



October 20, 2003

KEEP THE "TRUST" IN THE TRUST FUND!

Dear Governor Bush,

As the name of our TRU\$T Coalition implies, we firmly believe that the word "TRUST" in the State Transportation Trust Fund stands for **T**ransportation **R**evenues **U**sed **S**trictly for **T**ransportation. That's why we strongly encourage you to prevent another multi-million dollar "diversion" from the Transportation Trust Fund and ask you to fully fund transportation in your proposed 2004-05 budget.

Earlier this year \$200 million was "redirected, raided, diverted or swept" from the State Transportation Trust Fund. These funds did not come from general revenue, but were collected from transportation "user fees" -- gasoline taxes and tag fees -- and did not contribute one dime to the state's budgetary problems. These are taxes paid by the traveling public in Florida for a very specific purpose -- **transportation** maintenance and improvements. To use them for any other purpose is simply wrong and only serves to further verify the public's distrust of politicians.

From the historic California recall of Governor Gray Davis to the recent failure of the Mobility 20/20 campaign effort in Orlando, a generic mistrust of government played a prominent role in the outcome of each election. You now have not only an opportunity, but also an obligation to begin rebuilding the public's trust. Therefore, please do not propose another Transportation Trust Fund "raid," but instead fully fund transportation in your 2004 budget proposal.

STOP Highway "Robbery!"

Floridians for Better Transportation
Florida Transportation Builders Association
Florida Airports Council
Florida Public Transportation Association
Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council
AAA Auto Club South
Trade and Transport Council
Florida Limerock & Aggregate Institute
Association of Florida Community Developers

Florida Chamber of Commerce
Florida Ports Council
Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers
Florida Trucking Association
Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida
1000 Friends of Florida
Florida Concrete & Products Association
Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association