

2003 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – WEEK 2

Keep the TRUST in Trust Fund

Transportation
Revenues
Used
Strictly for
Transportation

FTBA MAJOR ISSUES:

BUDGET – The proposed reduction of \$200 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund continues to be a concern. We really do need each of you to make telephone calls and send emails to your state legislators about this. It is especially important as we are preparing for the reauthorization of TEA-21 in at the federal level.

STTF DIVERSION BILL

HB 1305 by Rep. Greg Evers (R-Milton) diverts \$ 51.2 million from the STTF over the next 5 years. The first year impact is \$5 million and it increases to cap at \$13.4 million annually. The nexus of the diversion is that this is a portion of the gas tax collection from gas sales from boaters at marinas and should be used for marine/boating activities. This money is on top of the \$8.8 million already diverted to DEP. The proponents of the bill do not take into account monies spent by FDOT on boat-related activities such as bridge tenders, moveable bridge maintenance costs, maintenance of bridge fender systems, and construction of high-level bridges to benefit boaters. FDOT estimates these costs to exceed \$20 million annually.

No committee hearing has been scheduled but it is not too early to contact the members of the first committee to express concern with the bill. This bill could be heard next Wednesday afternoon (March 19th) in the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands and Water Resources.

Ask for a NO vote on HB 1305 when it is heard before the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Water Resources because of the negative impact on the State Transportation Trust Fund. Also mention over \$20 million annually spent from STTF to benefit boaters.

The members of the Subcommittee Public Lands and Water Resources Subcommittee:

Rep. Joe Pickens, Chairman (R-Palatka) pickens.joe@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Richard Machek, Vice Chairman (D-Delray Beach) machek.richard@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Phillip Brutus (D-Miami) brutus.phillip@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Charlie Dean (R-Inverness) dean.charles@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Andy Gardiner (R-Orlando) gardiner.andy@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Will Kendrick (D-Carrabelle) Kendrick.will@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Ken Littlefield (R-Zephyrhills) littlefield.ken@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Mitch Needelman (R-Palm Bay) needelman.mitch@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Frank Peterman (D-St. Petersburg) peterman.frank@myfloridahouse.com

Rep. Dave Russell (R-Spring Hill) Russell.dave@myfloridahouse.com

To view a copy of HB 1305, please click below:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.com/BillSearch.aspx?BN=1305&BT=&Mbr=&Yr=2003>

PREQUALIFICATION – Last year we were able to pass legislation that said if you were prequalified and eligible to bid work with FDOT that you were deemed prequalified with counties and expressway authorities. Some how city work slipped through the cracks.

HB 1373 by Rep. Reagan (R-Sarasota) could be heard as early as next Tuesday. Our language will be included in a Senate Transportation bill that has not yet been filed. **Position: SUPPORT**

HIGH SPEED RAIL – While discussions continue on the proposals, the Governor is considering putting this, along with the class size amendment, back on the ballot with financial information available for the voters. We will keep you updated.

OTHER ISSUES OF INTEREST:

TRUCKING -- HB 503 sponsored by Rep. Ed Jennings (D-Gainesville) would increase the current penalty of five cents per pound for vehicles that exceed weight restrictions. The fine would increase to 7.5 cents per pound for those vehicles that are 6,001 to 10,000 pounds over weight; it would then jump to 10 cents per pound for any amount over 10,000 pounds. A vote on the bill was not taken the 1st week of session and has not been rescheduled.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION – Numerous legislators are proposing major reform on this issue. The House Select Committee has been having hearings twice a week. We are working with the various business groups on this issue and will keep you informed.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION BILLS:

Tax on State Construction Contracts Position: OPPOSE

HB 313 by Rep. Irv Slosberg (D-Boca Raton) **Position: OPPOSE**

SB 1452 by Sen. Skip Campbell (D-Tamarac)

Requires contractors on state construction projects to remit 1 percent of the contract value to the state to fund salaries to hire new teachers pursuant to the class size amendment.

Owner/Contractor Controlled Insurance Programs Position: SUPPORT

HB 1087 by Rep. Don Brown (R-DeFuniak Springs)

SB 718 by Sen. Steve Wise (R-Jacksonville)

Prohibits all OCIP programs. Interested groups are continuing to work with representatives from insurance companies and local governments on a compromise that might include limiting OCIP's to single project over \$75 million and requiring either 15 years of completed operations coverage or a provision that the contractors liability ends when the coverage ends. This bill DOES NOT affect FDOT – OCIP's cannot be done on FDOT projects.

You can contact members of the Florida Legislature by using the [blue](#) links below.

TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.com/Legislators.aspx>

TO CONTACT MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA SENATE:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Legislators/index.cfm?Chamber=Senate&Submenu=1&Tab=Legislators>

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND IN YOUR LEGISLATIVE CONTACT SHEET.

We really need to know who you can contact on industry issues. Things happen quickly in Tallahassee during session. A personal call or email from you can make all the difference in a vote. We just need to know your contacts. PLEASE fax it in!

For further information regarding the Florida Legislature, please click on the links below:

Florida Senate: www.flsenate.gov

Florida House of Representatives: www.myfloridahouse.com