



ACAF

Annual Convention



Florida Department of Transportation

Assistant Secretary For Engineering and Operations, Will N. Watts, Jr. P.E.

June 20, 2025



FLORIDA LEADS

We know what it means to be a leader in transportation



**MOST SPACE
LAUNCHES IN THE
WORLD**



**16TH LARGEST
ECONOMY IN THE
WORLD**



**ONLY STATE WITH
4 LARGE-HUB
COMMERCIAL
AIRPORTS**



**2ND HIGHEST
AVIATION PASSENGER
BOARDINGS IN THE
U.S.**



**3 LARGEST CRUISE
PORTS IN THE
WORLD**



**MOST MEGA PROJECTS
IN FDOT'S HISTORY**
(MEGA PROJECT = \$500M+)



PENDING BUDGET

FY 2025-26

**\$15.1
BILLION**



Every dollar invested in transportation projects is expected to yield an average of **\$4.26 in economic benefits.**



Highway Construction & Maintenance
\$5.4 B



Resurfacing
\$1.5 B



Bridge Construction
\$961.2M



Rural Infrastructure
\$192 M



Seaports
\$120.7 M



Rail/Freight
\$267.4M



Aviation
\$254.9 M



Spaceports
\$90.5 M



Florida Trails
\$275.1 M



Safety Enhancements
\$253.8 M



WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN



10,500+
ACTIVE
CONTRACTS



\$19.1 B
TOTAL CONTRACT
VALUE



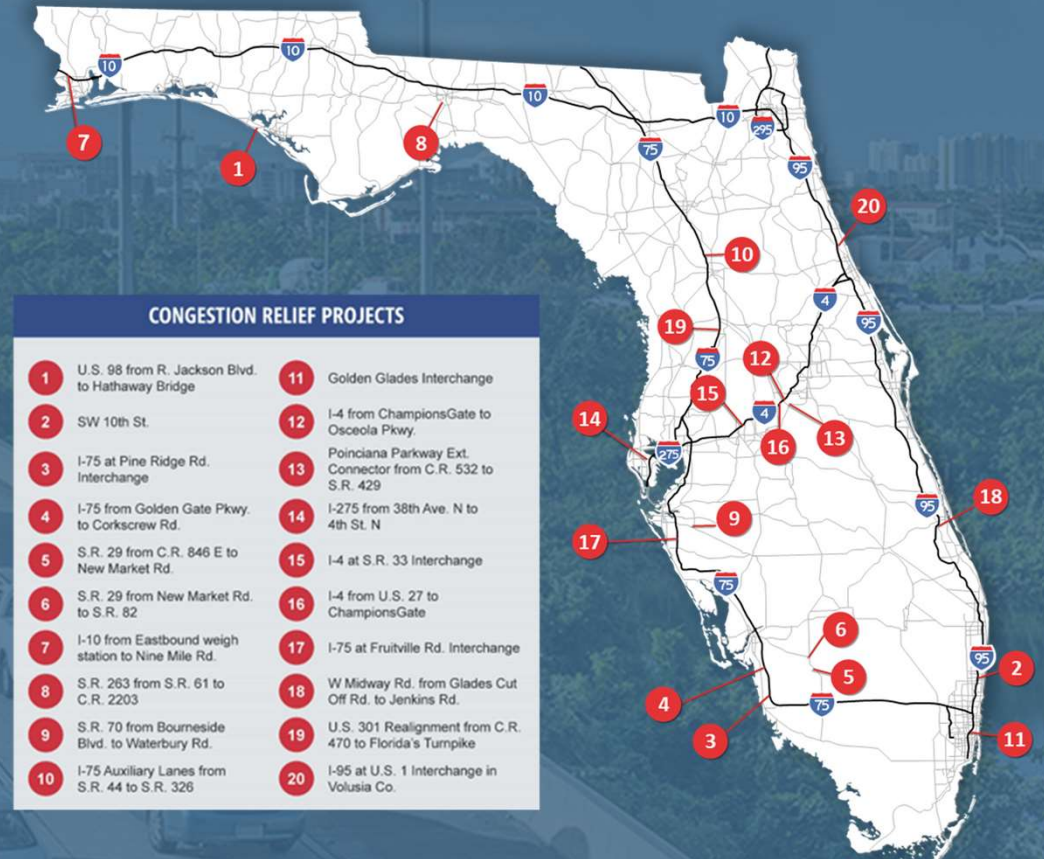
\$47 M
AVERAGE CASH
