

FLORIDIANS FOR BETTER



TRANSPORTATION

Florida Transportation

2008 Issues to Watch

March 2008

1.) No Diversion of Dollars from the State 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.

2.) 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 two years due to rising construction costs. Over 175 projects statewide totaling more than \$2.5 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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