

# INVESTMENTS IN MOTION

**A PLAN TO KEEP FLORIDA MOVING**

Presentation by FBT President Doug Callaway before the  
Senate Transportation Committee  
37 Senate Office Building  
Tuesday, January 11, 2005

"Hard work spotlights the character of people:  
some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses,  
and some don't turn up at all."

*-Sam Ewig*

**Opening** – As you're about to hear, from a transportation perspective ... we have some very "hard work" ahead of us. I'm glad you've "turned up" today & hope you won't turn up your noses!

## **Florida's Staggering Transportation Needs** –

- From 2005-2014, we need an additional \$22.7 BILLION ... just to "maintain" today's transportation conditions!
- According to FDOT,
  - Lane miles are increasing at 0.9% annually,
  - Population is increasing at 2.1% annually,
  - VMT is increasing at 3.9% annually, and
  - Delay (*on FHS*) is increasing at 4.2% annually.

## **The Costs of Congestion** –

According to the 2003 Urban Mobility Report, published by the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) at Texas A&M University:

- Florida had the most congested cities in the top 58 urban areas (8).
- **Orlando drivers waste more time in traffic than N.Y. City drivers!**

- The eight Florida areas with the worst traffic congestion are:
  - Miami-Hialeah
  - Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood-Pompano Beach
  - Orlando
  - Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater
  - West Palm Beach-Boca Raton-Delray Beach
  - Fort Myers-Cape Coral
  - Jacksonville, and
  - Pensacola

**Congestion "robs us" of our most precious possession -- our TIME.** Once wasted sitting in traffic instead of being spent with family, friends or coworkers, it's lost and gone forever!

### **A Proposed Solution** –

"Investment\$ in Motion" is a proposal that would provide \$13.6 billion more for transportation in Florida over the next ten years -- without raising the state gas tax!

FBT believes that inaction is NOT an option and that we CAN solve this problem in ways that are consistent with conservative values and principles.

The Investment\$ in Motion plan would create multiple "winners" for Florida by generating the following over the next ten years:

- \$127 million more for the General Revenue Fund,
- \$2.8 billion more for Local Governments to use in meeting transportation needs,
- \$10.7 billion more for the State Transportation Trust Fund,
- \$384 million more for the Tourism Promotional Trust Fund, and
- \$141 million more for the Florida International Trade and Promotion Trust Fund.

## **Plan Specifics –**

### **1. Adjust and Index Motor Vehicle Registration Fees:**

Over a 3 year phase in period the BASE tag fee would be adjusted by 100%. Example: Autos thru 2499lbs. currently pay \$14.50. Adjustment of \$5 in 2006, \$5 in 2007, and \$4.50 in 2008. (Tag fee adjustment on large trucks would be capped at \$150 per year for the 3 years.) Funds go to STTF.

### **2. Adjust Motor Vehicle Title Fee:**

Current Title fee is \$24. Title fee would be adjusted by \$9 in 2006, \$9 in 2007 and \$8 in 2008. Every 5 years after that fee would be adjusted \$5. Ninety percent of funds to Local Government; ten percent to STTF.

### **3. Adjust and Index Rental Car Surcharge:**

Adjust Rental Car surcharge from \$2 per day to \$6 per day.  
Distribute as follows:

- \$3 to STTF,
- \$.75 to Tourism Promotional Trust Fund,
- \$.25 to Florida International Trade and Promotion Trust Fund, and
- \$2 to local government where collected.

### **4. Expand \$100 New Wheels on Road Impact Fee:**

Currently all initial vehicle registrations in FL pay a \$100 impact fee. This fee would be expanded and phased in over 3 years to include all motor vehicle transactions. In 2006 the fee would be adjusted \$35, in 2007 \$35, and in 2008 \$30. This fee would also be capped at 1% of vehicle value or the flat adjustment; whichever is less. Funds to STTF.

## **5. Require Majority Vote of County Commission to Increase Local Option Fuel Taxes:**

Change requirement for local option increase to majority vote of County Commission.

*To learn more about the "Investment\$ in Motion" plan, go to:  
<http://bettertransportation.org/invest.asp>*

### **Closing Thoughts –**

Clearly, the \$13.6 billion that Investment\$ in Motion would provide is a lot of money. But, the Investment\$ in Motion plan is actually millions LESS than what's needed just to keep our state's transportation conditions from getting WORSE each year!

And don't forget, transportation's a great "Investment" yielding a \$5.50 economic benefit for every one dollar spent.

Investment\$ in Motion isn't perfect, but it **IS** a serious proposal that we hope will jump-start a much-needed dialogue about this important and timely issue.

Transportation is essential to everything we do. That's why FBT asks the two following questions of Florida's state leaders:

- 1.) **If not the "Investment\$ in Motion" plan ... then what?**
- 2.) **If not now ... when?**

"Success comes before work ... only in the dictionary." -*Unknown*