

# **FEDERAL/STATE SUMMIT**

## **SUMMARY REPORT**



**MARCH 11, 2002**  
**THE CAPITOL**  
**TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA**

## Overview

The fourth Florida Federal/State Summit was held in Tallahassee on March 11, 2002. Governor Jeb Bush, Senate President John McKay, and House Speaker Tom Feeney co-hosted the event. All members of the Florida Congressional Delegation, Legislature, Cabinet, and executive agency heads were invited to attend.

Congressional members in attendance included:

Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Peter Deutsch, Congressman Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Congressman Porter Goss, Congressman Jeff Miller, Congressman Allen Boyd, Congressman Ric Keller, Congressman John Mica, Congressman Adam Putnam, Congressman Clay Shaw, Congresswoman Karen Thurman, and Congressman David Weldon.

The 2002 Federal/State Summit built upon the progress of the previous summits held in February 1998, March 1999, and March 2001 to enhance the coordination and communication among Florida's elected officials. Held periodically, the Summits afford a direct exchange among participants to develop shared strategies to benefit Florida.

**2002 Summit Agenda.** During the opening Plenary Session, House Speaker Feeney, Senate President McKay, and Governor Bush welcomed the Congressional members and attendees. Congressman Clay Shaw, Chair of the Florida Congressional Delegation, gave a brief overview of issues anticipated to be considered by Congress during the second session of the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.

At the conclusion of the Plenary Session, the Summit participants broke into three workshops. The workshops focused on issues currently pending before Congress, on which congressional action could significantly impact the state, as follows:

### **Homeland Security:**

- Funding Coordination Between Federal and State Agencies
- Seaport Security
- Federal Agency Reduction – U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs, and INS
- Urban Search and Rescue Teams
- Public Health

### **TANF Reauthorization and Medicaid:**

#### *Welfare Reform/TANF Reauthorization*

- Administration Proposal
- Congressman Cardin's (D-MD) Proposal
- Senators Bayh (D-IN) and Carper's (D-DE) Proposal

#### *Medicaid*

- Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Payments

### **Transportation:**

- Reauthorization of TEA-21
- Federal Highway Trust Fund
- High Speed Rail

The following pages of this report briefly summarize the workshop sessions at the 2002 Summit. It was prepared by the Legislative Committee on Intergovernmental Relations (LCIR), which assisted in coordinating the Summit. More detailed materials prepared for each of the three workshops are available on the LCIR website (<http://fcn.state.fl.us/lcir>).

## Workshop: Homeland Security

**Co-Chairs:** Congressman Porter Goss (Moderator), Senator Ginny Brown-Waite, and Representative Dudley Goodlette. **Participants:** Congressman Ric Keller, Congressman Adam Putnam, Senator Buddy Dyer, Senator Les Miller, Senator Durrell Peaden, Senator Jim Sebesta, Senator Ron Silver, Senator Rod Smith, Representative Dennis Baxley, Representative Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Representative Marty Bowen, Representative Donna Clarke, Representative Joyce Cusack, Representative Mario Diaz-Balart, Representative Carole Green, Representative Randy Johnson, Representative Bev Kilmer, Representative Cindy Lerner, Representative Evelyn Lynn, Representative Sandra Murman, Representative Curtis Richardson, Representative David Russell, Representative Timothy Ryan, Representative Eleanor Sobel, Representative Dwight Stansel, and Representative Leslie Waters. **Executive Participants:** Commissioner James T. Moore, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Steve Lauer, Chief of Domestic Security, Craig Fugate, Director, Division of Emergency Management, Secretary Steven Seibert, Department of Community Affairs, Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., Florida Department of Health.

### Issue #1: Funding Coordination Between Federal and State Agencies

In the aftermath of September 11<sup>th</sup>, the federal, state and local governments have been working to assess current capabilities in order to adequately respond to future threats of terrorism. In addition to operational coordination, funding coordination between and among all levels of government must be achieved in order to ensure that security measures are implemented in a cogent and organized fashion. Thus, it is critical that Florida not only secure adequate federal financial assistance to meet its security needs, but that federal assistance to all states is

streamlined and designed to obtain the maximum value possible from the expenditures.

