

September 04, 2007

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor of Florida
400 S. Monroe Street
PL05 The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Crist:

On behalf of ATU members and Public Transit riders of over 80,000 trips per day in Central Florida, with the approach of the Special Legislative Session in regard to the state budget, we would like to urge you to carefully evaluate any budget cuts for the Florida Department of Transportation. The State should be investing in transportation infrastructure instead of cutting it. FDOT issued a study which indicated the State needed to invest \$23 billion additional dollars to just maintain our State's transportation system.

ATU member's drives public transit for Lynx in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties, and Lynx has no dedicated funding source. We along with our passengers are extremely concerned about any reduction in the Department of Transportation budget. A good transportation infrastructure, which includes a reliable public transportation component, has a tremendous economic benefit to our State. The system provides not only the means to move citizens and goods in an effective manner, but also provides for job growth, economic stimuli, and in the case of stable public transportation, the ability for a large segment of workers to reach their jobs. Each month ATU Members via Lynx provides more than two million trips for our regions workforce, in Central Florida alone.

FDOT has submitted proposed budget cuts totaling \$79.6 million in response to your request. While none of the proposed cuts affect public transportation funding directly, ATU members and the riding public strongly oppose any transportation funding cuts. In fact, the Revenue Estimating Commission has recommended, and FDOT has already implemented, a \$550 million reduction to the current Five-Year Plan. With gas tax revenues continuing to decrease, our State can expect further cuts.

Our State of Florida is faced with hard decisions on how best to achieve necessary budget cuts while maintaining services. Reducing transportation funding will have a negative impact on our State. Again, on behalf of ATU members and the public transit riders in Central Florida, we urge you to maintain the current funding level for transportation and to oppose any diversion of our State Transportation Trust Funds.

Sincerely,

Paul Wilson, President/Business Agent,
ATU Local 1596