



Florida Department of Transportation

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 2008

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I-4 CONTRAFLOW EXERCISE TO TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, MAY 31

TAMPA – The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will conduct a contraflow exercise on Saturday, May 31 beginning at 7 a.m. on Interstate 4. The limits of this exercise will be on I-4 (eastbound and westbound) from 50th St in Tampa to World Drive in Orlando, a distance of 63 miles. The exercise will last several hours.

“Contraflow” means to reverse-lane interstate highways and expressways. All the travel lanes on a designated section of road, in this case, Interstate 4, would proceed in one direction, heading away from any approaching major storm. On I-4, all lanes would head eastbound. The primary benefit of a contraflow plan is that it allows the FDOT and Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) to use all the available lanes on a highway for evacuation purposes. It is a way to handle the additional traffic anticipated as Florida residents and visitors leave a coastal area in advance of a hurricane.

FDOT is organizing Saturday’s exercise to deploy all the equipment and manpower needed during a contraflow event on I-4 and to time how long the deployment will take. ***All lanes on I-4 will remain open during this exercise. We WILL NOT REVERSE traffic.*** Some delays may occur due to this activity. Messages will be posted on the large dynamic message signs to inform motorists of this exercise.

Should a large storm ever approach the Tampa Bay area, local and state officials will examine traffic flows on evacuation routes to determine whether a contraflow is necessary prior to a hurricane's landfall. If the local and state officials and the Governor decide the contraflow plan must be implemented, the FDOT and FHP will prepare the route. Traffic and evacuation information will be available on the 511 traveler information system.

For more information on contraflow, please visit <http://www.onewayflorida.org/>

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