

December 9, 2010

Doug Callaway, President  
Floridians for Better Transportation  
136 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

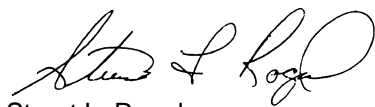
Dear Doug,

Congratulations on your recent appointment to Governor-Elect Rick Scott's Economic Development Transition Team and your selection to Chair the FDOT Agency Review Team. Thank you for the request for ideas and input. We have four recommendations that we would like to offer to you for review:

- Protect the State Transportation Trust Fund. Investments in transportation are proven to have a high economic impact and create jobs. Each year, the legislature uses the transportation trust fund to fund other priorities. **We recommend the taskforce provide a strong recommendation that these funds be protected from raids by the legislature.**
- Ensure the successes of Florida's High Speed Rail Project High Speed Rail is a powerful tool that will advance our goals for economic development and job creation. The first phase alone will create 22,500 jobs, with the second phase connecting Orlando to Miami creating tens of thousands more. **Florida has an opportunity to lead the nation in this new technology and we encourage the taskforce to recommend keeping this project on track.**
- Invest in Transit: Transit investments, as all infrastructure investments, have a high and proven rate of return (as much a \$6 for every \$1 invested). However, transit investments are not only about creating jobs but also important to provide access to jobs. Here in Tampa Bay our families are burdened with one of the highest transportation costs in the country. In order to get our unemployed back to work, we need to ensure that not only are jobs created, but that our workforce can access these jobs. **We recommend increasing our state investment in our transit systems around the state to ensure we can truly get our citizens back to work.**
- Focus Investment into Regional Transportation. Here in Tampa Bay, as in many areas around the state, we have many agencies working on transportation in our various communities. In 2007, the business community took a new approach and asked our state leaders to look at our transportation regionally, through the creation of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA). TBARTA looks at not just the importance of moving people within a community but at connecting our regional economic assets and moving our workforce throughout the region. The success of this new authority has been tremendous and led to a cost saving merger with the regional commuter services agency. This is an example of how, when agencies are work together, they not only cut costs but also deliver a higher quality product. **We recommend your committee looks at additional opportunities for agency consolidation throughout the state by assessing the best way to meet our economic goals through transportation.**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide input to you on this important task. We are available to provide more information on any of these recommendations or any other topic that may be of assistance to you and the taskforce.

Sincerely,



Stuart L. Rogel  
President & CEO

4300 W. Cypress St., Suite 250 Tampa Bay, Florida  
phone: 813-878-2208 fax:813-872-9356  
www.TampaBay.org

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[www.TampaBay.org](http://www.TampaBay.org)