### **Congressional Action Requested:**

- **Direct federal funds through the state in a manner that assures statewide coordination and advances Florida's Domestic Security Strategy.**
- **Recognize the unique challenges Florida faces with regard to its coastline and ports of entry by funding security measures commensurate with the identified threat.**

### **Workshop Discussion:**

- Representative Goodlette remarked that the state's 40,000 law enforcement officers and state and federal law enforcement agencies need to do a better job of sharing information.
- Congressman Goss highlighted the President's three critical missions as: (1) preventing further terrorist attacks and damage; (2) arresting the perpetrators; and (3) ending international terrorism. Congressman Goss stated that Florida has great response mechanisms in place.
- Congressman Goss summarized Florida's Homeland Security needs as: (1) obtaining clearance for state and local law enforcement to share information with federal agencies; (2) good overseas information regarding potential domestic terrorist threats arriving at our seaports and airports; (3) enforcement and better understanding of federal laws; (4) the necessity for security profiles and suggested that identifications cards will soon be required. Congressman Goss also stated that more funding for domestic security initiatives would be in the FY'03 Congressional budget but the question as to how it would be divided still remains.
- Representative Goodlette asked Commissioner Tim Moore, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and Steve Lauer, FDLE's

Chief of Domestic Security, to comment on how federal moneys are being directed to Florida.

- Commissioner Moore emphasized that Florida’s Domestic Security regional model was intended to maximize the integration of effort between the state, and local government fire, rescue, and other response personnel. Florida will benefit from \$47 million to be received from the federal government for increasing the state’s ability to respond to public health crises and the prevention of bio-terrorism.
- Commissioner Moore further reported that Florida’s Domestic Security Oversight Policy Board has been created to review funding proposals and make recommendations to the Governor regarding what issues should be given priority. In addition to himself, others who serve on the board are the Director of Emergency Management, Chairs of each of the regional task forces, the Adjutant General, the Executive Directors of Florida’s Sheriffs Association, Police Chiefs Association, Prosecutors Association, and Florida Hospitals Association, the Secretary of the Department of Health and the Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Issue #2: Seaport Security**

With 1,197 coastal miles and 14 seaports, Florida’s international water border is the longest in the continental United States. Florida is also home to 4 of the busiest container ports in the nation and the top 3 cruise ports in the world, as well as, 7 major defense installations near the state’s deep water ports. As a result, our seaports pose significant domestic security risks and challenges.

***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **Secure \$27 million in federal seaport security funding and the flexibility that includes reimbursement for security upgrades undertaken in the past 3 years.**
- **Ensure that reforms implemented by any federal legislation do not impede or**

**hinder the seaport security plans in the state.**

**Workshop Discussion:**

- Commissioner Moore commented that seaport security had been enhanced due to the Legislature’s adoption of statewide minimum seaport security standards and the additional funding for complying with those standards.
- Senator Sebesta stated that in the event of a threat, Florida’s seaports need the ability to respond quickly. Senator Sebesta then asked Commissioner Moore if Florida had a mechanism in place to provide a quick response.
- Commissioner Moore reported that the state has a mechanism in place to trigger each of the task forces to provide a quick response, not only in their regions, but to other parts of the state, as well.

**Issue #3: Federal Agency Reduction – U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Customs, and INS**

As the 4<sup>th</sup> most populous state in the nation, with the longest international water border in the continental United States, 14 deep-water ports, and 19 commercial airports, protection of our border and ports of entry is critical to Florida and the nation. Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, this has taken on new importance. In addition, during the past 10 years, Florida has experienced a significant increase in international trade, tourism, and illegal drug traffic. However, during the same period federal funds and personnel have been shifted away from Florida and deployed at the Southwestern and Northern borders. Thus, the gap between Florida’s security needs and its receipt of federal funds, personnel, and equipment to meet those needs, continues to grow exponentially.

***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **Restore to Florida a minimum of 2 Coast Guard cutters and 7 fixed-wing aircraft that have been redeployed to other areas of the country.**
- **Inquire into the reassignment of Florida-**

based U.S. Customs Service and Immigration and Naturalization Service personnel, who have been redeployed to the Northern and Southwestern borders.

