



***Florida Department of Transportation***

**RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR**

3400 West Commercial Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309

**JIM BOXOLD  
SECRETARY**

July 22, 2016

The Honorable Peter Bober, Mayor  
City of Hollywood, Florida  
2600 Hollywood Blvd.  
Hollywood, Florida 33022-9045

Dear Mayor Bober:

RE: I-95 Express Lanes

Thank you for your June 17, 2016 letter regarding the implementation of the express lanes on I-95 in southern Broward County. The Department has been monitoring the performance of the changes to I-95, from the Golden Glades Interchange to I-595. It is expected that once fully deployed with the tolling activated there will be improved performance of the express and general purpose lanes, as with the initial phase of 95 Express in Miami-Dade County.

Implementation of express lanes on I-95 is currently planned to reach Linton Boulevard in Palm Beach County. The second segment on I-95, extending the existing express lanes from the Golden Glades Interchange in Miami-Dade County to north of I-595 in Broward County is nearing completion. This project consisted of widened over ten miles of the interstate to create an additional lane in each direction. Both the new and existing High Occupancy Vehicle lanes have been designated as express lanes. The northbound widening ended at Griffin Road, from Griffin Road north there is one express lane.

To tie the new six lane segment of northbound I-95 (south of Griffin Road) to the existing five lane segment (north of Griffin Road), a merge occurs. Due to the exit and entrance movements on the right side at the Griffin Road interchange, a less common left merge was used to end the extra lane in the northbound direction. This left merge has created some confusion and the Department is currently evaluating short term operational improvements that can be made prior to the next major project. This merge will be eliminated as the express lanes system is expanded to include the I-95/I-595 interchange which is currently funded for construction in FY 2020.

In the northbound direction, the exit from the express lanes to access Griffin Road and the exits north of Griffin Road were designated to allow a vehicle to merge over the required five lanes to reach the exit ramps. Although it could be a challenge at the most congested times, the movement to Griffin Road can generally be made in the 4700 feet provided. The distance from the express lanes exit to the I-595 ramp (a concern noted in your letter) is approximately two miles which is a sufficient distance to maneuver, even at peak times.

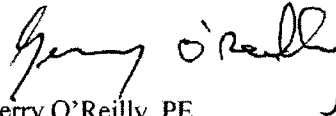
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The plastic delineators between the express lanes and the general purpose lanes are designed to discourage drivers from intentionally crossing over the buffer area to either enter or exit the express lanes. The delineators cannot prevent accidental or intentional illegal crossing of the buffer area. A pilot project involving reduced spacing of the delineators, as well as, a more robust delineator design will be implemented on I-95 south of the Golden Glades Interchange. Pending the outcome, the Department will determine if changes on other segments of 95 express will be implemented.

The width of the median and outside shoulders within the limits of the express lanes in Broward County are largely wide enough for adequate traffic enforcement. Aside from some of the overpasses, the outside shoulder is approximately 12 feet wide with 10 feet of it paved. This is consistent with the width that existed prior to the implementation of 95 Express. The median shoulder width also varies with much of the segment having between 10 and 11 feet of width. Accommodations for traffic enforcement in these areas is substantially the same as existed prior to the implementation of the express lanes.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts regarding the recent changes to I-95 in Broward County. Your concerns will be considered when contemplating changes to the newly constructed segment as well as the planned extension of the express lanes through Broward County. The Department will contact your office to schedule a meeting to further discuss any questions you have regarding 95 Express.

Sincerely,



Gerry O'Reilly, PE  
District Four Secretary

GO:jo

cc: Governor Rick Scott  
Jim Boxold, Secretary of Florida Department of Transportation  
Dr. Wazir Ishmael, Ph.D, City Manager  
Mel Standley, Assistant City Manager, Public Safety  
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