.XX
TO	NW 67th Ave	\$ XX.XX
		\$ XX.XX
\$25 PLUS TOLL FOR TOLL VIOLATION		

Actual rates will be posted on sign.

If I do not have a SunPass® transponder, would the “toll-by-plate” option be available on Palmetto Express?

No. You must have a SunPass® account and transponder to use the **Palmetto Express** lanes. You will not be able to pay the toll with cash or through toll by-plate. Toll violations will be enforced through Florida’s Turnpike Enterprises (FTE) automatic violation enforcement system. All users without a valid transponder will have their license plate photographed. Motorists are subject to fines and penalties if they travel on **Palmetto Express** without SunPass®.

Where can I purchase SunPass®?

The SunPass® portable transponder and the SunPass® mini sticker transponder are available at Publix Supermarket, CVS/pharmacy, Sedano’s Supermarket, Navarro Discount Pharmacy, AAA Auto Club South Offices in Florida, Florida’s Turnpike Service Plazas or at SunPass® Service Centers. For more information call SunPass® Customer Service at 1-888-TOLL-FLA (1-888-865-5352)

TRANSIT

How will Palmetto Express benefit bus riders?

Broward and Miami-Dade commuters will be able to travel by bus from the BB&T Center (former Bank Atlantic Center) in Broward County to the Palmetto Metrorail Station at NW 74 Street in Miami-Dade County and vice versa.

RAMP SIGNALING

A ramp signaling system will be installed at all entrance ramps along the Palmetto Expressway from W. Flagler Street to NW 154 Street in Miami-Dade County. Ramp signaling reduces congestion on the highway by preventing too many vehicles from entering the highway at once. These signals will constantly monitor traffic flow on the Palmetto Expressway and allow one or two cars to enter at a time, in effect, forcing drivers to take turns and

controlling the disruption caused by ramp traffic merging at the entrances.

How does Ramp Signaling work?

- The signals alternate between red and green lights (no yellow)
- Stop on red. Go on green
- Failure to obey ramp signals is a violation of Florida law and can result in fines and penalties

What are the benefits of Ramp Signaling?

- Reduces traffic congestion
- Reduces travel time
- Decreases fuel consumption
- Maintains consistent traffic flow
- Allows for more cars to use the expressway (when there is consistent traffic flow)
- Increases travel speeds
- Reduces rear-end and sideswipe crashes often associated with vehicles entering the highway



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PALMETTO EXPRESS, PLEASE VISIT: www.palmettoexpresslanes.com
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