

FLORIDIANS FOR BETTER



TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION – INFO BRIEF

In Florida, transportation makes ***everything*** else possible. The success of our state's entire economy actually "rides" on Florida's transportation system.

The federal surface transportation law, known as TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century), is due to expire on September 30, 2003. From 1998-2003, TEA-21 will provide about \$ 7 Billion in highway funding and \$1 Billion in transit funding to Florida. But these dollars represent only an 87-cent "rate of return" on every federal highway user fee dollar collected in Florida and sent to Washington, D.C.

- The members of the Florida Congressional Delegation should work together – *and with members from other "Donor States"* – to ensure that Florida receives at least a **95 percent return** on every federal highway user fee dollar collected in Florida and sent to Washington.
- More of Florida's federal highway user fee dollars must come back to our state – *instead of going to some other state* – so needed transportation "investments" can be made in Florida to help ease congestion, improve safety, protect the environment, stimulate Florida's economy, and enhance our quality of life.
- Recognizing the close link between a larger federal surface transportation program and a fairer return for Florida, serious consideration should be given to:
 - spending down the balance in the Highway Trust Fund (*\$4.4 Billion*),
 - indexing the federal user fee (*\$15.2 Billion over 6 years*),
 - making up the shortfall caused by the gasohol subsidy (*\$12 Billion*), and
 - even a modest enhancement to the federal highway user fee over a multi-year period (*5 cent increase over 6 years generates about \$47 Billion*).
- Simply put, Floridians need more of *their* federal transportation dollars back from Washington because **TRANSPORTATION MAKE\$ FLORIDA WORK!**

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