



2/1/06

Dear Florida Transportation Supporter-

Today in Tallahassee, Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Toni Jennings released their Executive Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2006-2007. This year's Bush/Jennings budget is \$70.8 billion. Included in this budget total is \$8.3 billion for transportation services for Florida's citizens, visitors and businesses. (*Attached is FDOT's New Release.*)

To help keep Florida's traffic and economy moving, the Bush/Jennings budget recommends \$7.4 billion for the Transportation Work Program, a 1.3 percent increase from current year funding and a 99 percent increase from seven years ago, according to FDOT. Funding includes:

- Strategic Intermodal System: \$2.1 billion to improve statewide connections for the movement of goods and people on our roads and railways and through seaports and airports.
- Maintenance and Operation: \$2.5 billion to maintain and operate the existing transportation system.
- Rural Counties: \$71.2 million for rural county programs, including \$25 million for the Small County Resurfacing Assistance Program and \$46.2 million for the Small County Outreach Program.

To learn more about this 2006-07 budget proposal, e-budget information is available online at: <http://www.ebudget.state.fl.us/>. Also, specific details about transportation (<http://www.ebudget.state.fl.us/Highlights/communities/transportation.aspx>) and growth management (http://www.ebudget.state.fl.us/Highlights/communities/managing_growth.aspx) have been posted.

What remains unclear at this time, however, is whether a "sweep" of \$30 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) was included in the Governor's 2006-07 budget proposal - as had been rumored. Given:

- the HUGE transportation needs confronting Florida and
- the progress made last year with an additional \$1.1 billion for transportation in the new Growth Management Act (SB 360),

... FBT hopes that such an ill-advised budgetary gimmick would NOT find it's way into an otherwise laudable spending proposal. However, you may rest assured that FBT will find out the truth and then, if necessary:

- A.) revive the **TRU\$T** Coalition (Transportation Revenues **U**sed **\$**trictly for Transportation),
- B.) mass-produce "**STOP Highway Robbery!**" bumper stickers, and
- C.) distribute **Transportation Trust Fund Protection (TRU\$T) pledges** to every Florida Legislator (<http://www.bettertransportation.org/shr.asp>).

Simply put, when \$30 million, \$300 million, or \$3 billion in state gas tax money is *collected* for TRANSPORTATION, it should be used for **TRANSPORTATION**.

Thanks for your strong support for FBT and "better transportation" in Florida! -Doug

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Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) is a statewide business and transportation association dedicated to making transportation safer and more efficient in Florida. FBT has a diverse membership of 180 businesses, organizations, and individuals, including the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Transportation Builders Association, Publix Super Markets, AAA Auto Club South, SunTrust Bank, the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers, the Florida Public Transportation Association, the Florida Ports Council, the Florida MPO Advisory Council, the Florida Airports Council, and numerous local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, MPOs, and transit providers all across the Sunshine State.