

# ***NEWS***

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## **FLORIDIANS TO VOTE FOR THE STATE'S "MOST CONGESTED ROAD"**

*FBT Launches Public Awareness Effort to "Get Florida Moving"*

Florida's worst roads will be revealed in a new online survey that allows citizens to vote for the state's "Most Congested Road." Though not a scientific study, the contest will give citizens a chance to express their concerns in a meaningful way. The effort also will provide background information for "Get Florida Moving," a campaign developed by Floridian's for Better Transportation (FBT) designed to focus attention on Florida's serious and growing transportation problems.

The campaign's primary component is an interactive website, [www.GetFloridaMoving.org](http://www.GetFloridaMoving.org), that enables drivers to share their own experiences and post photos of poor traffic conditions. The website was created with the goals of educating Floridians about road safety issues and encouraging drivers to let their legislators know how this growing problem is affecting their daily lives. Motorists can also stay informed by signing up to receive e-mail updates and reading the latest transportation news.

"In order to end the gridlock on our roads, we first must end the political gridlock in the Legislature," said Doug Callaway, president of FBT. "We want lawmakers to understand the level of frustration that exists on our highways and highlighting the worst roads is a good place to start."

The findings of a recent statewide Mason-Dixon survey commissioned by FBT indicate that motorists are aware of Florida's transportation problems since most drivers experience those problems firsthand. Out of the 625 registered voters polled, 76 percent reported spending 30 minutes or more in their automobile each day. Two-thirds of respondents spend an average of at least 15 minutes per day in congested traffic. Additionally, 60 percent of those polled agree that, "Traffic flow is a big problem in my community."

Transportation funding is one of the key issues surrounding Florida's growth management dilemma and local traffic problems. An estimated \$23 billion will be needed just to maintain the current situation. That figure does not include funding for improvement of Florida's roadways. Lack of adequate funding will have several adverse affects including longer delays and a dip in Florida's economy.

“Based on numbers from the Florida Department of Transportation, our state has a \$23 billion “pothole” in the road to our future,” said Callaway. “Given the size of the need, it might be better described as a “sinkhole.” And, if we don’t act soon, it could easily become a “crater.”

Mason-Dixon survey results also yielded that 75 percent of Florida voters do believe the state should dedicate more to transportation funding. Additionally, 57 percent of respondents are willing to pay extra money to end the gridlock.

“Through this poll and website, we believe that people will stop and realize how much of their lives are wasted in traffic and they will demand change,” said Callaway. “When people really think about what they are missing – time at home, time at work, time at play – they will begin to see traffic issues in a whole new light.”

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