



October 22, 2003

MAKE DRIVING SAFER ... FOR EVERYONE!

Dear Governor Bush,

In July of this year, TRIP (The Road Information Program) released a report showing that **Florida leads the nation in deaths for older drivers**. In 2001, some **268 Florida drivers over the age of 70 were killed in traffic accidents** in our state. Let us never forget that each one of those 268 older drivers was someone's mom or dad, brother or sister, aunt or uncle, grandmother or grandfather. 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.

This TRIP report should be a wake-up call for every Florida driver. The Florida DOT deserves high marks for its efforts to improve driving safety for older drivers – and indeed, for all Florida drivers. But **more can and must be done** ... and that means more funding. That's why state transportation dollars – which are *already* being collected for transportation purposes such as safety improvements -- should be spent only for transportation!

The good news is that **transportation improvements made to assist Florida's older drivers also make the driving experience safer for ALL Florida drivers**. Clearly, it is time for this generation to improve the safety of highways built by their parent's generation.

Support transportation safety by preventing another Transportation Trust Fund "raid." Instead fully fund transportation in your 2004-05 budget request. Please do it for Florida's older drivers, for our teen-aged drivers, and for everyone!

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