

Legislative Update

May 2, 2003

Today is the last day of the Regular Session. Things are very tense between the two house and they will be back...soon.

Here's what we know as we start today:

Mining: (SB 472) passed the Legislature yesterday and is now on its way to the Governor for approval.

Budget: Coming back in Special Session to address.

Transportation: Our transportation bills should voted on today and passed out. Will that happen? Don't know. Our Prequalification language is now in 4 bills. HB 1373, HB 1605, SB 676 and SB 2685.

Marina Gas Tax Diversion: HB 1319 and SB 2586 are both on 3rd Reading in their respective houses. These bills have a negative cash impact of \$40.3 million to FDOT's existing 5-year plan. This equates to \$66.8 million in transportation projects that will have to be dropped from the 5-year plan. Unfortunately, we are very sure this issue is going to pass. It has the "blessing" of leadership in both houses. Thanks to those who made contact with your legislators on this in opposition.

OCIP: Still hope on this. The House Bill is on 3rd Reading. Timing could be a problem here. The House has to pass it early and get it to the Senate to take up and get out.

Workers' Compensation: The Senate took up the House version of the bill last night and amended it and sent it back to the House. The House has a rule that anything amended must "sit" for 2 days. Unless the House waives the rules or strips the amendments off the bill and sends back to the Senate, this issue is dead. It's not the best bill, but is better than what we currently have.

High Speed Rail: The House has a bill that would put the issue back on the ballot. We don't expect it to be heard again. High Speed Rail will be a major transportation budget issue in the upcoming budget negotiations.