

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. 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.

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
FDOT District 1 (Bartow) 1-800-292-3368
FDOT District 5 (Orlando) 1-800-780-7102
FDOT District 7 (Tampa) 813-975-6060
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.



Motorist Advisory

REVERSE LANES EVACUATION

Plan for One-Way Evacuation of Interstate 4

A Publication of



Florida Highway Patrol



Florida Department of Transportation



Florida Division of Emergency Management

Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan for I-4

The reverse lanes evacuation plan for I-4 is available for coastal residents intending to evacuate east. It begins at I-275 and continues east for 63 miles, ending at SR 417 in Osceola County.

If this reverse lanes evacuation plan is activated, all westbound I-4 traffic in Kissimmee must exit at U.S. 192 and World Drive. All westbound I-4 ramps along the route will also be closed. This will allow the reversal of the westbound lanes so that all traffic will flow east along the I-4 reverse lanes evacuation route.

Entering the Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan

The I-4 reverse lanes evacuation plan begins in Tampa as I-4 eastbound lanes diverge from I-275 northbound at that interchange. Three lanes of traffic will transition from I-275 to I-4 eastbound, with the left-hand lane directed across the roadway to the reverse lanes side of I-4.

Exits from the regular eastbound I-4 lanes are permitted at most interchanges along the way. Reverse lane exits are available at I-75, CR 579, SR 39, County Line Road, U.S. 98 and U.S. 27. These interchanges are highlighted in yellow on the map below.

You will have access to enter the reverse lanes only at CR 579, SR 39, and County Line Road.

Exiting the Reverse Lanes Evacuation Plan








At World Drive (Exit 62), traffic in the normal eastbound lanes must exit at SR 417 and proceed to Orlando. There is no access to World Drive for these vehicles. Later in the interchange, a two-lane median crossover is utilized to return the reverse lanes to the regular side of I-4 eastbound. From there, these vehicles can proceed up I-4 to the Turnpike, SR 528, U.S. 441 or other highways.

On the Radio

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

Tampa WMNF, 88.5 FM; WUSF, 89.7 FM
Orlando WMFE, 90.7 FM

REVERSE LANES LEGEND

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

Facilities Along the Route

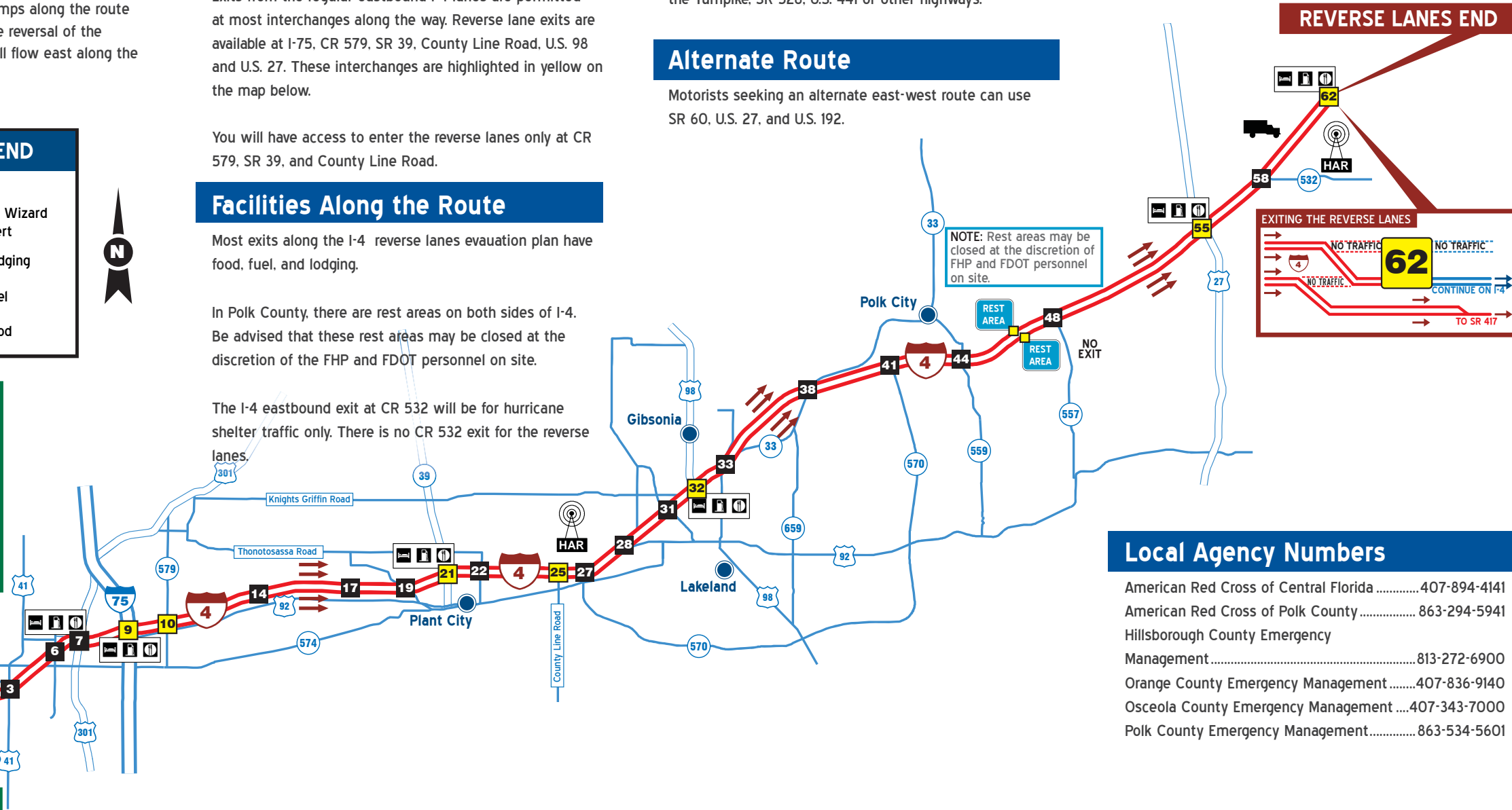
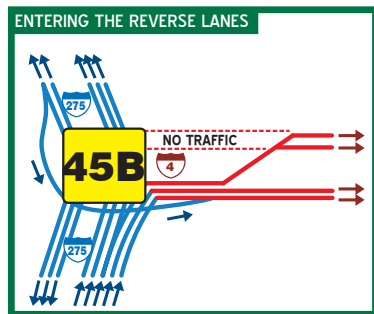
Most exits along the I-4 reverse lanes evacuation plan have food, fuel, and lodging.

In Polk County, there are rest areas on both sides of I-4. Be advised that these rest areas may be closed at the discretion of the FHP and FDOT personnel on site.

The I-4 eastbound exit at CR 532 will be for hurricane shelter traffic only. There is no CR 532 exit for the reverse lanes.

Alternate Route

Motorists seeking an alternate east-west route can use SR 60, U.S. 27, and U.S. 192.



Local Agency Numbers

- American Red Cross of Central Florida 407-894-4141
- American Red Cross of Polk County 863-294-5941
- Hillsborough County Emergency Management 813-272-6900
- Orange County Emergency Management 407-836-9140
- Osceola County Emergency Management 407-343-7000
- Polk County Emergency Management 863-534-5601

REVERSE LANES BEGIN