

Gateway Expressway and I-275 Express Lanes

Frequently Asked Questions

Gateway Expressway

What is the Gateway Expressway?

The Gateway Expressway is two new tolled expressways, State Road 690 and State Road 686A, located in the Gateway area of Pinellas County. Drivers have new direct connections between U.S. 19 and I-275, and the Bayside Bridge and I-275.

State Road 690 is a new 4-lane elevated tolled roadway. These new lanes are in the median of existing 118th Avenue North and provide connections to U.S. 19 and I-275. The roadway is elevated over portions of 118th Avenue North, 49th Street North, 47th Street North, 43rd Street North, 34th Street North, the ramp at 31st Court North and 28th Street North.

State Road 686A is a new 4-lane tolled expressway. These new lanes are primarily in the median of Roosevelt Boulevard between the Bayside Bridge and Ulmerton Road near the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport. This roadway provides a connection between the Bayside Bridge and I-275.

State Road 686A also includes new interchanges at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport entrance and Ulmerton Road. The new roadway continues south through the old Sunshine Speedway property and merges with State Road 690 at 118th Avenue North.

In addition to these new tollways, one tolled express lane has been added along the median of I-275 in each direction from south of Gandy Boulevard to 4th Street North.

When is the project expected to be completed?

Currently, all work is anticipated to be completed in fall 2024.

Where can I enter the Gateway Expressway? (Click to [view map](#))

Drivers traveling towards I-275 can enter the Gateway Expressway from U.S. 19, Bayside Bridge (49th Street), Roosevelt Boulevard, St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport, Ulmerton Road and 118th Avenue/Bryan Dairy Road.

Drivers traveling from I-275 can enter the Gateway Expressway from both the northbound and southbound I-275 general use lanes. Drivers in the express lane on southbound I-275 can also enter the Gateway Expressway.

Where can I exit the Gateway Expressway? (Click to [view map](#))

Drivers traveling towards I-275 can exit to northbound and southbound I-275 general use lanes and the northbound I-275 express lane. Drivers traveling from I-275 can exit the Gateway Expressway onto northbound U.S. 19, 118th Avenue, Ulmerton Road, Roosevelt Boulevard and Bayside Bridge (49th Street).

What is the westbound SR 686A (Roosevelt Boulevard) Airport Bypass on-ramp? (Click to [view map](#))

This roadway allows drivers on westbound Roosevelt Boulevard to enter SR 686A and avoid the traffic signal at the St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport. Drivers can enter SR 686A north of Ulmerton Road and then exit to Roosevelt Boulevard at the Bayside Bridge (49th Street). This entrance ramp has a separate toll that is only paid by drivers that use this entrance ramp.

Where are toll rates displayed?

Toll rates are typically displayed on post-mounted signs in advance of tolling gantries. Drivers can expect to see toll rates displayed a quarter of a mile before the toll gantry on the eastbound connection of the Gateway Expressway to I-275. Toll rates are also displayed a half mile before the toll gantry to the westbound connection of Gateway Expressway from I-275. In addition, toll rates are displayed a quarter of a mile before the toll gantry on the westbound SR 686A/Roosevelt Boulevard Airport Bypass.

How do I pay tolls on the Gateway Expressway?

Tolls are collected electronically through SunPass, E-ZPass, E-Pass, LeeWay, Peach Pass, NC Quick Pass, K-TAG, TollTag, or PIKEPASS transponders, or TOLL-BY-PLATE. Vehicles do not need to stop for payment. Customers with SunPass transponders save an average of 25% on tolls when compared to TOLL-BY-PLATE. To view a list of approved transponders, [click here](#).

What if I don't have a transponder?

You do not need a transponder to use the Gateway Expressway. Customers without a SunPass, or other Florida compatible transponder will be billed via TOLL-BY-PLATE. The registered owner of the vehicle tag will receive a bill for the toll amount by U.S. Mail. However customers with SunPass transponders save an average of 25% on tolls when compared to TOLL-BY-PLATE.

Where can I purchase a SunPass transponder?

A SunPass transponder can be purchased at all Florida Turnpike service plazas, Florida's Turnpike gas stations, SunPass Service Centers, most Florida Welcome Centers, Visitor Centers, rest areas, select County Tax Collector's Offices and thousands of retail locations in Florida. To view a full list of where you can purchase a SunPass, [click here](#).

Will general use (free) lanes remain open to traffic?

General use, non-tolled lanes will remain open to traffic. Gateway Expressway offers a more reliable travel choice so drivers can spend their valuable time with the people and things that matter the most.

Need additional information regarding tolls?

