



Dear Legislator,

We know that members of the 2003 Legislature are confronted by immense financial difficulties resulting from an economic downturn, military action in the Middle East, and extraordinary Constitutionally mandated funding requirements. Moreover, we recognize that Governor Bush and members of the Legislature have been good friends to transportation over the years. However, taking \$200 million out of the State Transportation Trust Fund hurts our efforts to get a 95% return in Washington, hurts our state's transportation system, and hurts Florida's ailing economy.

We firmly believe that the "TRUST" in the Transportation Trust Fund stands for **Transportation Revenues Used Strictly for Transportation**. That's why we encourage you to keep the "TRUST" in the Transportation Trust Fund and use the \$200 million – as promised to the public – for transportation purposes. Here are three good reasons why:

- 1.) TAKING THIS MONEY WOULD HURT OUR TEA-21 EFFORTS – Taking \$200 million out of the State Transportation Trust Fund at this time undercuts the efforts of our Senators and Congressmen in Washington to get a 95% return for Florida during TEA-21 Reauthorization this year.
- 2.) FLORIDA'S ECONOMY IS TRANSPORTATION-BASED – The connection between transportation and economic growth is well documented. Recently the Florida DOT released a report showing that every \$1.00 invested for highways, rail and transit in Florida yields \$5.50 worth of economic benefit. The success of tourism, trade, agriculture and everything else is literally "riding" on Florida's transportation system.
- 3.) FLORIDA IS ALREADY UNDERFUNDING TRANSPORTATION – A draft report presented to the Florida Transportation Commission on March 4th indicates that just to "maintain today's physical conditions and service levels" an additional \$2.7 Billion will be needed – each of the next 17 years. That's \$160 per year for every man, woman, and child in Florida.

Knowing all this, can we really afford to divert \$200 million away from transportation?

Sincerely,

Floridians for Better Transportation
Florida League of Cities
Florida Airports Council
Florida Public Transportation Association
Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council
Association of Florida Community Developers
1000 Friends of Florida
Florida Concrete & Products Association
Florida Chapter of American Planning Association

Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Ports Council
Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers
Florida Trucking Association
Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida
Florida Transportation Builders Association
Trade and Transport Council
Florida Limerock & Aggregate Institute
Florida Association of Counties