

## Why Reverse Lanes?



The principal benefit of a reverse lanes evacuation is the ability to use the maximum number of highway lanes possible for evacuating people from a threatened area. It's a way to handle the additional traffic anticipated as Florida residents and visitors leave a coastal area in advance of a hurricane.

Reverse lanes evacuation plans are established for certain expressways and interstates in Florida. When the decision is made to activate a reverse lanes evacuation, sections of these highways are set up to route traffic in one direction, heading away from the approaching storm.

## What to Expect



The ultimate decision on a reverse lanes evacuation rests with the Governor. If local and state officials determine that a reverse lanes evacuation is necessary, the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) will begin preparing the route. The lanes to be reversed will be closed to incoming traffic and no vehicles will be permitted on the usual entry ramps. Motorists who normally travel these lanes will be diverted to alternate routes.

The FHP will conduct the reverse lanes evacuation. Be sure to obey all temporary traffic markers and follow the direction of the law enforcement officers along the route. A reverse lanes evacuation is designed to begin at a certain point, typically at a paved crossover in the highway median. It concludes at a predetermined location where the traffic on the reversed lanes is merged on to another highway. There you will be able to seek temporary shelter locally or continue traveling to another destination.

## Getting Information

For traffic information in Florida, dial 511 or visit the Web site [www.fl511.com](http://www.fl511.com). Traffic conditions and information on roads closed due to crashes can also be obtained from the FHP's Traffic Incident Web site, [www.fhp.state.fl.us/traffic](http://www.fhp.state.fl.us/traffic).

During reverse lanes evacuation, the FDOT will provide traffic and evacuation information on the 511 traveler information system.



Another information source is highway advisory radio. Watch for the roadside signs that direct you to tune your radio to the designated frequency to hear the alert. For those with Citizens Band (CB) radios, tune to Channel 19 for information.

Portable and fixed message signs will display traffic information and instructions along the reverse lanes evacuation route.

Emergency Alert System radio stations broadcast advisories you can receive along many of Florida's highways. Tune to these stations for weather alerts.

## Important Tips



Because of the way they are structured, reverse lanes evacuation routes restrict your travel choices. You will find that many interchanges and exits will be closed, and that traffic will be directed to predetermined points - with no exceptions. This will limit the options you have to travel as you may have intended.

Remember that a reverse lanes evacuation plan may not reduce the travel time to your destination, or the amount of traffic congestion you encounter along the way - especially if you delay your departure. In fact, traffic may be flowing much more smoothly on roads other than interstates. For more flexibility in your evacuation planning, leave earlier and select an alternate route to your destination.

## Other Things to Keep in Mind

- Before leaving, fill your vehicle with fuel.
- Use service plazas and rest areas for brief stops. Food and fuel supplies may be limited, and law enforcement personnel will ensure that traffic keeps moving.
- State law requires that travel lanes be kept clear. If your vehicle becomes disabled and you are stranded, the Road Ranger Service Patrols are instructed to push your car to the unpaved shoulder of the road. Road Rangers will assist in arranging transportation to the next interchange.
- If you are involved in a crash, remove all vehicles from the travel lanes as quickly as possible. If you are unable to move your vehicle, seek help from other motorists. Because law enforcement services will be generally limited to emergencies, drivers are urged to exchange the following information: driver's name, address, and vehicle registration number, along with the insurance carrier's name.
- For *incidents involving injuries* that require immediate medical attention, please wait for emergency responders away from traffic.



## Contact Information

Florida Highway Patrol ..... Dial \*FHP  
 Florida DOT ..... 1-866-374-3368  
 Florida Emergency Information ..... 1-800-342-3557  
 American Red Cross ..... 1-866-438-4636



## On the Web

For more information on reverse lanes evacuation plans and their use on Florida highways, visit [www.OneWayFlorida.org](http://www.OneWayFlorida.org).



## Motorist Advisory

# REVERSE LANES EVACUATION

## Plan for One-Way Evacuation of Florida's Turnpike

A Publication of



Florida Highway Patrol



Florida Department of Transportation



Florida Division of Emergency Management

## Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan for Florida's Turnpike Northbound

The reverse lanes evacuation plan for Florida's Turnpike is available for residents of South Florida intending to evacuate north. It begins just north of the SR 70 interchange in Fort Pierce and continues north for 120 miles to Ocoee in west Orange County.

If this reverse lanes evacuation plan is activated, all southbound Turnpike traffic must exit at the SR 50/ Clermont interchange (Mile Post 272). All southbound ramps along the route will also be closed. This will allow the reversal of the southbound lanes so that all traffic will flow north along the Turnpike reverse lanes route.

## Entering the Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan

The northbound Turnpike reverse lanes evacuation plan begins near MP 152, where a two-lane paved crossover in the median allows traffic bound for I-75 to transition to the reverse lanes side. Traffic exiting in Orlando, or points south, must remain in the Turnpike's regular northbound lanes.

Exits from the regular northbound lanes are permitted at most interchanges. Reverse lane exits are prohibited except at Turnpike Service Plazas.

## Exiting the Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan

At the Western Beltway (SR 429) interchange in Ocoee, the regular northbound Turnpike lanes merge right and exit the Turnpike at the northbound Western Beltway ramp. There is no access allowed to the Turnpike northbound from SR 50 or the Beltway.