OUTFLOW PER
DAY



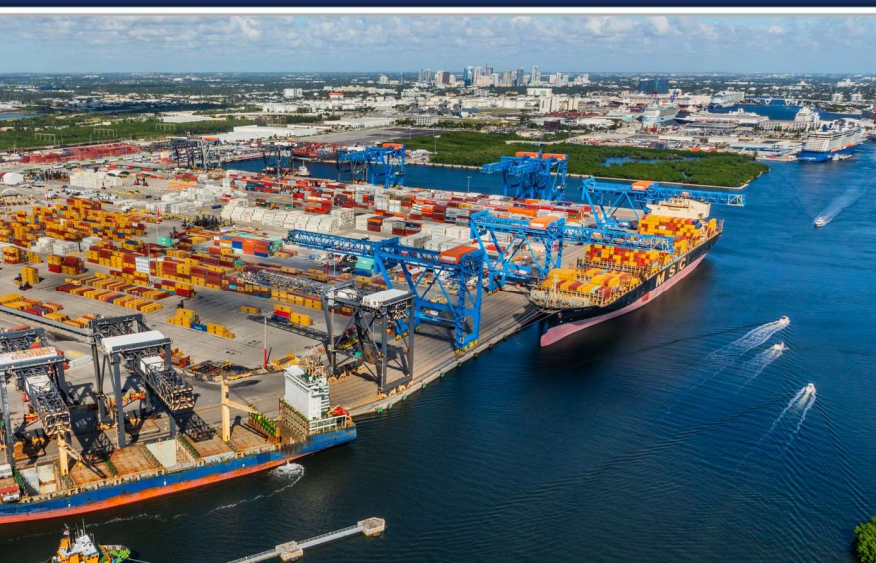
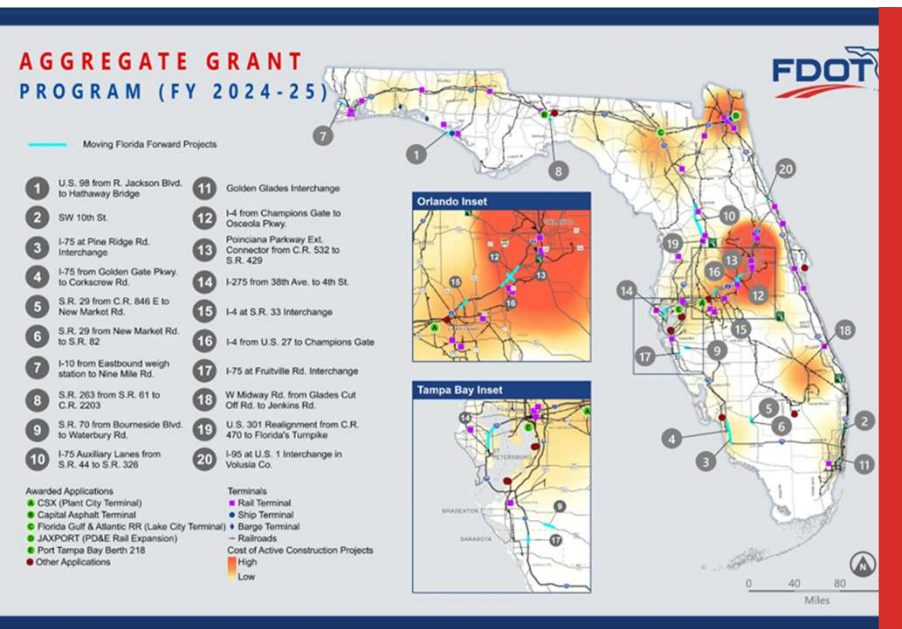
MOVING FLORIDA FORWARD UPDATE

CONSTRUCTION BEGINNING THIS YEAR:

- 1** U.S. 98 from R. Jackson Blvd. to Hathaway Bridge
- 8** S.R. 263 from S.R. 61 to C.R. 2203
- 14** I-275 from 38th Ave. N to 4th St. N
- 19** U.S. 301 Realignment from C.R. 470 to FL's Turnpike



This year, **over 70%** of Moving Florida Forward projects will officially be underway



REIMAGINING TRANSPORTATION



Research & Innovation

Aggregate Grant Program

Increases storage capacity and ensures the efficient movement of aggregate among Florida's seaport and rail network.

\$37.5 MILLION INVESTED SINCE 2024

Increase in storage capacity by
5.5 MILLION TONS

Economic impact of
\$116 MILLION
to Florida's economy



REIMAGINING TRANSPORTATION

Workforce Development

On-Site Hiring Events

Connects job seekers with opportunities across the industry, allowing for more efficient hiring processes on-the-spot.

Student STEM Classes

Teaching bridge building to high school and middle school students

Fostering Expertise

Moving I-4 Forward is creating a training culture that's larger than we've ever done.

