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Flagler truck weigh station to get parking sensors

By Staff Report
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Commercial truck weigh stations along both sides of Interstate 95 in Palm Coast will be among the first seven in Florida to be outfitted with a $1.8-million electronic messaging system designed to help truck drivers find available parking spots.

The Florida Department of Transportation's Truck Parking Availability System detects available spaces at rest areas and weigh stations and alerts commercial drivers via message boards, according to a news release from the FDOT.

The system will use in-ground sensors in truck spaces as well as detection devices at the entrances and exits to monitor the number of available spaces. The system will interface with the state's SunGuide system, which shares information through the state's **FL511.com** website and mobile apps.

All seven of the weigh station rest areas are in east-central Florida. In addition to the two in Flagler — one off the southbound lanes and one off the northbound lanes — the sensors are being installed at weigh stations and rest areas along I-95 in Brevard County and along Interstate 4 in Seminole County. There are no weigh stations or rest areas in Volusia County.

(RELATED: Truck stop scuffle: Volusia, Seminole clash over rest area location)

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-October and be completed by spring 2018 and will involve placement of conduit off of the main roadways, requiring only occasional shoulder closures, the release states. The contractor is expected to perform this work at multiple locations simultaneously.

Installation of the in-ground sensors will require about half of the truck parking spaces to be closed at a time. Electronic message boards will be used to alert drivers when spaces are closed, and updates will be available online at **cflroads.com**.