



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Florida Department of Transportation Launches New Southwest Florida 511 Travel Information System**

Free real-time travel information available on the phone and on the Web

FORT MYERS — For the first time, residents and visitors in Southwest Florida can get free real-time travel information about 30 major roadways in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties by calling 511. The Florida Department of Transportation (DOT) is launching the new regional Southwest Florida 511 Travel Information System. 511 provides callers with real-time travel information 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by cell phone or landline and on the Web at [www.SouthwestFlorida511.com](http://www.SouthwestFlorida511.com). Traffic information is free, though cellular minutes or roaming charges may apply.

511 uses speech-recognition technology that allows callers to simply speak the name of the roadway or area where they want traffic information. Callers automatically are connected to Florida's Statewide 511 system and then can ask for Southwest Florida 511. Once connected to the new regional service, callers can request information by saying a road's name or "number," or they may say the city or county. For example, callers may ask for Cleveland Avenue or US 41, or they may ask for Fort Myers or Lee County.

"511 allows people to make better travel decisions," said Debbie Tower, public information director for Florida DOT's District One. "By calling 511 or logging onto the Web site before getting into their cars, drivers can know before they go. They can choose to alter their route or the time they plan to travel to avoid trouble spots."

(more)

511 operators monitor information about roadway incidents from the Florida Highway Patrol and other law enforcement and emergency service agencies across the region. Updates are available to 511 callers and on the Web site as conditions change. In a planned expansion of the service expected by the end of 2007, roadside sensors along the interstate will monitor the flow of traffic, allowing the 511 system to report actual travel times on I-75.

Also available through 511 is information about lane closures and construction, severe weather, and Amber Alerts about missing or abducted children. During an evacuation, 511 provides information about traffic conditions, suspended tolls, weather-related road closings and reverse laning (when all lanes of the highway flow in one direction).

Southwest Florida 511 covers these 30 roadways:

**I-75, Alico Road, Bermont Road, Bonita Beach Road, Burnt Store Road, Cape Coral Bridge/College Parkway, Colonial Boulevard/SR 884, Corkscrew Road, Daniels Parkway, Davis Boulevard, Del Prado Boulevard, Immokalee Road, Isle of Capri Road/Collier Boulevard, McCall Road, McGregor Boulevard, Midpoint Bridge, SR 82/MLK/Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, SR 80/Palm Beach Boulevard, Pine Island Road/Bayshore Road, Pine Ridge Road, Sanibel Causeway, Summerlin Road, Toledo Blade Boulevard, Tuckers Grade, Vanderbilt Beach Road, Veteran's Memorial Parkway, SR 29, US 17/Duncan Road, US 41 and US Business 41.**

Callers can also hear route and schedule information for Charlotte County Transit, LeeTran and Collier Area Transit, as well as arrival and departure times, parking, ground transportation, car rental and directional information for the Southwest Florida International Airport.

Southwest Florida 511 is part of Florida's free statewide service which provides travel information about all Florida interstate highways and Florida's Turnpike. Florida has additional regional 511 systems in Northeast Florida, Central Florida, Tampa Bay and Southeast Florida. Callers to 511 can request information from any of the four regional systems by asking for the region by name.

Currently, 511 systems are operating in 33 regions in 27 states. Real-time traffic updates coast-to-coast are expected by 2012. Depending on location, the caller will be connected to the 511 service in the region or state in which he or she is traveling.