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I-295 West Beltway delays expected northbound tonight

Jacksonville – Traffic will be slowed tonight on I-295 between I-95 and the Buckman Bridge to install new overhead signs and remove existing signage. The work is necessary as part of the ongoing Express Lanes project from I-95 to the Buckman Bridge.

Traffic pacing will be used within the corridor between midnight and 3 a.m. Traffic pacing is a traffic control technique used to slow but not stop traffic to facilitate short duration work operations without an extensive detour or diversion. Marked law enforcement vehicles will slow the traffic to safely move them through the corridor without requiring a detour. Additionally, variable message boards will be used to alert traffic of the operations.

The 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 project will offer a choice for travelers to use an express lane 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 all-electronic tolling, cars are not required to stop to pay the toll.

The \$89 million project was awarded to the Dragados USA design-build team. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of this year.

To learn more about the Express Lanes, visit: www.NorthFloridaExpress.com

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