

# Tampa's State-of-the-Art Solution to LOS=F Traffic Congestion: Reversible Expressway Lanes

*... and what it means for Honolulu*

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July 22, 2007



# The Author at the Authority's Headquarters' in Tampa, FL



# REL has sections that are 2 or 3 lanes wide



REL = Reversible Express Lanes

## Sample of a 3-lane wide section



Compared to 2 lanes, 3 lanes provide 50% more capacity at a 15% additional cost, so most of Tampa's REL is 3 lanes wide

# View of Tampa



Some use the REL for the pleasure of uncongested traffic combined with a scenic 10-mile journey

# Express bus, and vanpool joins the REL from an on-ramp



REL easily rises to a 3<sup>rd</sup> level to straddle an existing interchange



## Ending on Meridian Ave. near Tampa's harbor



Continuous flow right turns and multiple coordinated left turn lights quickly discharge REL volume onto downtown Tampa which has a terrific traffic plan (see later for proof)

# Smooth ending from elevated to at-grade



The access at suburb Brandon is new and nicely landscaped. Similar could be made for our Farrington Hwy. access.



## REL has no trouble following curvy medians



Notice the openness – REL never feels like a “doubledecker”

The facility is carefully monitored at a traffic control center



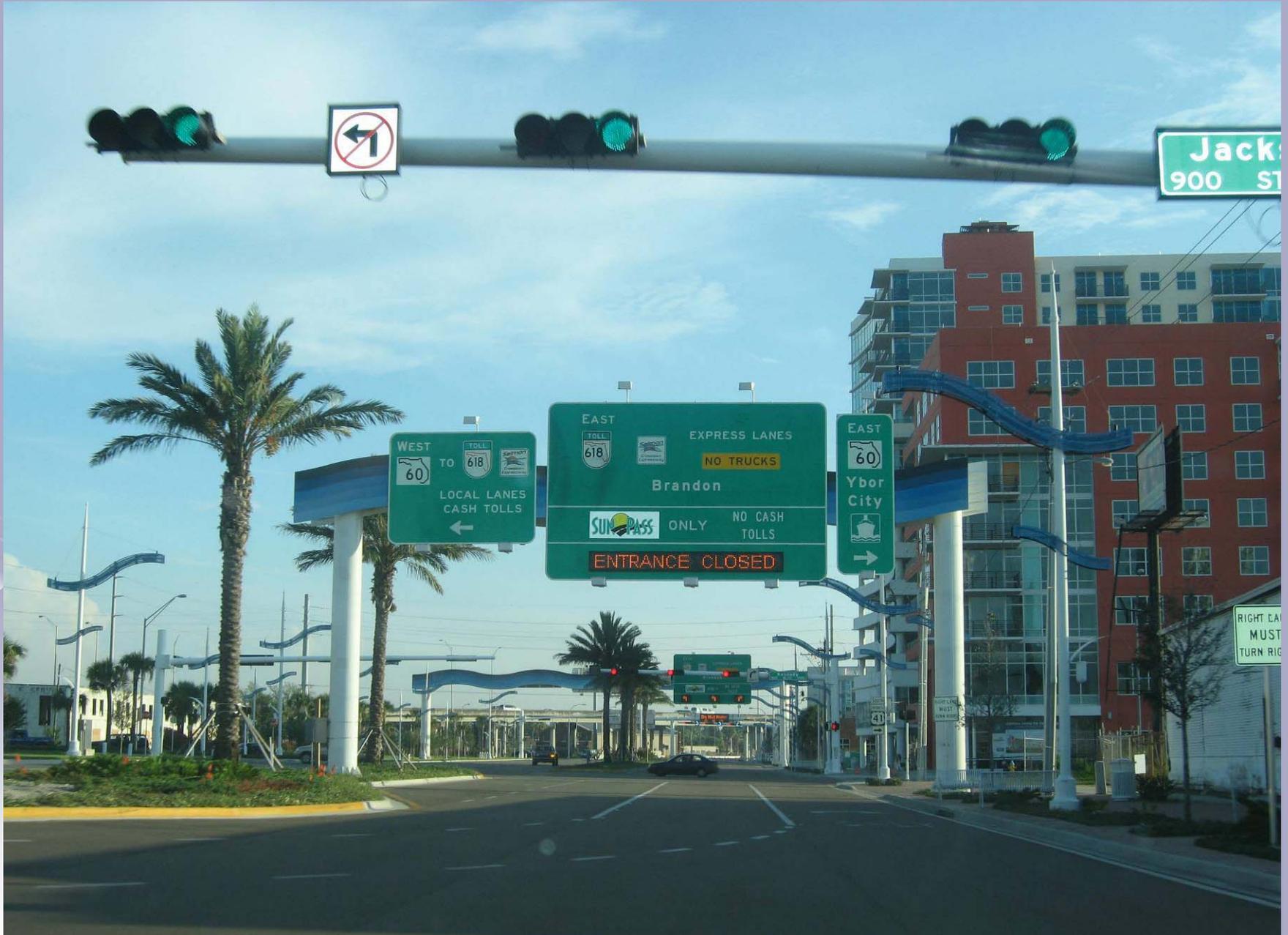
# Multiple cameras and electronics guarantee safety and smooth traffic flow – all technology is American



# Traffic arrives to Tampa – the opposite direction is closed



# The REL has facilitated growth in a depressed area of Tampa



# REL on top; one of several ways to straddle existing roads



**6,000 vehicles per hour can be served with a 6 ft median!**



**This is no doubledecker and all of it can be built from the top!**



**REL technology by FIGG Engineering allows the REL to be built from the top with no disruption to traffic below.**

Traffic is free-flowing. Makes Express Buses very attractive!



# Queues form at adjacent intersections to enter the REL



## Toll gantry from Brandon to Tampa ...



Electronics collect \$1.50 toll at freeway speeds!

... and the same toll gantry from Tampa to Brandon!



REL provides 3 lanes in the morning and 3 in the afternoon for half the cost of a 6-lane facility

# Drive REL and leave congestion behind 😊



# Tampa traffic lights are terrific!



My light just turned green in downtown Tampa ...

... seconds later most lights ahead are green ...



(Note the brown building on the right)

... almost next to the brown building – traffic clears smoothly



**The project which will solve a big part of congestion on Oahu is a 3-lane reversible HOT expressway between LCC and Keehi Lagoon coupled with the already approved Nimitz Hwy. viaduct and several underpasses.**

**But this takes**

- (1) knowledgeable planners**
- (2) gutsy engineers, and**
- (3) smart and honest politicians**

**We can solve most of Honolulu's congestion for less than \$2 billion. Two billion is not easy but first we need to have (1) + (2) +(3) !!!**