



The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan
Chairman

June 6, 2006

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

Dear Governor Bush:

On behalf of The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council, we encourage you to support and sign into law Senate Bill 1350 which contains language creating a local option surcharge on the lease or rental of a motor vehicle. In adopting its 2006 Legislative Policy Positions, the MPOAC highlighted the importance of this new local option transportation revenue source and voiced its support during the recent legislative session.

This revenue source can play an important role in helping local governments and metropolitan planning organizations address their overall transportation needs. A transportation study completed in 2002 by the Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of South Florida states that within Florida's metropolitan areas "the statewide 20-year shortfall estimate is \$37.7 billion (in year 2000 dollars) – a 43% increase over the 1997 statewide shortfall estimate."

Over the past few years, local governments and MPOs have witnessed a new state policy that shifts transportation resources to statewide programs as well as to regional programs requiring the commitment of a local match. In moving state funding resources to the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP), local governments and MPOs must address not only their ever growing local transportation needs, but also the needs on many state highways.

The local option surcharge on the lease or rental of a motor vehicle can serve as an important funding option to help address the overall transportation needs of Florida's metropolitan areas. Thank you for considering our request and please call me at (850) 414-4062 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Howard Glassman
Executive Director

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cc: MPOAC Members
FDOT Secretary Denver Stutler