



What Would REAGAN Do?

Big Picture

Some say that Florida has a:

- tourism,
- agriculture, or
- construction-based economy.

The TRUTH is that we really have a "**TRANSPORTATION-based**" economy. Without a good transportation system, the rest of Florida's economy would grind to a halt.

Florida's future is linked with the transportation decision we make -- or don't make -- TODAY!

Transportation "Investments" Make Dollars & Sense

Florida's Leaders need to make targeted investments in areas – like TRANSPORTATION – that will help stimulate our economy and get Florida going again quickly. This won't be easy, but in government – as in business – folks must remember that "success" comes before "work" only in the dictionary!

Far from any sort of New Deal "make work" program, additional dollars for transportation improvements will go directly to the private sector and help provide a legitimate boost to our ailing economy, while also preparing Florida to be more competitive in the global marketplace. These sorts of transportation-based, economic stimulus activities have been receiving positive endorsements from economists and fiscal conservatives all across the country.

What Would Reagan Do?

No less a legendary fiscal conservative than Ronald Reagan clearly understood this concept. On November 27, 1982, as he increased the federal gas tax 5 cents, President Reagan said,

*“More efficient roads mean lower transportation costs
for the many products and goods that
make our abundant way of life possible.
The cost to the average motorist will be small
but the benefit to our transportation system will be immense.”*

Ronald Reagan loved cutting taxes, but he raised the federal highway user fee – the gas tax – to strengthen America’s economy ... during an economic downturn. He proved tax cuts can spur our economy, but he also knew that investments in our highway and public transportation systems is essential.

Don’t Manage Change – Create It!

*“The talk you hear about adapting to change is not only stupid,
it’s dangerous. The only way you can manage change is to create it.”
-Peter Drucker*

Transportation is the fuel that literally powers Florida’s economic engine, and, let’s be honest, we’re running out of “gas!” The fuel warning light is ON and it’s time for a fill-up. But we can’t “manage” this inconvenient truth through budget cuts alone – we’ve got to “create” positive change for our people by increasing our transportation investments and focusing on relieving traffic congestion.

Simply put, we can’t move the People of Florida forward – or our state’s economy – if our transportation system is sputtering on fumes or stuck in reverse.