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***AG McCollum Vows to Protect Transportation Jobs and Funding***

*~Announced plan to help Florida's economy through interconnected transportation infrastructure~*

**TALLAHASSEE** – Yesterday, Attorney General Bill McCollum released a plan that will create jobs and provide real solutions for Florida's transportation infrastructure and overall economic viability. If elected governor, AG McCollum vowed to implement this plan and stated it was an integral part of the gubernatorial candidate's economic agenda.

"Attorney General McCollum's announcement stands to make a huge impact on the future of Florida's transportation industry," said Bob Burluson, president of the Florida Transportation Builders' Association (FTBA). "His proposal illustrates the economic potential our industry can provide when properly funded and displays an understanding that transportation funding creates jobs."

As the 2010 legislative session unfolded, the Attorney General, along with Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink, called on the Legislature to cease raids on the transportation trust fund. AG McCollum sent a letter directly to Speaker of the House, Larry Cretul, which clearly acknowledged the economic impact the transportation contracting industry has on Florida's long-term financial sustainability. The plan he announced yesterday, "Interconnected, Multimodal Transportation Solutions: A Roadmap for Florida's Future" stands as a continuation of his initial advocacy.

While addressing attendees at the 2010 Floridians for Better Transportation Summit, AG McCollum also signed a "Jobs Pledges," which would ultimately ensure revenue from the transportation trust fund is used exclusively on transportation projects. According to information released by his campaign, the Attorney General's plan included the following overarching goals:

- Enhance Florida's Strategic Intermodal System to achieve coordinated goals
- Protect transportation funding
- Create the Florida Infrastructure Tax Credit to better leverage transportation funds and maximize private investment in state projects
- Improve Florida's regulatory climate to become more competitive with other states
- Correct Florida's "donor state" status to receive a fair share of our tax dollar funding
- Restart the "Future Corridors" process to ensure coordinated, long-term planning

"FTBA and our members hope the Attorney General's comments will be echoed by the other gubernatorial candidates and put to rest any future attempts to sweep the trust fund," continued Burluson. "The message is clear - if elected governor, the Attorney General will not allow the transportation trust fund to be used as the Legislature's piggy bank. Lawmakers will simply have to look to elsewhere for revenue."

To view Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill McCollum's plan visit <http://bit.ly/bb4wDk>.