

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Palmetto Bay Traffic Affected by Deering Estate Flow-way Tunnel Project

Portion of Old Cutler Road to be closed for two-week stretch during construction

PALMETTO BAY, Fla., (July 6, 2010) – Construction on Old Cutler Road will begin in late July, with the Deering Estate Flow-way project getting underway as a vital element of the Miami-Dade, Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project. While the project is a positive step in efforts to benefit the natural environment, area residents who use Old Cutler Road will incur a minor inconvenience as a tunnel is installed beneath the historic roadway.

The project is headed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and involves the installation of a pipe five feet in diameter, which will run under Old Cutler Road. Old Cutler will be open only to local traffic for a two-week period starting July 26 at the earliest.

According to Director-Public Works Corrice Patterson, construction on Old Cutler Road is slated to begin no earlier than July 26 and persist no later than August 14. The construction will occur at the portion of Old Cutler Road situated between 156th St. and 162nd street.

For those who drive, walk or bike down Old Cutler Road, there will be detours when work begins. Local traffic will be able to travel Old Cutler Road between SW 152nd St. and SW156th St. and between SW162nd St. and SW 168th St. All other motorists will be re-routed at the point where Old Cutler intersects with SW152nd St. and SW168th St. Utility services and the bike path may also be impacted.

The goals of the SFWMD project are to improve freshwater flows into Biscayne Bay and enhance the surrounding coastal wetlands. The SFWMD also identified the Deering Estate Flow-way as a key component of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). The first phase of CERP redistributes excess freshwater runoff by directing it away from existing canal discharges and spreading it into Biscayne Bay.

###

CONTACT:

Bill Kress, Public Information Officer
Village of Palmetto Bay
o: 305/259-1234
c: 305-763-2429
bkress@palmettobay-fl.gov