



TRANSPORTATION

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 Stan Tate
 John Temple
 Leo Vecellio, Jr.
 Linda Watson
 Wes Watson
 Thornton Williams
 Mike Willingham

The Honorable Ken Pruitt
 President, Florida Senate
 Room 409, The Capitol
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Mr. President:

Much like the canaries used long ago by coal miners to warn of impending danger, the recent tragic bridge collapse in Minneapolis has focused attention on the fact that we've chronically under-funded our transportation infrastructure. With a Special Session on the Budget slated to begin soon, you, Governor Crist and the Florida Legislature have an opportunity to heed this warning and take steps to Move Florida Forward. Specifically, we at Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) ask that you:

- 1.) Remove from consideration the \$79.6 million Transportation Trust Fund diversion currently targeted – or any transportation funding diversion,
- 2.) Identify \$500 million in ready-to-go transportation projects that can be immediately funded using non-recurring dollars, and
- 3.) Work with Governor Crist and House Speaker Rubio to appoint a high level task force to consider and recommend alternatives to the state gas tax for funding Florida's expanding transportation needs.



Some four years ago, the Florida DOT indicated that our state needed an additional \$23 BILLION just to "maintain" – not improve – 2003's transportation conditions. Although progress was made in 2005, this \$23 BILLION "pothole" remains largely unfilled today and poses a serious and growing hazard to Florida's economic recovery, and the safety, freedom and prosperity of every Floridian.

We at FBT stand ready to join with you to help Move Florida Forward!

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Callaway
 FBT President

FBT – Keeping Florida Moving!

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