



Keep Florida Moving

“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” - Will Rogers

There is an estimated \$23 billion transportation funding shortfall – or “pothole” – facing Florida over the next 10 years ... *just to maintain current conditions!* In recognition of this fact, the 2005 Florida Legislature took action in the new Growth Management bill (SB 360) and provided an *additional* \$1.1 billion for transportation in 2005-06, and an *additional* \$542 million each year thereafter.

These new transportation resources represent a significant first step towards “filling” the \$23 billion “pothole.” In 2005 the Governor and Legislature began to “Get Florida Moving” again. But in 2006, the transportation challenge will be to “Keep Florida Moving!” Here’s how:

Protect Florida’s Transportation Dollars – During 2003, \$200 million in much-needed transportation funding was diverted out of the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF) and used for non-transportation purposes. The 2006 Legislature should protect transportation funds flowing into the STTF and ensure that the new dollars provided in SB 360 are fully utilized for transportation.

Maximize the Purchasing Power of Florida’s Transportation Dollars – The new transportation funds provided by SB 360 are at historic levels. However, even when combined with FDOT’s current funding they will simply not be enough to completely “fill” Florida’s \$23 billion transportation “pothole.” That’s why every effort must be made to prudently maximize the purchasing power of each transportation dollar available in the Sunshine State. An idea which state leaders may wish to consider is bonding a portion of the new \$542 million transportation revenue stream contained in SB 360 – after ensuring the existing Work Program is protected – to leverage the purchasing power of these dollars.

Empower Local Governments to Do More for Transportation – Recognizing that all levels of government must “step up to the plate” and provide additional transportation dollars to “Keep Florida Moving!”, state leaders should “empower” their local government partners to do more for transportation themselves. If local governments are to be able to meet the matching requirements for funds provided in SB 360, then clearly common sense ways of easing access to existing local transportation revenue sources should be considered.

Encourage Continued Utilization of Toll Opportunities – Toll revenues now account for 23% of Florida’s transportation funding “pie” and represent about two-thirds of all new lane miles built. The Legislature should continue to encourage the responsible use of toll revenues to meet Florida’s growing transportation needs.

Florida is an incredibly dynamic place to live, work and play. Yet, this dynamism is based on our ability to move people and goods throughout Florida in a safe, efficient, and economical manner. Our state’s bright future is threatened by traffic gridlock – and that’s why we’ve got to take steps in 2006 to “Keep Florida Moving!”

FBT – Your “Voice” for Transportation!

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