

FLORIDIANS FOR BETTER



TRANSPORTATION

## Transportation's Best Hope in 2003

April 23, 2003

Legislation intended to help offset the impact of a \$200 million "raid" on the State Transportation Trust Fund is headed to conference between the House and the Senate. Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) and other members of the "TRU\$T" Coalition strongly oppose the diversion of \$200 million in transportation "user fees," and have been active in seeking to prevent or lessen the impacts of this raid.

Rolled into the Senate's \$53.8 billion budget (SB 2500), were provisions formerly in SB 406, sponsored by Sen. Dan Webster. This package will advance currently scheduled toll increases by one year, bond the funds generated and use the revenue to mitigate the affect of the \$200 million diversion. Clearly it would be better for transportation in Florida if these provisions were enacted and the Legislature did not raid the Transportation Trust Fund. However, our best hope for transportation this year is to pass this package and help ease the impact of the \$200 million diversion. An estimated \$257 million in transportation revenues would be generated by this legislation in FY 03-04.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR STATE HOUSE MEMBER TODAY AND ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THE SENATE POSITION FOR TRANSPORTATION FUNDING.

Tell them the success of Florida's economy – *tourism, trade, agriculture, and everything else* – is literally "riding" on our transportation system. Tell them that every dollar invested in transportation yields \$5.50 in economic benefit. Tell them that we're already underfunding the maintenance of Florida's roads and bridges by \$2.7 BILLION annually. And tell'em you're depending on them. **CALL TODAY!**

Contact FBT President Doug Callaway if you have any questions.

\* MEMBERS OF THE TRU\$T COALITION INCLUDE FLORIDIANS FOR BETTER TRANSPORTATION (FBT), THE FLORIDA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES, FLORIDA PORTS COUNCIL, FLORIDA AIRPORTS COUNCIL, FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS, FLORIDA PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION, FLORIDA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL, ASPHALT CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA, ASSOCIATION OF FLORIDA COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS, FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION BUILDERS ASSOCIATION, 1000 FRIENDS OF FLORIDA, TRADE AND TRANSPORT COUNCIL, FLORIDA CONCRETE & PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION, FLORIDA LIMEROCK & AGGREGATE INSTITUTE, FLORIDA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION, AND THE FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES.

**Douglas J. Callaway, President – FBT**  
**136 S. Bronough Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32301 - (850) 521-1256**  
**[dcallaway@bettertransportation.org](mailto:dcallaway@bettertransportation.org)**