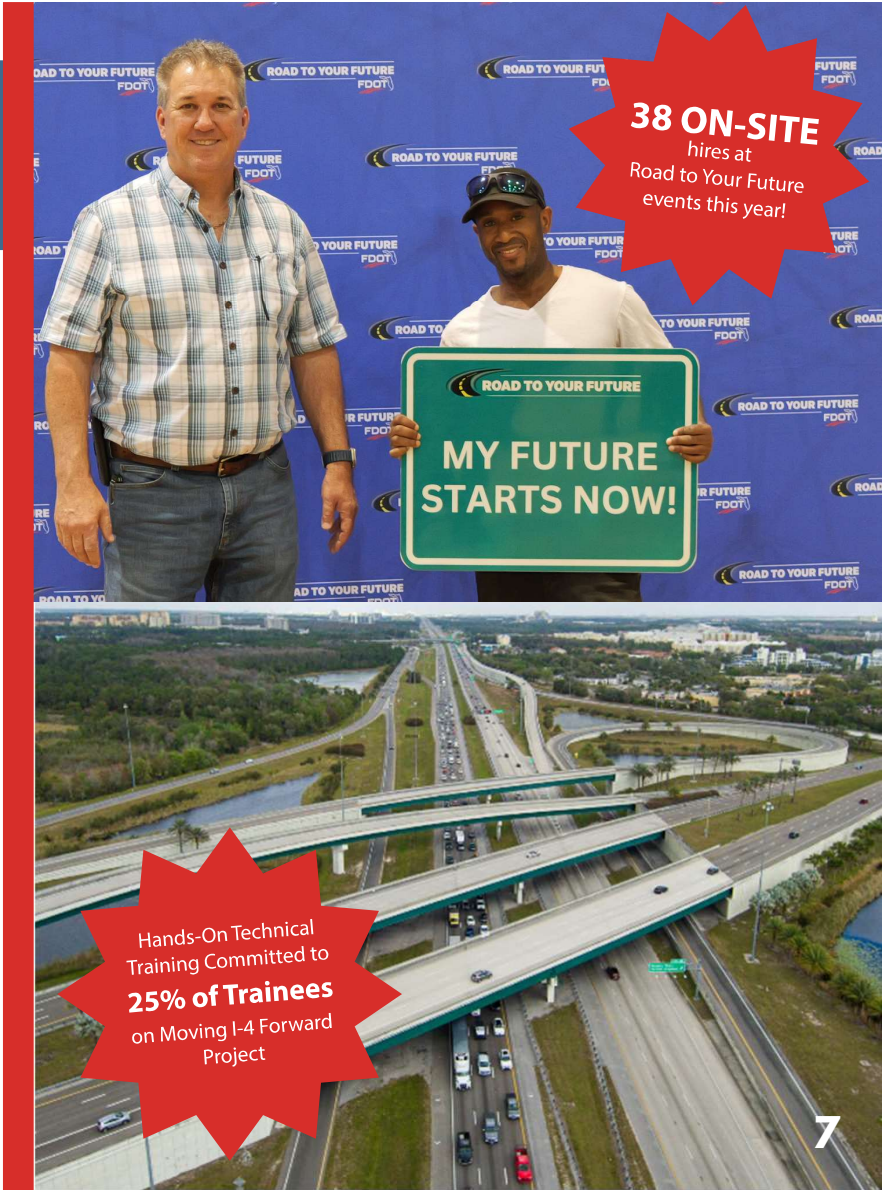
PROVIDES PATHWAYS

for experienced & entry-level professionals to thrive in our industry



NEW OPPORTUNITIES

to cultivate a highly-skilled workforce





MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

Senate Bill 1662



Workforce & Innovation

Florida Transportation Academy

- Leverages state resources and industry best-practices to offer certifications, on-the-job training, and meaningful career paths within the transportation industry.
- Creates a pipeline to enter directly into the transportation industry workforce.



CRAFT & TRADE
PROGRAMS



PROFESSIONAL
CURRICULUM



LEARNING LABS

Florida Research Institute

- Creates an institute of highly-skilled and motivated intellectuals in the transportation research industry
- Consortium of universities will work directly with FDOT to develop, research, and implement projects.
- Pools resources together to conduct research as a state rather than housed at particular universities.

University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of South Florida, Florida International University, & Indian River State College

FEDERAL REAUTHORIZATION

New Administration = Refocus on What Transportation Should Be.

NEXT
REAUTHORIZATION
OCCURS IN
2026



FEDERAL PRIORITIES SENT TO CONGRESS IN APRIL

Florida's Strategic Approach

- Focus on formula-based transportation programs
- Reduce number of discretionary grant programs
- Consider program consolidation or elimination
- Increase flexibility for states
- Reduce administrative burdens
- Improve execution of Buy America
- Recommend policies based on transportation systems performance
- Emphasis on technology and digital infrastructure
- Remove political ideologies and mandates





THANK YOU



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