**Workshop Discussion:**

- Congressman Goss stated that it was no secret that the Coast Guard’s presence in Florida has been greatly diminished.
- Commissioner Moore stated that INS Commissioner James W. Ziglar has given Florida a presence on its task forces and hopefully that will result in more INS personnel in Florida.
- Commissioner Moore then discussed Florida’s requests of the INS: 1) assign an INS agent to each of the seven regional task forces, to help train local law enforcement officers; 2) authorize local officers to answer basic questions regarding federal laws; and 3) provide more immediate and direct access to information on immigration and criminal databases to local law enforcement. Although dialogue is still underway regarding Florida’s requests, Commissioner Moore is confident that an agreement will soon be finalized.

**Issue #4: Urban Search and Rescue Teams**

Urban search-and-rescue involves the location, rescue (extrication), and initial medical stabilization of victims trapped in confined spaces. Structural collapse is most often the cause of victims being trapped, but victims may also be trapped in transportation accidents, mines and collapsed trenches.

Florida currently has only 2 Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Teams and both are located in Miami-Dade County. To increase chances of rescue from a structural collapse, it is estimated that US&R teams need to arrive within a 3-hour time frame. Consequently, if concurrent multiple disasters occurred in various areas of the state, the current number of teams would not be sufficient. Therefore, Florida must enhance its Search and Rescue capabilities to help defend the entire southeast United States.

***Congressional Action Requested:***

- Continue partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for federal assistance related to Urban Search and Rescue.
- Support Urban Search and Rescue funding mechanisms.

**Workshop Discussion:**

- Senator Brown-Waite noted the need for additional US&R Teams. She stated that although one US&R team is being developed in the Tampa area, there is a need for teams in Orlando and Jacksonville.
- Congressman Ric Keller stated that both of Florida’s US&R teams are in Miami and that until the existing 28 US&R teams are funded, obtaining funding for additional teams will be difficult. Congressman Keller inquired whether a potential source of funds is being discussed in the FY’03 federal budget that Florida could use to establish new US&R teams.
- Congressman Goss responded that there will be more money in the FY’03 budget for US&R efforts, but how that money is divided into various categories and how it is shared with other states remain to be seen.

**Issue #5: Public Health**

Following the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup> and the subsequent anthrax outbreaks, federal, state and local governments have been working to assess current capability in order to adequately prepare and respond to future bio-terrorism and public health threats. Florida is currently engaged in a “bottoms-up” review to determine statewide needs and necessary upgrades in state pharmacies, lab and epidemiological capacities, in addition to enhanced communication capabilities with hospitals and other providers throughout the State. Federal funds are available to assist with these efforts, both at the State and local levels.

In addition, bio-terrorism preparedness funding is part of the President’s 2003 Budget proposal,

and currently there is Congressional legislation in conference authorizing funds to improve the nation's ability to prevent, prepare for and respond to bio-terrorism and other public health emergencies. Upon successful passage, funds would have to be appropriated to fund the legislation.

***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **Maintain funding established in the FY02 Department of Defense Supplemental Bill for public health and hospital bio-terrorism preparedness. This funding will be critical to the State's continued assessment and implementation plans.**
- **Continue to allocate federal funds through the State in a manner that will allow for a coordinated and appropriate response for planning and responding to bio-terrorism and other public health emergencies.**
- **Monitor any pending federal legislation targeting public health preparedness to ensure it is consistent with Florida's Domestic Security Plan.**

**Workshop Discussion:**

- Representative Carole Green stated her concern regarding the state of Florida's hospitals and their ability to respond properly to a public health crisis.
- Florida Department of Health Secretary John Agwunobi reported that currently Florida's hospitals are preparing aggressively to be able to respond to public health crises. To that end, the \$6.4 million received from the federal government to date has been most helpful. However, more funds are necessary, especially to outfit emergency rooms throughout the state, considered the initial points of entry, when responding to bioterrorism, chemical or nuclear attacks. Furthermore, interagency communication is critical and needs to be secured by long term funding.