Visit SunPass.com or contact Customer Support at 1-888-865-5352.

I-275 Express Lanes**What are the I-275 Express Lanes?**

Express lanes are a type of managed lane that offers motorists the option to pay a toll to bypass congestion for a more reliable travel time. The goal of express lanes is to ease congestion, improve the flow of traffic and give drivers travel options. Drivers pay the toll rate that is displayed on the overhead sign when they enter the tolled express lane and will never pay more than the price that is displayed at that time. Managed lane networks have been implemented in several high-traffic areas throughout the state to help alleviate congestion, improve safety, and provide users with travel options.

Where are the I-275 Express Lanes located?

The I-275 Express Lanes (one northbound and one southbound) are in the median of I-275 and extend from south of Gandy Boulevard to 4th Street North.

Why aren't the lanes free?

Express lanes are a type of managed lane that offers motorists the option to pay a toll to bypass congestion for a more reliable travel time. Tolling enables for a steady flow of traffic in the lanes to manage congestion and provide more predictable travel times.

How are the I-275 Express Lanes be separated from I-275 traffic?

The I-275 Express Lanes are physically separated by delineators from the non-tolled general use lanes. Delineators are typically highly reflective plastic pylons with reflective tape for improved visibility.

What vehicles are allowed in the I-275 Express Lanes?

Only vehicles with two axles are allowed in the I-275 Express Lanes. However, public transit buses, school buses, over-the-road buses and vanpools are exceptions and may register to qualify for toll exemption. This exception provides passengers and organizations with a more predictable travel time and reduce costs for everyone. [Click here to register a qualified bus.](#)

Vehicles with three or more axles (trucks, large recreational vehicles and vehicles pulling trailers) are not allowed unless they are designated emergency vehicles.

Are buses and vanpools allowed to use express lanes?

Public transit buses, school buses, over-the road-buses and vanpools are welcome to use the I-275 Express Lanes for free. For more information on registration and to apply for a toll exemption click here, [Express Bus Registration.](#)

Where do I enter the I-275 Express Lanes? (Click to [view map](#))

Drivers traveling on the Gateway Expressway intending to travel north on I-275 can enter the express lane just north of Roosevelt Boulevard (SR 686) then enter the general use lanes near 4th Street North to continue across the Howard Frankland Bridge. Drivers traveling north on I-275 can enter the express lane near the Gandy Boulevard interchange. Drivers traveling south on I-275 can enter the express lane near the 4th Street North interchange.

Where do I exit the I-275 Express Lanes? (Click to [view map](#))

The northbound express lane merges back into general use lanes just north of 4th Street North. Drivers in the southbound express lane will merge back into the general use lanes just south of Gandy Boulevard or use the exit to access the Gateway Expressway.

What if I miss my exit?

If you miss your exit, do not stop. Proceed to the next exit.

What if I get in the I-275 Express Lanes by accident?

If you get in the I-275 Express Lanes by accident, do not stop. Proceed to the next exit.

How do I pay for tolls in the Express Lanes?

Tolls are collected electronically through SunPass, or other Florida compatible, transponders. No TOLL-BY-PLATE or cash option are available in the I-275 Express Lanes. Drivers who enter the lanes without an approved transponder are subject to a \$25 toll violation fee, plus the cost of the toll. To view a list of approved transponders, [click here](#).

What vehicles may use I-275 Express Lanes for free?

Only public transit buses, school buses, over-the-road buses and vanpools that have registered through [Express Bus Registration](#) will have I-275 express tolls waived. Registrations must also be renewed annually.

Where can I purchase a SunPass transponder?

A SunPass transponder can be purchased at all Florida Turnpike service plazas, Florida's Turnpike gas stations, SunPass Service Centers, most Florida Welcome Centers, Visitor Centers, rest areas, select County Tax Collector's Offices and thousands of retail locations in Florida. To view a list where you can purchase a SunPass, [click here](#).

Will general use (free) lanes remain open to traffic?

The existing general use (non-tolled) lanes on I-275 remain free and open to travelers.

Need additional information regarding tolls in the Express Lanes?

Visit www.SunPass.com for additional information.

Does FDOT plan to expand the I-275 Express Lanes?

Yes. FDOT is currently constructing two express lanes in each direction across the Howard Frankland Bridge. Upon completion of the [Howard Frankland Bridge reconstruction project](#), the I-275 Express Lanes will extend from Gandy Boulevard to the north side of the Howard Frankland Bridge.

Future projects are planned to construct additional express lanes along I-275 to downtown Tampa and toward downtown St. Petersburg.