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## Naples-Lauderdale Road Rapped

# Planned Pike Labeled As Costly Drag Strip

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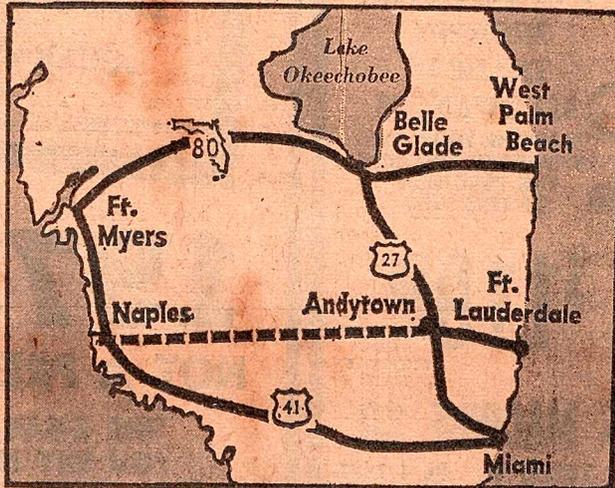
The proposed 78-mile toll road linking Fort Lauderdale and Naples was termed a "multi-million dollar drag strip" Saturday by a spokesman for the American Automobile Association.

The AAA has strongly objected to the highway since it was first proposed several years ago. The comments Saturday came after the State Road Board gave preliminary approval to the \$17-million highway.

The toll road will be financed by a \$17-million bond issue, backed by a portion of Broward and Collier Counties' secondary gas tax funds. No state funds will be spent on the project.

"Construction of this road will tie up, for some time, the secondary road funds of both counties. It will also jeopardize the extension of Interstate 75 from Tampa to Miami," said AAA official Keith Leslie.

He said that bond buyers, to protect their investment, usually insist that no competing toll roads or freeways be constructed in the immediate area of the toll road.



### Dotted Line Marks 78-Mile Road

... proposed project to cost \$17 million

"This would mean that plans to four-lane the Tamiami Trail will be washed up for quite a while. So we'll end up with a two-lane toll road and a two-lane freeway across the Everglades."

Leslie charged that this is the only toll road of this length in the country to be only two-lanes. He said that two-lane highways are outmoded and, in many instances, unsafe.

"And so far we haven't been able to get a copy of

the feasibility report from the SRD is Tallahassee. We don't even know what's going on, they're just pushing it through."

In Tallahassee, Carol Lance, director of information for the SRD, said he had received no request for the feasibility report. He suggested the proper persons to issue the report would be the county commissions of either Broward or Collier County since "they are spending the money for this highway, not the state."

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