



FDOT SECRETARY JIM BOXOLD NAMES TASK FORCE TO EVALUATE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS TO RELIEVE CRITICAL I-75 CORRIDOR

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TALLAHASSEE – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Jim Boxold today announced the creation of the Interstate 75 (I-75) Relief Task Force. The Task Force will develop consensus recommendations to advise the department regarding multimodal transportation solutions that will:

- provide relief to I-75 for passengers and freight
- improve travel safety and reliability
- improve statewide and regional connectivity
- and enhance economic development opportunities.

The work of the Task Force will support the overall [Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor Study](#) with initial emphasis west of I-75 in Alachua, Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion, and Sumter counties.

FDOT Secretary Boxold said, “Florida is the third largest state in the nation with almost 100 million visitors each year. Interstate 75 is the primary gateway into Central Florida and Tampa Bay for visitors and commuters and one of the most travelled truck routes in the state, it’s critical to examine options to increase mobility and safety in this region.”

The work of this group will be modeled after the planning process established through the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force (ECFCTF), which was created in 2013 to develop recommendations for future transportation corridors in Brevard, Orange, and Osceola counties.

Bill Killingsworth, Director of the Division of Community Development at the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (FDEO) and Chair of the ECFCTF, said, “The prior task force demonstrated the value of long-range, large-scale planning for making decisions about future transportation corridors in the context of environmental stewardship, economic development, and land use decisions. We look forward to working with FDOT and the I-75 Relief Task Force to apply the same principles in this study area.”

Charles Pattison, Policy Director for 1000 Friends of Florida, who also served on that panel said, “I am pleased that the lessons learned with the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force will help to promote and implement FDOT's continuing commitment to coordinating good growth management with local, state and regional planning programs as it advances the Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Future Corridor process.”

Killingsworth and Pattison will be among those serving on the I-75 Relief Task Force, joining representatives of citizens, environmental organizations, business and economic development interests, private landowners, and local, regional and state agencies. (See attached membership list)

The Task Force is scheduled to begin meeting on December 7, 2015 and will complete its work and deliver the final report to Secretary Boxold by October 1, 2016.

Celebrating 100 Years of Innovation, Mobility and Economic Development
www.dot.state.fl.us/agencyresources/anniversary/

I-75 Relief Task Force Members

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| Florida Department of Transportation | Rich Biter, Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development (Chair) |
| Florida Department of Economic Opportunity | William B. Killingsworth, Director of Community Development (Vice-Chair) |
| Florida Department of Environmental Protection | Gary Clark, Deputy Secretary for Land and Recreation |
| North Central Florida Regional Planning Council | Scott Koons, Executive Director |
| Northeast Florida Regional Council | Brian Teeple, Executive Director |
| Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council | Avera Wynne, Planning Director |
| East Central Florida Regional Planning Council | Hugh Harling, Executive Director |
| Alachua County | The Honorable Charles Chestnut, County Commissioner |
| Citrus County | The Honorable Scott Adams, County Commissioner |
| Hernando County | The Honorable Nick Nicholson, County Commissioner |
| Levy County | The Honorable John Meeks, County Commissioner |
| Marion County | The Honorable Stan McClain, County Commissioner |
| Sumter County | The Honorable Don Hahnfeldt, County Commissioner |
| Environmental/Conservation | Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy, Audubon Florida |
| Environmental/Conservation | Janet Bowman, Director of Legislative Policy & Strategies, The Nature Conservancy |
| Growth Management/Land Use | Charles Pattison, Policy Director, 1000 Friends of Florida |
| Business/Economic Development | Rebecca Bays, Owner, Insurance Resources & Risk Management |
| Business/Economic Development | Kevin T. Sheilley, President & CEO, Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership |
| Private Landowner | Todd Powell, General Manager, Real Estate, Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. |
| Education/Research | Jane Adams, Vice President for University Relations, University of Florida |
| Citizen | Mike Sizemore |
| Florida Transportation Plan Steering Committee | The Honorable Matt Surrency, Mayor, City of Hawthorne |