## **Workshop: TANF Reauthorization and Medicaid**

**Co-Chairs:** *Congressman Clay Shaw (Moderator), Congresswoman Karen Thurman, Senator Ron Silver, Senator Durell Peaden, and Representative Sandra Murman. Participants:* *Congresswoman Karen Thurman, Representative Susan Bucher, Representative Anne Gannon, Representative Carole Green, Representative Suzanne Kosmas, Representative Evelyn Lynn, Representative Matthew Meadows, Representative Nan Rich, Representative David Russell, Representative Timothy Ryan, Representative Dwight Stansel, and Representative Roger Wishner. Executive Participants:* *Judge Kathleen A. Kearney, Secretary, Department of Children and Families; Tom McGurk, Director, Agency for Workforce Innovation; Dr. Rhonda Medows, Secretary, Agency for HealthCare Administration, and Dr. John Agwunobi, Secretary, Department of Health.*

### **Issue #1: Welfare Reform / TANF Reauthorization**

The 1996 welfare reform law, including the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, is scheduled to be reauthorized by Congress by October 1, 2002. It is expected that in addition to TANF, several other programs will be discussed in the context of reauthorization including the Child Care Development Block Grant, the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), food stamps, child support enforcement, and child welfare.

As the welfare caseload has declined, the focus in use of funding has shifted from expenditures on welfare payments to investments in activities that support work. Post-employment services and supports to assist low-income working families in making a successful transition is an area of increasing emphasis. These work support services include work readiness, job

skills training, employment services, as well as child care, transportation and other assistance to enable welfare recipients to find and retain employment.

At various times, Congress has considered reducing the funding and the flexibility of welfare-related programs, including TANF and the Social Services Block Grant. Maintaining these elements under reauthorization is necessary to ensure Florida's continued success in transitioning people from welfare to work.

#### ***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **Continue TANF funding at the current mandatory \$16.5 billion level.**
- **Reauthorize the TANF supplemental grants. In addition, any expansion of qualifying states must include increased funding beyond the originally authorized level of \$319 million.**
- **Maintain broad state flexibility, including authority to transfer up to 30 percent of TANF funds into the Child Care Development Block Grant, and the Social Services Block Grant—eliminating the 4.25 percent restriction that has been placed on SSBG transfers.**
- **Provide better program alignment and simplifications for integrating funding and program rules across public assistance and workforce development programs.**
- **Establish “improving the well-being of children” as a purpose of TANF.**

#### **Workshop Discussion:**

- The elected officials and agency heads touted Florida as being a national leader in the development of innovative programs in the area of welfare reform.
- The federal and state elected officials and agency heads emphasized two major themes. First, maintain the partnership between the federal and state levels of government. Second, allow states flexibility in continuing the implementation of welfare reform.

- Congressman Shaw discussed the federal/state partnership in terms of continuing federal trust in the ability of states to manage welfare reform.
- Congresswomen Thurman expanded on how flexibility in the use of welfare funds is important in providing essential support services such as childcare and transportation.
- Secretary Kearney stressed the importance of keeping the flexibility of transferring 30 percent of TANF funds to child care and 10 percent of TANF funds to the SSBG to continue Florida's success in moving TANF clients into the workforce.
- Secretary Kearney urged that the federal government maintain at least the base level of TANF funding. Also, she stated that the \$60 million current level of the supplemental grant should be annually renewed past September 2002, even if additional states are awarded supplemental grants.
- Secretary Kearney suggested that any changes to existing welfare programs at the federal level should build in a one year to eighteen month implementation period to allow necessary changes at the state agency level.
- Workshop participants favored allowing Florida the adequate federal funding and flexibility of administration to achieve welfare reform goals of more employment, with an emphasis on education and family values

#### **Issue #2: Medicaid DSH**

Florida's Social Service Estimating Conference forecasts sharp increases in the cost of health and human service initiatives during the next fiscal year, due in large part to rising caseloads, drug costs, hospital costs, and nursing home costs in the Medicaid program. This is anticipated to occur despite aggressive cost-saving measures put in place by the State over the past several years. Medicaid is Florida's primary funding source to meet the health and

long-term care needs of 1.9 million low-income children, elderly, and disabled Floridians. Funded by both state revenues (42 percent) and federal matching funds (58 percent), Florida Medicaid will spend almost \$11 billion during the forthcoming fiscal year.

