

NEWS

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Floridians Vote I-4 State's 'Most Congested Road'

*Online survey part of Floridians for Better Transportation's
effort to "Get Florida Moving"*

TALLAHASSEE – Some called it “the worst” and others declared it the most “horrible interstate, EVER!” They’re talking about I-4, and visitors to the Get Florida Moving Web site (www.GetFloridaMoving.org) deem the Central Florida stretch the state’s “Most Congested Road.”

Floridians for Better Transportation initiated the online survey to give citizens a chance to vent their frustrations over the increasing traffic gridlock in the state. The site has had 57,131 hits since its launch March 14.

I-4 took the most votes, with 45 percent of respondents calling it the worst road in Florida. Interstate 95 and Palm Coast Parkway tied for second with 20 percent of the votes, and Davis Highway in Pensacola came in third with 12 percent of the votes.

Here’s a sampling of what voters had to say:

- ***From Daytona Beach:*** “I-4 in either direction from start to finish. I am from New York City and I’ve never seen such a horrible interstate, EVER!!!!!! The traffic is ridiculous. When there is an accident, it takes literally hours to clear. That’s absurd! Florida is the SUNSHINE STATE with a lot to learn!!!!!! I- 95 is a very-very close 2nd.”
- ***From Titusville:*** “I-4 without a doubt. It’s the worst I have ever traveled on. There is continuous construction that causes major delays and traffic is always congested.”
- ***From Palm Coast:*** “Palm Coast Parkway from Florida Park Drive to the exit ramps onto I-95. In 2000, the population was approximately 30,000 and now it is

50,000 with no changes in the road or traffic signals, plus this area has the only shopping centers in the area.”

- ***From Ft. Lauderdale:*** “I-95 is horrible. No law enforcement - existing laws are not enforced for speeding, blocking the left lanes, truck laws, and the failed experiment of HOV lanes.”
- ***From Pensacola:*** Davis Highway in Pensacola is always in a state of construction. Since we moved here 13 years ago, it has been “under construction” causing terrible traffic tie-ups, especially at certain times of the day. Since Hurricane Ivan hit here and 10,000-13,000 people have converged on our area, it is an all day, every day traffic mess.”

The online survey is not intended to be scientific; rather, said FBT President Doug Callaway, the survey is more about giving citizens a chance to vent their frustrations.

“The survey is a fun way to direct driver dissatisfaction and focus attention on our state’s serious and growing transportation problems,” said Callaway. “We want lawmakers to hear that frustration, and highlighting the most congested roads is a way to do that.”

Transportation funding is key to solving Florida’s growth management problems. According to the Florida Department of Transportation, there is a \$23 billion pothole in the road to Florida’s future – that’s what’s needed just to maintain the current state of Florida’s roads. Fortunately, said Callaway, this session legislative leadership and the Governor are serious about getting a better handle on the state’s explosive growth.

“They are listening this session, and we applaud their efforts,” said Callaway. “Florida drivers and visitors to our state are counting on them to follow through with funding.”

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