

Session 2004 Report 4

Week 3 Activities

Work Zone Safety

[HB 1103](#) by *Representative Dave Russell (R-Spring Hill)*
[SB 2414](#) by *Senator Jim Sebesta (R-St. Petersburg)*

HB 1103 passed its first committee this week with a vote of 16 –1. Many thanks to all of you who responded to our URGENT request for action. This helped us tremendously in our lobbying efforts. We were able to meet personally with almost everyone on the committee and they acknowledged receiving emails in support of this bill. It was especially important when they received the emails from those in the district. Our next stop with the House Bill is the Finance and Taxation Committee.

SB 2414

We need to note that we have received word this week that the Governor's previous "serious concerns with this legislation" is now a VETO. If this issue is important to you, please keep letting the Governor know. Our current plan is to try to keep moving these bills through the legislative process but we know we have a long way to go.

Legislative Alerts and URGENT ACTION Emails

When we send out an email with "URGENT ACTION" that's what it means. It is time sensitive and we need you to PLEASE act immediately. Every thing moves very quickly during the session and a lot of times we will just have hours to act on something....so please keep that in mind. We will try not to bombard you with these type emails but when they are sent we need your help.

We are able to track and keep count of the email activity. This really helps us in knowing who is receiving them and where we need to focus more attention.

You will be receiving these alerts often on the Work Zone Safety Legislation. There are many members who may not be comfortable with it and they will need to hear you.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

FTBA is co-hosting a Legislative Reception with the Asphalt Contractors Association of Florida, Florida Concrete and Products Association and the Underground Utility Contractors Association of Florida. The reception will be held on Monday, March 29th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Hospitality Square, 200 W. College.

To have a pre-printed nametag for this event, you need to email me by Tuesday, March 23rd at noon. Email: arasmussen@ftba.com

State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF)

Earlier this week I reported that the Governor has recommended another “sweep” of the STTF. This year it is \$100 million (last year it was \$200 million). In the next few weeks we hope to have a better handle on what each of the Appropriations Committees will do. Under the leadership of *Senator Dan Webster (R-Orlando)*, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development, we are very confident he will do everything in his power to keep the State Transportation Trust Fund whole.

We have been working with Floridians for Better Transportation to obtain signed pledges from legislators stating they will oppose and vote against any sweep, raid or diversion of transportation trust fund dollars. To date, 23 Senators (out of 40) have signed the pledge and 17 (out of 120) House members. Use this link to see who has signed on: [Legislators who have signed the Transportation Trust Pledge](#) Please let them know you appreciate their support. Simply click on their e-mail address to send an email. This information is also available on the FTBA website.

Diversion Bills

[HB 491](#) by Representative Don Davis (R-Jacksonville)

[SB 1630](#) by Senator Gwen Margolis (D-Miami) -- WITHDRAWN

Senator Margolis withdrew her bill from further consideration! HB 481 relates to the Rental Car Surcharge. The bill reduces the percentage the STTF receives from the rental car surcharge and would give it to two tourism-related trust funds. According to FDOT the negative impact would be \$90 M to the work program.

[SB 2214](#) by Senator Evelyn Lynn (R-Ormond Beach)

[HB 1049](#) by the Committee on Transportation

These bills revise the specialty license plate formation process. The bills divert \$1 of motor vehicle license plate revenues from the STTF to the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund for the recruitment and retention of state law enforcement. According to FDOT the negative impact would be \$140 M to the work program.

For more information on the Legislature, please use the following links:

[Florida Senate](#)

[Florida House of Representatives](#)