When federal officials capped Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) to maintain a nationwide 12 percent limit of total Medicaid expenditures, Florida DSH payments represented only about 5 percent of total Florida Medicaid expenditures. In the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Benefits Improvement and Protection Act of 2000, Congress agreed to freeze DSH payments to states at the FY00 level for a two-year period allowing \$46 million in critical funding to remain in Florida's Medicaid program. On October 1, 2002, DSH payments will revert to those cuts mandated under the BBA, leaving Florida's Medicaid program at a financial disadvantage. Florida uses the DSH flexibility to help fund mental health institutions and public hospitals.

#### ***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **As Congress reviews provisions of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA) and its current impact on the health care delivery system, the issue of (DSH) payments is important to Florida's already fragile Medicaid program.**
- **Maintain the FY00 freeze to DSH funding to avoid \$45 million in cuts to Florida mental health institutions and public hospitals.**

#### **Workshop Discussion:**

- Secretary Medows noted that flexibility in Medicaid DSH funds, especially as they impact underserved areas, rural hospitals, and teaching hospitals remain important to Florida. Nationally, this funding mechanism grew rapidly in the 1990's, with the federal government being critical of some states (not Florida) for "abusing" the program by using DSH payments to decrease the state's

Medicaid fiscal responsibilities at the expense of the federal government. Maintaining the current level of Florida DSH funding in FY03 would preserve \$30 million for mental health institutions and \$15 million for public hospitals.

- Representative Murman pointed out that the rise in Medicaid costs was influenced by the increase in nursing home costs and prescription drug costs.
- Senator Silver and Senator Peaden raised the point that prescription drug costs is a problem that needs to be addressed at the federal level. Congressman Shaw and Congresswoman Thurman concurred, but reported that no agreement on specific policies or funding levels has occurred at the federal level.
- Senator Silver and Representative Murman asked for federal assistance in mitigating Medicaid Upper Payment Limits changes which limit the amount paid for certain services provided to Non-State Government-Owned or Operated Hospitals.
- Senator Silver and Representative Murman asked for federal assistance in obtaining federal funding eligibility for legal immigrant children to participate in KidCare (State Child Health Insurance Program).
- Congressman Shaw mentioned that some progress has been made in the area of legal immigrant children eligibility for federal programs in the areas of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and food stamps. Legal immigrants are allowed to apply for food stamps after five years residency rather than seven year.

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### **Workshop: Transportation**

***Co-Chairs:*** Congressman John Mica (Moderator), Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Senator Jim Sebesta, Senator Charlie Clary, Representative Randy Johnson, and Representative David Russell. ***Participants:*** Senator Ron Klein, Representative Joe Spratt,

*Representative Marty Bowen, Representative Curtis Richardson, and Representative Allen Trovillion* **Executive Participants:** *Secretary Tom Barry, Florida Department of Transportation.*

### **Issue #1: Federal Transportation Funding**

Enacted in 1998, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century or TEA-21 (PL 105-178) is the current federal transportation law that provides funding for highways, public transportation, and other transportation programs. Deliberations have already begun for its reauthorization in 2003. Florida needs to be vigilant in ensuring that under reauthorization Florida receives its fair share of transportation funding, as well as that the Act continues to function as originally intended.

In addition to the Act's reauthorization scheduled for next year, other events have occurred that justify increased concern regarding the amount of funds Florida will receive under TEA-21. The U.S. Treasury reported major reductions in program tax receipts that will reduce Florida's overall transportation funding in FFY 2003. This revenue shortfall will result in a lower guaranteed funding baseline for states set in 2003 with the program's reauthorization.

