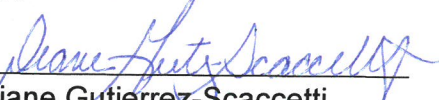




## U-TURN AND HEAVY TRUCK TURN-AROUND POLICY

Approved:

  
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti  
Executive Director

Effective: MAY 25, 2017  
Office: Transportation Operations  
Related FDOT Procedure: N/A

### PURPOSE:

To establish a policy to provide for a safe driving environment for employees, consultants, contractors and customers of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise.

### AUTHORITY:

F.S. 338.2216

### SCOPE:

This policy applies to all employees, consultants, and contractors of the Turnpike Enterprise.

### GENERAL:

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) has existing median openings, and heavy truck turn-around locations, on portions of the Turnpike mainline system approximately every one-mile. These locations are generally referred to "U-Turn Openings", and are posted with signs that state "Authorized Vehicles Only" or "Official Use Only." The primary use of these crossovers is to provide a place for emergency vehicles and authorized vehicles to make a U-turn for response in emergency situations. FTE Personnel, consultants, and contractors shall not cross over the median or make U-turns at the median crossovers without prior written approval from the Director of Transportation Operations or when authorized by law enforcement personnel. Personnel making U-turns, when not authorized to do so in accordance with this policy, may be cited by law enforcement and are subject to discipline and/or removal from Turnpike Projects. U-turns are not permitted within one mile of a Toll Plaza or a Service Plaza. Generally, turn-arounds should be made at the nearest interchange or service plaza.

### POLICY:

With the exception of emergency response vehicles, the use of these crossovers are prohibited on the Turnpike mainline within the following counties and limits:

- Miami-Dade County
- Broward County
- Palm Beach County
- Martin County
- St. Lucie County, up to MP 152
- Osceola County from MP 236 to MP 275 in Lake County



In addition, with the exception of emergency response vehicles, the use of these crossovers are prohibited along the following corridors:

- H.E.F.T. (SR 821)
- Sawgrass Expressway (SR 869)
- Southern Connector Extension (SR 417)
- Seminole Expressway (SR 417)
- Beachline Expressway (SR 528)
- East-West Expressway (SR 408)
- Western Beltway (SR 429)
- Veterans Expressway (SR 589)
- Suncoast Parkway (SR 589)
- East-West Expressway (SR 408)
- First Coast Expressway (SR 23)
- Beachline East (SR 528)
- I-4 / Selmon Expressway (SR 618) Connector

FTE Personnel, consultants, and contractors may request approval to utilize the median crossovers within the following limits on the Turnpike Mainline (SR 91):

- MP 153 to MP 236
- MP 275 to MP 308
- MP 216 (Heavy Truck Turn-around)

Contractors may utilize median crossovers only when designated in roadway plans approved by FTE Production, Traffic Operations and Construction and upon written approval. The Contractor shall provide and have approved by the Construction Engineer or his designee, a written operational plan and/or traffic control plan signed and sealed by a registered engineer in the State of Florida, for work vehicles utilizing crossovers as well as entering and exiting the work zone. The contractor shall ensure the median opening is suitable in size for intended vehicles and operation.

In addition, while discouraged, operations which require travel in the opposing direction of typical traffic, shall be bound by the following conditions:

- 20' minimum separation from active travel lane for operations outside of the paved shoulder
- All other operations within 20' from the active travel lane will require a lane closure for the adjacent lane

Asset Maintenance Contractors may utilize the heavy truck turn-around location at MP 216 upon written approval. The Contractor shall supply and have approved by the Maintenance Engineer or his designee, a written operational plan for work vehicles utilizing the heavy truck turn-around location at MP 216.

All "Authorization Letters" dated prior to the approval date of this policy are no longer valid. Any new request for authorization shall be forwarded to the Director of Transportation Operations for written approval. Only authorization letters signed and dated after the adoption of this policy will be considered valid, and a copy of the approved authorization letters will be forwarded to the FHP.

Upon request, a sample "U-Turn Authorization Request Letter" can be provided by the District Traffic Operations Engineer (DTOE). Crossover authorization requests shall be made on company letterhead and signed by an authorized representative of the Company. Requests shall include an operational plan and/or traffic control plan signed and sealed by a registered



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engineer in the State of Florida, detailing the specific crossover locations, and the necessary vehicle maneuvering/positioning to ensure safe operations, as well as vehicle types, and hours of use. Requests shall be submitted to the District Traffic Operations Engineer (DTOE) for approval by the Director of Transportation Operations and shall be in accordance with the lane closure policy. U-turn authorizations may be approved for a duration not to exceed the contract duration, however, may be reduced at the discretion of the Turnpike. Note that authorization does not relieve the contractor, owner or operator of their responsibility in accordance with the requirements of the Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction, contract specifications and special provisions, Design Standards, Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Code, and the motor vehicle code.