



Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Background

In 2005, Congress passed the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Act which authorizes federal surface transportation programs for highways, highway safety, and transit for the 5-year period 2005-2009. SAFETEA-LU will provide \$244 billion for transportation from 2005-2009. SAFETEA-LU increased Florida's return on transportation funding from 90.5 cents to 92 cents per dollar (nearly \$2 billion/year through 2009).

Currently, federal transportation funding provides about 25% of Florida DOT funding for transportation.

The FDOT estimates \$2.7 billion is needed annually to maintain current transportation conditions in Florida. It is also estimated that \$4.9 billion is needed to improve conditions and increase capacity in Florida.

As Florida's population continues to rise, so do the needs to strengthen the state's transportation infrastructure. As Congress gears up to debate the future of the federal transportation system, we urge Congress to reauthorize a federal transportation program that provides essential funding to Florida to assist in meeting Florida's growing transportation infrastructure needs.

Position:

The Florida League of Cities urges Congress to:

- Include transportation infrastructure funding in the economic stimulus package;
- Provide full funding for federal transportation programs that support bridges, roads, highways and transit.
- Support funding for transportation programs that go directly to local governments, such as transit, transportation enhancements and the Congestion Management Air Quality Program, that helps reduce congestion and protect the environment; and
- Include local officials in the discussions over the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization debate.