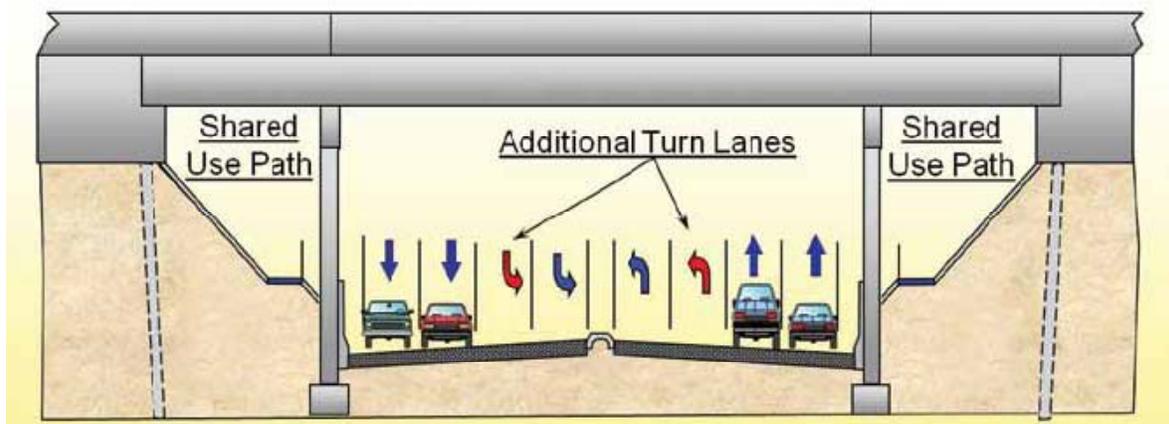


External Affairs August/September 2010 I-75 Bonita Beach Road Interchange Improvement Project Started

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has just started the construction of a major improvement project at the Bonita Beach Road/ I-75 Interchange. As many of our residents may recall, HR External Affairs Committee had hundreds of our residents sign a petition in 2008 asking our US Congressman and FDOT to move forward with the critically needed improvement and expansion of this major I-75 Interchange. We were able to get several other gated communities to join with us in this petition drive. Once FDOT District 1 approved moving forward with this project, our Committee requested by letter to Stan Cann, the head of FDOT District 1, that Hunters Ridge not lose its Bonita Beach Road turn lane which we had paid to have constructed. The officials involved with this discussion promised that if Bonita Beach Road were to be widened, that they would pay to re-create our turn lane if necessary. FDOT sent a representative to meet with Fred Forbes and Don Huprich, General Manager, in early January 2009. At this meeting FDOT committed that our turn lane would not be affected by the proposed improvement project, but more importantly, committed that if Bonita Beach Road was further widened due to the FDOT interchange improvement project they would re-create our turn lane even if they had to buy additional right of way.

The current project costs are approximately \$3.4 million which is approximately 50% of the original FDOT estimate. Once completed there will be two westbound lanes for straight through traffic and two additional lanes designated as left turn lanes, likewise there will be two straight through eastbound lanes and two left turn lanes. In order to achieve the additional lanes of traffic under the I-75 overpass, the sidewalks will be moved to behind the large support columns. The sidewalks will be elevated to approximately 4-5 feet above the Bonita Beach Road pavement. The sidewalks will gradually slope (wheelchair accessible) up to the overpass and then gradually slope back down to the existing sidewalk grade or elevation.



The sweeping northbound I-75 exit lane that curves west to Bonita Beach Road will be removed as part of this project which will reduce the number of accidents from vehicles exiting at too high a speed. All four ramps are being enlarged, widened and improved to increase traffic flow and ramp capacity. All exit ramps and entrance ramps are to be signalized and synchronized. Most lane closures on Bonita Beach Road and the ramps will occur from 11:00PM to 5:00AM to minimize inconvenience to the public who use this area of Bonita Beach Road. As work

progresses the Lee Tran Bus stop near Hunters Ridge Blvd. will be relocated approximately 100 feet towards the West. The expected completion date for this project is the spring of 2011. Chris Durfey has additional FDOT brochures and information on this project available for our residents to review in her office or she can email you a package if you call or email her requesting this information.