

## Speaker Highlights

### **Bob Burluson, Florida Transportation Builders' Association, President**

- In partnership with FTBA's members, the Florida Department of Transportation leads the way in innovation and accountability among governmental agencies - providing a positive impact for every dollar sent to FDOT. As a result, transportation projects produce a tangible result that will provide value for years to come while employing thousands of workers.

### **Dominic M. Calabro, Florida TaxWatch, President & CEO**

- Any cuts to transportation funding will mean jobs will be lost.
- Florida TaxWatch believes that it is imperative that the legislature consider alternatives to managing the state's budget deficit besides cutting funds from one of the state's most efficient and needed industries.
- The final report of the Florida TaxWatch Government Cost Savings Task Force contains 88 recommendations that could save the state more than \$3 billion annually and should be considered over the Trust Fund raids.

### **Barney T. Bishop, III, Associated Industries of Florida, President & CEO**

- By raiding these trust fund dollars, we will eliminate opportunities for companies to grow and create new jobs.
- We should be using the dollars in the State Transportation Trust Fund to advance construction-ready road projects that can deliver real and immediate economic stimulus. For every \$1 spent on road construction, \$7 is returned to the economy.

### **Douglas J. Callaway, Floridians for Better Transportation, President**

- The saying is "When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging." Well, Florida's in an economic "hole" and with 12 percent unemployment the last thing Legislators should be doing is taking money away from private sector transportation jobs.
- With AG Bill McCollum, CFO Alex Sink and the entire business community all opposed to raiding the State Transportation Trust Fund, the Florida House should simply do the right thing. They should leave the TRUST – and our gas tax dollars – in the Transportation Trust Fund.

### **Gabe Sheheane, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Governmental Affairs**

- With reduced resources for transportation projects, Florida can guarantee a deterioration of our state's intermodal transportation infrastructure which will naturally impact our already strained business climate and create even more job loss in our state.
- In Florida, the transportation industry has been an economic cornerstone and addressing the possible of a complete lack of funding for the Florida Department of Transportation is an issue that must be *carefully reviewed* not just swept under the mat.

## Florida Transportation Builders' Association Members Speak Out

### **Bonnie Rimel, FTBA Chairwoman and President of Bonn-J Contracting, Inc. of Florida based in Chuluota**

"As a small highway-construction business owner with 39 employees, I am aware of Florida's record-high unemployment rate, and I fear this sweep will not only catapult unemployment beyond its current percentage, but it will be my business and employees who will be the ultimate casualties."

### **Ignacio Halley, President of Community Asphalt Corp. based in Miami**

"Our company directly relies on FDOT transportation construction projects to make ends meet. Over the past two years, our company has reduced its workforce by 15 percent and sold 25 percent of our equipment fleet — all of that was without FDOT budget cuts."

### **Charles W. Roberts III, President of C.W. Roberts Contracting, Inc. based in Tallahassee**

"For the past 34 years, C.W. Roberts Contracting Inc. has relied on FDOT transportation construction projects as our primary business. Now, more than 750 of our employees' livelihoods are in jeopardy."

### **John H. Skidmore, President of APAC-Southeast, Inc. based in Lutz**

"Our company is a construction contractor specializing in asphalt paving. We rely directly on FDOT transportation construction projects to make ends meet. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. If it does, that means our 800 Florida employees' livelihoods will be put in certain jeopardy."