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Detours, Possible Delays Anticipated Next Week Due to Express Lanes Work

Jacksonville – Area motorists may encounter delays next week as beams are transported and placed as part of the express lanes project on I-295 between State Road 9B and Butler Boulevard.

The 200-foot bridge beams will begin shipping from Gretna, which is approximately 42 miles northwest of Tallahassee, Monday, October 29 and travel along I-10 and I-295. These beams will be transported on 18-foot wide carrier dollies, which will take up more than one lane of the roadway. Additional beams will ship October 30, October 31 and November 1.

To allow for setting of the beams, I-295 northbound between Philips Highway and State Road 9B will be detoured nightly from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday, October 29 through Thursday, November 1.

Drivers seeking to access I-295 northbound along the corridor will be detoured to Philips Highway, north on Southside Boulevard to eastbound Baymeadows Road back to I-295 northbound. Southbound I-295 will not be affected by this closure and will remain open.

This Florida Department of Transportation project consists of two new 12-foot travel lanes in each direction, the addition of noise walls along I-295 in various locations, the construction of drainage ponds and the installation of electronic tolling systems at various locations to collect tolls. The express lanes offer a choice for travelers to use the lanes for a fee or remain on the non-tolled portion of I-295.

Express lanes are known as an “expressway within an expressway” where express lanes are separated from general use lanes. The toll rate for express lanes will vary depending on the amount of traffic within the express lanes. Generally, fewer cars using the lanes means a less expensive toll. Dynamic message signs will show the current toll rate. Due to electronic tolling cars are not required to stop to pay the toll and must have a SunPass or face a penalty.

The \$139.9 million project was awarded to the Archer-Western Contractors design-build team. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2019, weather and schedule permitting.

To learn more about FDOT’s express lanes projects, visit www.NorthFloridaExpress.com.

