

Richard T. Crotty, Orange County Chairman

Taped Welcome Remarks

Floridians for Better Transportation – 7/15

- Hello and welcome to Orange County... a great place to live, work and play!
- We live in one of America's fastest-growing regions.
- Orange County, which has nearly 1,000,000 residents today...will add more than 200,000 people over the next decade. That's more people than the current population of Orlando.
- When you consider our thousands of visitors...nearly 120,000 on any given day...it's no surprise that moving people around is a growing challenge.
- Our transportation infrastructure is taxed to the limit.
- This is of great concern to me...and I suspect to you...the leaders of our community.
- An adequate transportation system is vital to our quality of life. Let's face it...we live here...and our many visitors come here...to enjoy our quality of life.
- However...when we waste time on congested roads...we're losing quality time with our families or productive time at work.
- We are also polluting our environment and increasing our stress.
- Transportation is key to our economic viability. Delayed deliveries, poor service and wasted fuel...all affect our economy.
- Interstate 4 is one of the most important economic pipelines that feed this area.
- Our roads, airports, rail system and even our ports must work together effectively to preserve our economic viability.
- Transportation also affects our safety. Crowded roads, without alternatives, create unsafe situations for our drivers.
- Our transportation system is a critical component of homeland security.
- Our transportation systems need to be secure against attack and provide a smooth and rapid evacuation if necessary.
- We must take a regional, coordinated and multi-modal approach to transportation...air... sea...rail...highway and local roads.
- We should not lose sight of the fact that there is no "silver bullet".
- We must focus on solutions that are achievable and provide a good "bang for our buck".
- Above all...we must work together... at all levels of government...with our private sector partners...to provide a cohesive approach to transportation that will take us into the future here in Florida.
- Thank you.