

FLORIDIANS FOR BETTER



TRANSPORTATION

Florida Transportation

2008 Issues to Watch

March 27, 2008

1.) Don't Divert Money from the Transportation Trust Fund

In 2003, \$200 million in transportation dollars were diverted from the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF). Subsequent efforts to divert \$100 million in 2004, \$100 million during the 2007 Regular Legislative Session, and \$225 million from the Special Session on the Budget in the fall of 2007, were all defeated.



Governor Crist's 2009 Budget does NOT recommend "sweeping" transportation funds, however, history shows that the Transportation Trust Fund is a tempting target for diversion.

While the Florida Senate remains adamantly opposed to diverting any Transportation Trust Fund dollars – and is even considering increasing transportation funding as a stimulus to Florida's economy – the Florida House of Representatives is:

1. planning to divert **\$500 million** away from badly-needed transportation projects.
2. And to make matters even worse, a House Council is also proposing to shift about **\$200 million more** of your transportation dollars over to another agency for non-transportation purposes!

That's why you need to **contact your State Leaders ASAP** and tell them to:

- "STOP this Highway Robbery!" and
- Fully Fund Transportation to Keep Florida Moving Forward!

Remind them that ...

**we can't move Florida's Economy and our People FORWARD
if our transportation system is stuck in REVERSE!**



Visit our FBT website at www.bettertransportation.org, click on the "VoterVOICE – Contact Your Legislator" icon, log in and **send your message TODAY!**

2.) DO an Economic Stimulus – with a Transportation Focus

FBT supports an Economic Stimulus Package that calls for swift action to "invest" dollars to help re-invigorate Florida's slowing economy.



Proposed by a variety of business groups, this plan's top priority is investment in **ready-to-go transportation projects** that were cut from the Florida DOT's Work Program over the past three years due to rising construction costs. Over 268 projects statewide totaling more than \$5.7 Billion have been adversely affected! For every **\$1 invested** in these ready-to-go projects, Florida's economy will receive a **\$7 return**.

Making transportation investments is a great, time-proven way to stimulate the economy NOW and lay the foundation for sustained economic development IN THE FUTURE!

Florida Transportation Facts:

- Florida Lane Miles – how large its road network is – increasing at only **1.1%** annually,
- Our Population is increasing at **2.3%** annually,
- Our Highway Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – how heavily our road network is used – increasing at **3.5%** annually, and
- A 25-year Transportation Funding Shortfall of at least **\$58 Billion** – just to maintain today's conditions!



For more information regarding these and other Florida transportation issues, contact FBT President Doug Callaway at 850-521-1256 or dcallaway@bettertransportation.org.

Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT)
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