



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Throughout Holiday Season, Delays Along I-295 East Beltway Significantly Reduced**

**Jacksonville, Fla.** – Through the first half of the 2019 holiday season, drivers on the I-295 East Beltway have seen a significant reduction in delays due to an additional lane opening between State Road 9B to J. Turner Butler Boulevard (S.R. 202). Part of FDOT’s mission is to reduce congestion on our roadways, and since October 30, 2019, travel times along the corridor have been reduced by more than 20% and traffic speeds have increased 16% along the corridor during peak hours. Additionally, surrounding roadways have seen improved traffic flow due to the increased capacity.

FDOT District 2 Secretary Greg Evans said, “Our goal at FDOT is to improve lives through an enhanced transportation experience. With the opening of the additional lane on the I-295 East Beltway ahead of schedule and prior to the holiday season, we have seen tremendous results. Drivers can enjoy more time with friends and loved ones rather than on the road.”

Senator Aaron Bean said, “As Jacksonville expands, more people are hitting the roads and we must be proactive as a community to continually improve I-295 to handle the increased traffic. I look forward to seeing the highway adapt to the demands of the present and the future.”

Representative Jason Fischer said, “I understand the last thing people want to do when they’re driving is sit in gridlock traffic. Jacksonville is back on the move thanks to these road improvements. I’m committed to road projects like this so people can spend more time enjoying their day and less time stuck behind the steering wheel.”

The additional capacity on the roadway was not expected to be available until the conclusion of the project. The contractor was awarded a \$100,000 incentive for delivering the additional capacity ahead of schedule.

The \$160 million project, awarded to Archer-Western Contractors, is expected to be completed in fall 2020, weather and unforeseen circumstances permitting.

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

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