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## **New traffic pattern Sunday I-295 northbound between Gate Parkway and J. Turner Butler Boulevard**

**Jacksonville** – Drivers traveling northbound on the I-295 should prepare for a new traffic pattern Sunday, July 16, as crews begin construction on the Express Lanes flyover ramp to J. Turner Butler Boulevard (JTB). Northbound vehicles will be shifted to the inside lanes of I-295 between Gate Parkway and JTB, southbound travelers will not be effected by the shift.

Prior to the shift, from 8 p.m. Sunday, July 16 to 5:30 a.m. Monday, July 17, the northbound I-295 ramp from Gate Parkway will be temporarily closed to vehicles. Drivers attempting to access the ramp will be detoured to the intersection of Baymeadows Road and I-295. The detour will be clearly marked with signage, a map of the detour is enclosed.

The new traffic pattern will allow construction crews to safely construct a 750-foot flyover for the new Express Lanes. The flyover will offer drivers who choose to use the Express Lanes an option to travel east or west on JTB. Once completed, the Express Lanes will also offer drivers a choice to continue traveling northbound on I-295.

This Express Lanes 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 the spring of 2019.

To learn more about the Express Lanes, visit: [www.NorthFloridaExpress.com](http://www.NorthFloridaExpress.com)

