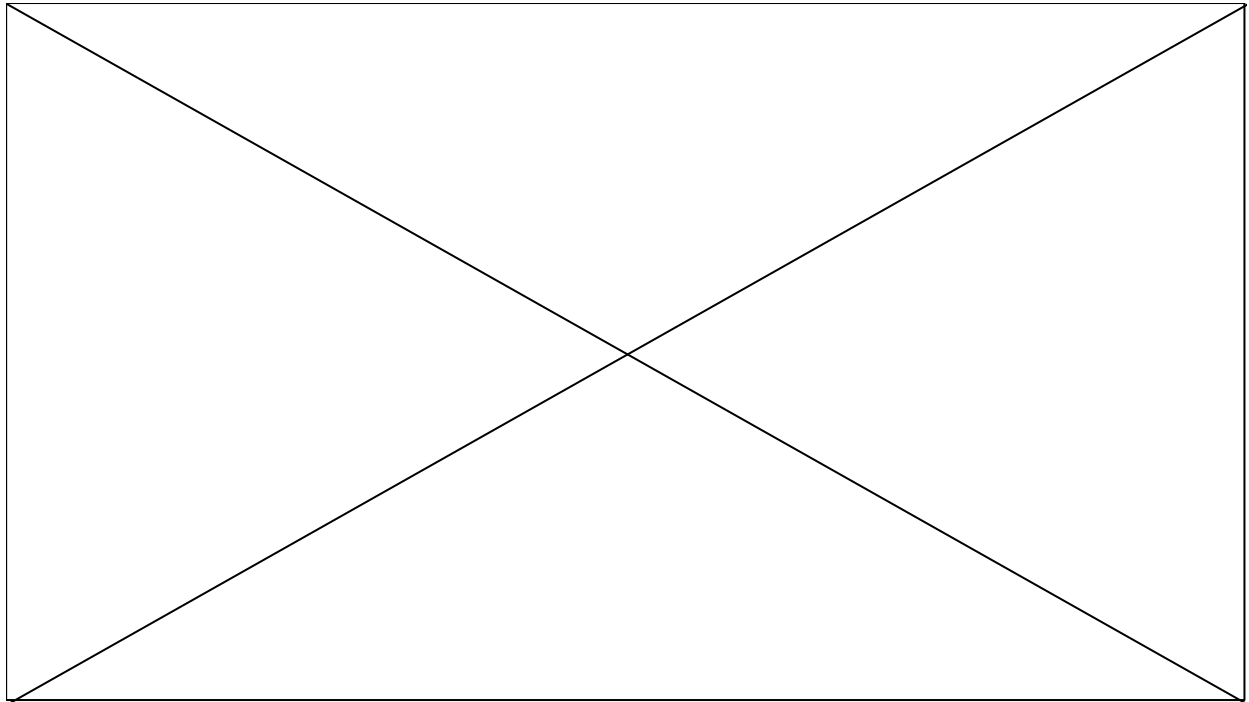




DOT presents proposal to ease I-4 congestion

Expansion includes express toll lanes

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DOT presents proposal to ease I-4 congestion

ORLANDO, Fla. —The Florida Department of Transportation is showing off its proposal to fix up Interstate 4.

- **PLANS MOVE FORWARD ON INTERSTATE 4 TOLL EXPANSION**



A \$2.1 billion Interstate 4 project that will add toll lanes to the busy road is now under way.

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- **GOVERNOR, LEGISLATURE APPROVE MAJOR I-4 IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Gov. Rick Scott and the Florida legislature have given the go-ahead to get the money for a \$2.1 billion improvement project for Interstate 4.

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DOT officials are looking for feedback from eight construction crews competing on the proposed makeover aimed at easing traffic congestion.

"Interstate 4 is the biggest choke point in the state," said FDOT secretary Ananth Prasad.

The plan is to fix flaws such as changes in elevation, curves and make the interstate straighter.

The \$2.1 billion expansion will stretch more than 21 miles from Kirkman Road to State Road 434. The plan will build 56 new bridges, reconstruct 12 others and also rebuild 15 interchanges.

Four express lanes will be added down the middle of I-4 and only available to EPass and SunPass drivers. The tolls will be most expensive during peak rush hours.

"This project would not have been delivered if not for putting express lanes in the middle," said Prasad.

Private investors are helping fund nearly \$1 billion of the project, and they'll be reimbursed with new toll money.

Prasad pointed to a recent study that shows the average speed on Interstate 95 in Miami-Dade County with tolls has increased during rush hour from 20 miles per hour to 40 miles per hour.

The DOT hopes to begin construction in late 2014 and finish the project in six years.

Read more: <http://www.wesh.com/news/traffic/DOT-presents-proposal-to-ease-I-4-congestion/-/11788448/19169686/-/hyob9q/-/index.html#ixzz2Mrj3MRB7>