#### ***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **Verify reported decreases in Highway Trust Fund (HTF) receipts either through the General Accounting Office (GAO) or some other independent auditing method.**
- **Protect the integrity of the HTF from further erosion.**
- **Protect the funding provisions included in TEA-21 and allow these provisions to function as originally intended in TEA-21. The Revenue Aligned Budget Authority (RABA) component is essential in maintaining the "linkage" between the federal HTF receipts received in one year and the transportation funds made available to Florida in the subsequent year.**
- **Develop strategies to improve Florida's**

**share of the federal transportation funding under TEA-21 authorization that expires in 2003. Remain alert to opportunities for securing additional federal transportation funding for Florida in other areas, such as transit or discretionary dollars.**

#### **Workshop Discussion:**

- Congressman Mica stated that Florida received its largest increase in percentage return of federal transportation funding during the 1998 authorization. It is essential for Florida to see that Congress maintains the federal funding commitment. A key component of this commitment is the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority (RABA). The state should also look for additional funding opportunities during the forthcoming reauthorization in 2003.
- Congressman Mica and Congresswoman Brown state that reported shortfalls in transportation related tax receipts will result in an estimated 10 percent reduction in federal transportation funding in FFY 2003 – approximately \$9 billion. Congressman Mica and Congresswoman Brown, in addition to other members of Congress, have introduced bills to restore some of this shortfall.
- Congressman Mica stated state highway projects seeking federal funding should be submitted to the Delegation within the next 10 months for inclusion in the reauthorization legislation. In addition, requests for transit projects should be individually submitted and lobbied rather than submitted as a package. He suggested that the Congressional Delegation and the Florida Legislature reconvene with appropriate staff after the elections sometime in December, if possible, to prioritize Florida's highway projects, and transit projects.
- Congressman Mica suggested that state and congressional staffs should meet in the interim to maintain continuity, communication, and information sharing.

- The legislative members concurred with the above suggestions for a follow-up meeting after the elections in November and for congressional and state staffs to meet in the interim.

### **Issue #2: High Speed Rail**

In November 2000, Florida voters approved a constitutional amendment requiring the state to begin construction of a high-speed rail system no later than November 1, 2003. Additionally, the federal government continues to have a role and responsibility in ensuring a cost-effective, fuel-efficient, and economically sound rail transportation system. The constitutional amendment requires the state to take action, and federal assistance may be needed.

#### ***Congressional Action Requested:***

- **Continue to monitor progress of the high-speed rail bills: H.R. 2950 (Rep. Don Young, R-Alaska) creates the “Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act” (RIDE) and S. 250 (Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del), and its House companion, H.R. 2329 (Rep. Amo Houghton, R-N.Y.) establishes the “High Speed Rail Investment Act” in an effort to help fund the construction of the state’s high-speed rail system.**

#### **Workshop Discussion:**

- Congressman Mica stated that the Congressional Delegation would work to assist Florida in securing additional federal funding, provided the state has a project plan in place and is committed to its completion. Such a plan should provide for intermodal connectivity to other transportation facilities.
- Senator Sebesta thanked Congressman Mica for the \$3 million in federal funding received in 2002, noting that Florida appropriated \$4.5 million and has pledged an additional \$4.5 million for this year and hoped that additional federal money could assist in a ridership study and related planning for the project.

- It was noted that if the state has a viable project containing the necessary elements, federal funding would be available. Most likely, funding will be available on a 50 percent federal-50 percent state cost-sharing basis. It is essential that Florida complete some of the projects to which federal funds have been contributed, including the rail projects in Miami-Dade County and the Tri-Rail project.
- Senator Sebesta noted that the High Speed Rail Authority created last year released a set of recommendations including that Florida should encourage a high level of private sector involvement in the state’s high-speed rail system, and a preliminary proposal prioritizing segments of the high speed rail route.
- Representative Johnson added that the Legislature would require an environmental impact study and a market grade ridership study as essential next steps in the process. The levels of private sector and state government funding can be determined after completion of these studies.
- Congressman Mica stressed the necessity to submit project requests to the Congressional Delegation within the next several months in order for such requests to be considered for inclusion in the reauthorization of TEA-21. Otherwise, such projects will not be eligible for funding until the next reauthorization in 2010.
- Senator Klein raised the issue that completion of the environmental study, which will impact the ridership study, may create a problem with timing. Since such studies take time to complete, Florida may not be in a position to submit such a list of project requests by the suggested deadline.