



The Rest ... of the Story

Federal Help? - Florida Governor Charlie Crist recently joined other governors in meeting with President-elect Barack Obama to discuss a possible \$500-\$700 billion federal economic stimulus package – with about \$136 billion set aside for infrastructure projects. The Governor has outlined Florida's economic priorities in the event of a federal recovery package. (Click [here](#) to read more about this.)

Governor Crist supports funding for \$7 billion in infrastructure projects that Florida DOT has identified can begin within 120 days. (Click [here](#) to view FDOT's project list.) This infusion of federal support could provide \$39 billion in economic benefits and create an additional 195,000 jobs.

Good News - Knowing that every \$1 invested in transportation yields a \$5.60 economic return, and 34,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion spent on transportation, any additional transportation funding from Washington, D.C. would be good news indeed.

Rest of the Story - However, Florida's leaders in Tallahassee need to understand the rest of the story – as radio broadcasting legend Paul Harvey might say.

Federal action wouldn't remove their responsibility to act as well. Florida's leaders also need to step up and provide additional transportation funds to stimulate our ailing economy and keep Florida moving forward!

- o Even if the entire \$136 billion contemplated for "infrastructure" was devoted strictly to transportation, and
- o even if Florida were to receive our current distribution of federal transportation dollars – about 4.5%,
- o the absolute best case would result in about \$6 billion for Florida.

\$1 Billion Short - This would still leave us \$1 billion short of the \$7 billion in ready-to-go FDOT projects.

That's why Florida's leaders need to generate additional transportation dollars here at home as well.

The Time Is Right - They should approve a modest "user fee" adjustment to Florida's incredibly-low tag & title fees – *which haven't changed in over 25 years!* – to pay for new TRANSPORTATION "investments!" The time is right.