

June 7, 2006

The Honorable Jeb Bush  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol – Plaza Level 05  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

Dear Governor Bush:

Traffic congestion is a serious problem, both statewide and in Central Florida. Increasing congestion threatens economic development, as well as the safety of our residents and visitors. Finding solutions to improve mobility is imperative.

The Florida Legislature passed SB 1350, which provides two important mechanisms to improve transportation. First, it increases the bonding capacity of the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, which will enable continued expansion of the Turnpike system, a critical component of Florida's Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). Secondly, the bill empowers local communities, through a voter-approved local option rental car surcharge, to make investments to local transportation facilities, which will complement the SIS.

The rental car surcharge is especially important to Central Florida. Over 1.5 million citizens live in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties, and on any given day, an additional 500,000 tourists stay in the region, placing increased demands on our transportation infrastructure. Therefore, 25 percent of our true population is not accounted for in statutory funding formulas. The rental car surcharge, if approved by voters, will help address this inequity. Furthermore, the investments made from the rental car surcharge will improve safety and mobility, a benefit to Central Florida's tourism industry.

On behalf of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board, I respectfully urge you to sign SB 1350 into law. Doing so will give voters the ability to increase investments in transportation, and these investments will benefit Florida's businesses, residents and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wendell McKinnon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Wendell McKinnon  
Board Chairman