



Governor Ron DeSantis and Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin Thibault held a press conference on transportation acceleration today, May 18th.

Governor's Remarks

- Acceleration of Projects
 - Many states stopped all construction, we accelerated
 - FDOT accelerated more than 40 projects, eliminating 650 contracted construction days
- I-4 Ultimate Project
 - I-4 SR 408 interchange completed, most impactful part of the project
 - Six weeks sooner than what was anticipated in April
 - Improvements will increase safety and reduce commute times
 - Westbound general use lanes had multiple improvements as well
 - Anticipated \$14.5 million increase just from the acceleration alone
 - Sustained 1500 jobs associated with the project
 - Upon completion, 15 interchanges will be built
 - 20% population increase in the Orlando area in ten years
 - Walt Disney chose Orlando because of the I-4/Turnpike interchange and our commitment to infrastructure must continue to be reflected in this
- Full Phase One
 - Takes effect today, we did not exhaust all of the options of phase one to be deliberate and step by step
 - Retail and restaurants up to 50% capacity
 - Gyms can be re-opened in the state
 - Florida can be a venue for all athletic events, we believe getting sports online is important for the nation
 - Have told theme parks to submit plans for re-opening and get local endorsement
 - Prudent to solicit these plans so that
 - Counties can submit plans for vacation rentals
- Data
 - Original counties had a 2.4% positivity rate
 - Yesterday had 4.23% positivity rate, Miami had 500 cases, but 400 of these cases were backlogged cases from three weeks ago
 - Important to look behind the numbers
- Long-term Care Facilities
 - We need to continue to focus our efforts here since our most vulnerable are there

FDOT Secretary Kevin Thibault

- Governor you challenged the Department to accelerate projects in April
- Today we are completing the most critical part of the I-4 project

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- Once the full interchange is complete, we will restore the area including connecting the Paramore area to the highway once again
- As we move forward to full project completion, safety will be our most important goal
- Many partnerships have been crucial to achieve success including the Orlando Expressway Authority
- Will continue significant collaboration efforts along the corridor including law enforcement agencies, law enforcement and local officials

Governor DeSantis Remarks

- The expeditious nature of this project beyond what we hoped for is really encouraging, understanding we are still dealing with a major public house crisis

Governor's Press Questions

- Advent Health reported that thousands of tests are false
 - Texas had a testing facility that had spoilage of tests, fortunately, none were Florida. The tests though were from far enough back that we would have known if there were any clinical significance. But this supports our commitment to standing up more robust testing within the state.
- Unemployment
 - More than \$2 billion has been paid out, 97% have been paid of eligible applicants. We will go over in detail tomorrow all of the information.
- I-4 Ultimate, is overall timeline for completion of the project on time?
 - Our goal has been to accelerate as much as possible. Hopeful to have general use lanes open and many interchanges done by the end of the year with the full completion done by next year.
- Fort Lauderdale fitness centers?
 - South Florida is on their own path, the county did not include gyms in their plans. The cities and counties need to work with each other. I anticipate they will do so soon. Our quarantining of New Yorkers was key.
- Hydroxychloroquine
 - I am not a doctor, but if the medical professionals think it is the best then they should have access to it. It seems to not work for individuals who are critically. We have received the new drug approved by the FDA, Remdezivir, but we want the doctors to have the options for the doctors.