Traffic on the reverse lanes side of the Turnpike continues north to MP 270, where a paved, two-lane crossover in the median allows traffic to transition back to the regular northbound lanes of the highway.

## Facilities Along the Route

Food and fuel are available for all motorists at the Fort Drum Service Plaza (MP 184), Canoe Creek Service Plaza (MP 229) and Turkey Lake Service Plaza (MP 263).

Motorists in the reverse lanes will not have access to lodging or shelters until they reach the end of the route in Ocoee. Motorists in the regular northbound lanes may seek lodging or shelters upon reaching the St. Cloud/Kissimmee area.

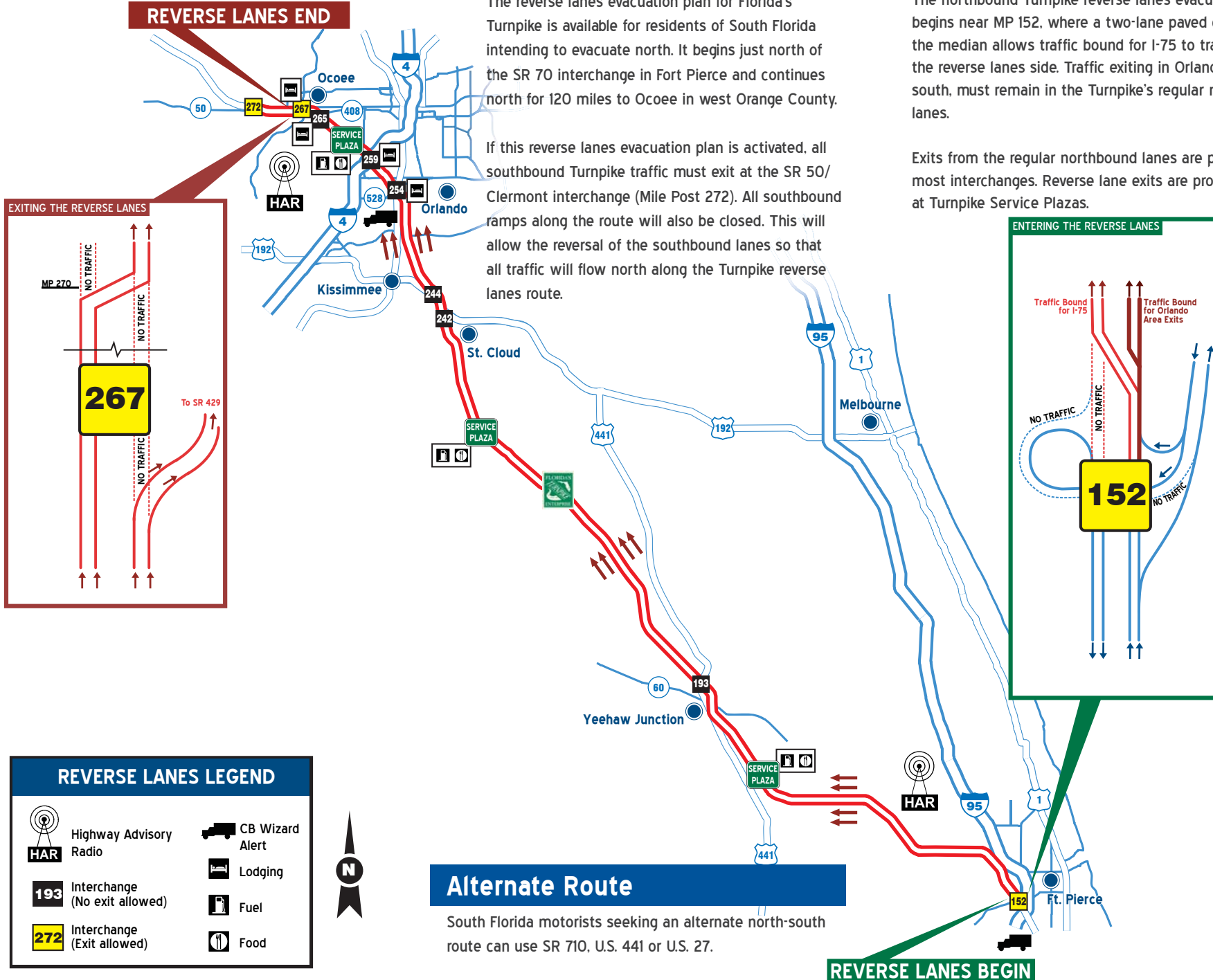
## On the Radio

Tune to the following radio stations for hurricane advisories and other important information from the Florida Public Radio Network.

Fort Pierce      WQCS, 88.9 FM  
Orlando          WMFE, 90.7 FM

## Local Agency Phone Numbers

American Red Cross of Central Florida .....407-894-4141  
FDOT District 5 (Orlando).....1-800-780-7102  
FDOT Turnpike.....1-800-749-7453  
Orange County Emergency Management..... 407- 836-9140  
Osceola County Emergency Management ...407-343-7000



**REVERSE LANES BEGIN**

## Alternate Route

South Florida motorists seeking an alternate north-south route can use SR 710, U.S. 441 or U.S. 27.

### REVERSE LANES LEGEND

Highway Advisory Radio	CB Wizard Alert
Interchange (No exit allowed)	Lodging
Interchange (Exit allowed)	Fuel
	Food

