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Florida's First Truck Parking Availability System Operational

DeLand -- On any given day, thousands of tractor trailers travel on Interstate 95 (I-95) and I-4 in Central Florida, and now those truck drivers have an extra tool to help keep them – and every other driver – safe. Construction recently finished on the state's first permanent installation of a Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS).

Federal regulations require regular rest for the safety of truck drivers and others on the road. They also face significant fines. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is addressing the need for truck parking as a nearly \$1.9 million project installed TPAS at five rest areas and two weigh stations in Brevard, Flagler and Seminole counties. The project is part of a statewide FDOT effort to help truck drivers locate safe and available parking.

TPAS provides real-time information and helps drivers locate safe options by tracking how many spots are available and relaying that information to dynamic message signs located several miles ahead of the rest area or weigh station. With the information, drivers can decide whether to exit the interstate or proceed to the rest area or weigh station.

“Efficient freight delivery is vital to Florida’s economy,” said Brian Blanchard, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations. “This system will increase safety for both the traveling public and truck drivers who are required to stop after driving a certain number of hours. This system will aid them in planning their trips, so they can find a safe place to park.”

The system uses sensors embedded in the asphalt of truck parking spaces at the rest area or weigh station. The sensors detect when a vehicle is occupying that space. The information is then sent to the state's SunGuide® system and transmitted to the electronic message signs.

The locations now using the system are:

Brevard County:

- I-95 northbound rest area located 4.6 miles south of State Road (S.R.) 514 (Exit 173)
- I-95 southbound rest area located 3.6 miles south of S.R. 514 (Exit 173)
- I-95 northbound rest area located 1.5 miles north of S.R. 46 (Exit 223)
- I-95 southbound rest area located 2.9 miles north of S.R. 46 (Exit 223)

Flagler County:

- I-95 northbound Truck Comfort Station (Weigh-in-Motion station) located north of S.R. 100 (Exit 284)
- I-95 southbound Truck Comfort Station (Weigh-in-Motion station) located 3.3 miles south of Palm Coast Parkway (Exit 289)

Seminole County:

- I-4 eastbound rest area east of S.R. 434 (Exit 94)

In addition to this project, two other Truck Parking Availability System projects are currently underway, including on I-75 in Marion and Sumter counties.