



## Plans move forward on Interstate 4 toll expansion

Senator commends \$2.1 billion project

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

- **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.

The project will stretch 25 miles from west of Kirkman Road to east of State Road 434.

Lawmakers said the change will help the clogged road.

"It's a real opportunity for central Florida to do this, to increase the availability of a relief valve for central Floridians," Sen. David Simmons said.

Four express lanes will be added down the middle of I-4.

While the tolls will be optional, they will not be cheap and would be the highest during peak traffic times.

They estimate a commute from Longwood to downtown Orlando would cost up to \$7.70 during morning rush hour. The trip home would be up to \$5.60 during the evening rush. That's a total of more than \$13 a day.

From south of Orlando, a trip from Kirkman Road to downtown Orlando would cost up to \$4.60 in the morning and up to \$4.30 during the evening rush. That total is close to \$9 a day.

It may sound like a lot, but some drivers said if traffic was congested enough, they'd pay it.

"I know I would," said Euphema Brashear. "I hate to say it but yes, I would. Sometimes I am stuck for an hour or two and can't move. It's really bad."

ORLANDO, Fla. —Simmons said it will be great to ease traffic congestion.

Private investors will help fund nearly \$1 billion of the bill. They will be reimbursed with the toll money.