Truck Parking Availability System Helps Keep Highways Safe

Central Florida’s interstate highways – Interstate 4 (I-4), I-75, and I-95 – handle nearly 40,000 commercial trucks each day. The men and women who drive those trucks are required by law to get regular rest to keep themselves and others on the road safe.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) helps truck drivers meet that requirement by letting them know about available parking at rest areas or weigh stations on the road ahead.

FDOT’s Truck Parking Availability System (TPAS) provides real-time information by tracking how many parking spaces are available and relaying that information to dynamic message signs located several miles ahead of a rest area or weigh station. The information is also available through Florida’s 511 Traveler Information System.

How does the state know how much parking is available?

Sensors embedded in the asphalt detect when a large vehicle occupies the space. That data is sent to the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC), where SunGuide software updates the information displayed on the message boards and sends the information to third parties who can share it via app or website. RTMC operators use video cameras to verify the number of available parking spaces to ensure the system’s accuracy.

FDOT provides 652 public parking spaces in Central Florida at rest areas, weigh stations, and Florida’s Turnpike service plazas. The agency’s goal is to monitor and display the availability of 516 of those spaces via the TPAS.
Truck Parking Availability System

1. Sensors detect which parking spaces are occupied.
2. A field cabinet collects the data and sends it to the RTMC.
3. A server processes the data, and RTMC operators use video to verify its accuracy.
4. A roadside sign displays the number of available spaces. Passing truck drivers also receive in-cab information via the Internet.

For more information, visit CFLsmartroads.com
For roadside assistance, call *FHP (*347) from your mobile phone.