



Statement in Support of Local Option Rental Car Surcharge

Florida is a great place to live, work and play. However, our outstanding quality of life and dynamic economy is threatened by growing traffic gridlock. Consider the following:

1. Florida's lane miles are *increasing* at **1.3%** annually,
2. Our population is *increasing* at **2.3%** each year, and
3. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is *increasing* at **5.4%** annually!

On top of that, Florida's facing a \$23 billion transportation funding shortfall – or “pothole” – over the next ten years. That's why Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) believes we've got to take steps to “**Keep Florida Moving!**” One of the principles of FBT's “**Keep Florida Moving!**” plan is to:

EMPOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO DO MORE FOR TRANSPORTATION – All levels of government must “step up to the plate” and provide additional transportation dollars. State leaders should “empower” their local partners to do more for transportation *themselves*. Specifically, FBT is supportive of the idea of a Voter-Approved, Local Option Rental Car Surcharge. Here's the details.

- **Local “Option” Rental Car Surcharge** would be a local option, **voter-approved**, \$2 per day surcharge – a *local* decision about *local* funding for *local* needs. Legislation should be enacted to “authorize” county governments to seek voter support by referendum to implement this common-sense surcharge. (*This type of surcharge would generate \$40 million per year in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties to help relieve congestion partially caused by tourists.*)

A recent poll asked 500 registered Miami-Dade voters about their greatest concerns. Traffic topped the list among 26 percent of those polled - nearly *triple* the next greatest worry about the quality of public schools at 9 percent. Clearly, people in Miami-Dade - *just like folks all across the Sunshine State* - are “Tired of Traffic” and want relief from traffic congestion NOW!

That's why FBT supports the Local Option Rental Car Surcharge **AND** efforts to use \$1 Billion of the estimated \$4 Billion surplus to restore TRANSPORTATION projects that have been delayed or cancelled due to rising construction costs! Simply put, we need this “**\$1 Billion for Better Transportation**” **and** local efforts like the Rental Car Surcharge.



FBT – Your “Voice” for Transportation!

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