



Ramp Signaling

The Florida Department of Transportation is currently studying the implementation of ramp signals in Broward County, initially programmed for installation from Hallandale Beach Boulevard to Atlantic Boulevard. Installation of these ramp signals will begin in late 2015. Future implementation north of Atlantic Boulevard in northern Broward and southern Palm Beach Counties will follow in future years.

What are Ramp Signals?

Ramp signals are traffic control devices that are located along entrance ramps to an expressway system. They change from red to green signal to control the number of vehicles that enter the highway, to reduce the disruptions caused by traffic merging at the entrance ramps. The signals serve to control traffic flow onto the mainline and help motorists enter the highway safely and more efficiently. Ramp signals work based on real-time traffic conditions and are typically activated during the weekday rush-hour period to ease congestion during times of heavy expressway use.

Why Do We Need Ramp Signals?

Ramp signals reduce the problem of traffic congestion known as “bottlenecking,” which happens when vehicles enter the highway in an unregulated manner and create back-ups. Ramp signals work to break up the groups of merging vehicles and improve the overall flow of traffic on the highway. They are a proven and cost-effective alternative to traditional widen-only type projects and are proven to deliver real-time results to the motoring public. On I-95 in Miami-Dade County for example, ramp signals have:

- Increased average travel speeds by 16% along the northbound General Use lanes
- Increased average travel speeds by 13% along the southbound General Use lanes.
- Reduced travel times during the weekday rush-hour period
- Decreased congestion associated with unregulated ramp traffic
- Helped make merging onto I-95 an easier and more efficient process
- Increased overall safety by reducing stop and go traffic on the interstate, where traffic merges from the entrance ramps

How Does Ramp Signaling Work?

1. When the signal is red: motorists should pull up to the marked white line on the pavement before the "Stop Here on Red" sign to activate the ramp signal light.
2. When the signal light turns green: one or two vehicles, as indicated by the signage on the ramp, should proceed and merge onto the interstate.
3. Motorists should remain patient. A short wait on the ramp will help reduce travel times and improve the overall commute along the mainline.

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