



STATE OF FLORIDA

BILL McCOLLUM
ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 7, 2010

The Honorable Larry Cretul
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives
Room 420, The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Cretul:

As the 2010 Legislative Session enters its budget negotiations, I write to express my concern over budget proposals that include utilizing the state Transportation Trust Fund. While I understand the need to find dollars and using some trust funds may be suitable, it is important that the Transportation Trust Fund be spent on highway construction right now to help create as many jobs as possible.

Florida now faces staggering unemployment, with more than 1.12 million Floridians unemployed. History tells us that for every single dollar invested in road construction, seven dollars are returned to the economy. Our chief priorities must be putting our residents back to work and recharging our economy. Sweeping the state Transportation Trust Fund would only compound the challenges we face, not alleviate them.

A robust, multimodal transportation system is key to our state's economic security as we continue seeking ways to move people and goods more efficiently. We have a unique opportunity to advance shovel-ready road projects with Trust Fund revenues – investments that can put thousands of Floridians back to work. The state Transportation Trust Fund was created with one purpose – to fund Florida's transportation projects. The dollars accrued in transportation-related user fees should be left to fulfill their original objective, not used to fill unrelated budget gaps.

There is no question Florida lawmakers are facing tough choices as they work to cut even more money to balance our state's budget. I encourage the Florida House of Representatives to keep the state Transportation Trust Fund intact as budget decisions are finalized in the coming weeks. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McCollum".

Bill McCollum

cc: Chairman David Rivera