

December 12, 1956

Opening of the Sunshine State Parkway is more than the opening of a modern, much-needed, safe thoroughfare linking the two populous areas of Fort Pierce and Miami.

It is also the opening of a new era in transportation for Florida.

This "bobtail" turnpike will always be a symbol of Florida's determination to equip its residents and visitors alike with safe and adequate surface transportation facilities.

We are determined to complete the full-length turnpike to Jacksonville -- and then a spur to the Tampa Bay area when feasible.

Tied in with this turnpike network will be expressways to carry traffic through and past our great urban centers with ease.

Coupled with this will be the limited-access federal interstate highway system, in which Florida plays so important a part.

And, of course, we will be in an even better position to provide adequate primary and secondary highways all over Florida.

So many people are due credit for the "bobtail" turnpike. At the top of the list in the fight to obtain legislative authority to proceed I place former State Senator Bunn Gautier of Miami. At the top of those whose dedicated unselfish service has been most instrumental in the execution of the Turnpike project, of course, belongs Colonel Tom Manuel, the able Chairman of the Authority.

LeRoy Collins
Governor