

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) "Regional Transportation Forum"

Date of Event: January 30, 2009

Audience Description: Elected officials (state legislature, counties and cities), transportation planners and engineers from throughout FDOT District Five

A. Summary of Event:

- This forum brought together transportation interests from the 9 counties covered by FDOT District Five. Representatives from Central Office, District Five and Florida's Turnpike were able to share information, encourage regional cooperation and collaboration, and promote open lines of communication between all partners.

B. Key Speakers:

- Noranne Downs, FDOT District Five Secretary
- Jim Ely, Florida Turnpike's Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer
- Marcos Marchena, Florida Transportation Commission Chairman
- Kevin Thibault, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations

C. Key Issues Identified:

- Traffic Safety
- Transportation funding
- Importance of tolling (today and in the future)
- Changes in transportation-related technology
- Value of Regional Partnerships
- More highway capacity alone is not the answer

D. Next Steps:

- Final federal economic stimulus package
- 2009 legislative session in Tallahassee
- Group prayer for speedy economic recovery