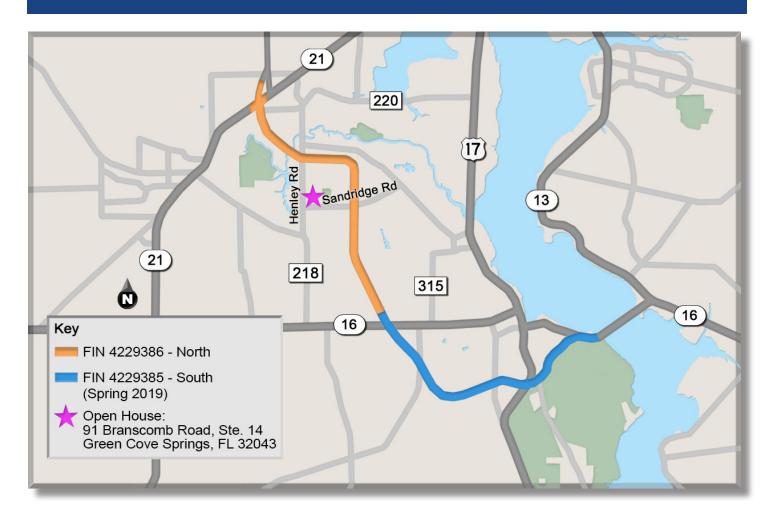


# First Coast Expressway (S.R. 23) from S.R. 21 to North of S.R. 16

Clay County, Florida FIN 4229386

## **CONSTRUCTION OPEN HOUSE**



## **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Construction starts: February 2019 Contractor: Sacyr Construction
Construction ends: 2025 Cost: \$229 million

This project involves construction of a new, limited-access, all-electronic toll facility from north of State Road 21 (Blanding Boulevard) to north of State Road 16 in Clay County. Sacyr Construction is the contractor for this project, which includes construction of a new, elevated bridge over Black Creek and a diverging diamond interchange at Henley Road.

Questions? Contact Sara Pleasants at (386) 269-3490 or Sara.Pleasants@dot.state.fl.us.
For more information, visit www.firstcoastexpressway.com.



# **ABOUT THE FIRST COAST EXPRESSWAY**

The First Coast Expressway (FCE) is the result of a partnership between the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 2 and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise. The FCE is a multi-lane, limited access, all-electronic toll road that will span 46 miles across parts of Duval, Clay and St. Johns counties. The FCE will drive economic development in Northeast Florida and create a new regional evacuation route during hurricanes and other emergencies.

Traffic on the FCE will pass through electronic toll gantries without stopping. The gantries contain electronic equipment that will either detect the vehicle's SunPass or record an image of the vehicle's license plate to send a TOLL-BY-PLATE invoice by mail. Cash will not be accepted on the roadway.

Construction on the northwestern, first segment of the FCE (Blanding Boulevard/State Road 21 in Clay County north to I-10/U.S. 90 in Duval County) began in 2013 and is expected to be completed in spring 2019 at a cost of approximately \$208 million, with tolling expected to begin in spring 2019.

The second segment of the FCE involves construction of new roadway from Blanding Boulevard/ State Road 21 in Middleburg running south and then east through Green Cove Springs and includes a new bridge over Black Creek. This segment is divided into a north project (north of State Road 21 to north of State Road 16) and a south project (north of State Road 16 to east of County Road 209). Sacyr Construction is scheduled to begin construction on the \$229 million north project in February 2019. Superior Construction is expected to begin work on the \$180 million south project in spring 2019.

The third and final segment of the FCE includes a new four-lane bridge over the St. Johns River just south of where the Shands Bridge currently stands and construction of new roadway connecting to I-95 in St. Johns County. This \$763 million segment is expected to begin construction in 2023. The vertical clearance height of the new bridge will be 65 feet from the water line, compared to the existing 45 feet of clearance. The additional 20 feet will match the Buckman Bridge's clearance and is an improvement for marine commerce in the region.

For more information about the FCE, go to www.firstcoastexpressway.com. For details on the all-electronic tolling system, visit www.sunpass.com. Call (904) 831-FDOT anytime to contact our FDOT District Two public information team, or go to www.nflroads.com to learn more about all FDOT projects in Northeast Florida.



### **DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE**

A diverging diamond interchange (DDI) is an interchange design in which the two directions of traffic on Henley Road below the First Coast Expressway will briefly drive on the opposite side of the road. This intersection design creates significant improvements in safety, since long left turns crossing traffic lanes will be eliminated and potential conflict points will be reduced to 14 from the 26 found in traditional interchange designs. Additionally, the DDI promotes efficiency with only two clearance intervals (the time for traffic signals to change from green to yellow to red) instead of the six or more found in other interchange designs. The DDI at Henley Road will be the first of its kind in Clay County; the first DDI in northeast Florida is currently under construction at I-95 and State Road A1A (State Road 200) in Nassau County.

### **STAY CONNECTED**

For information about future public meetings, construction updates, project photos and more:

- Visit www.firstcoastexpressway.com
- Follow FDOT District Two on Facebook and Twitter
- Call the Public Information Office at (904) 831-FDOT
- Email Public Information Officer Sara Pleasants at sara.pleasants@dot.state.fl.us





