	LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Senate		House
Comm: RCS		
03/19/2015		
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The Committee on Transportation (Brandes) recommended the following:

Senate Amendment (with title amendment)

3 Between lines 1714 and 1715

insert:

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Section 37. Subsections (1) and (12) of s. 311.09, F.S., are amended to read:

311.09 Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council.-

(1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council is created within the Department of

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Transportation. The council consists of the following 16 $\frac{17}{100}$ members: the port director, or the port director's designee, of each of the ports of Jacksonville, Port Canaveral, Port Citrus, Fort Pierce, Palm Beach, Port Everglades, Miami, Port Manatee, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Port St. Joe, Panama City, Pensacola, Key West, and Fernandina; the secretary of the Department of Transportation or his or her designee; and the director of the Department of Economic Opportunity or his or her designee.

(12) Until July 1, 2014, Citrus County may apply for a grant through the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council to perform a feasibility study regarding the establishment of a port in Citrus County. The council shall evaluate such application pursuant to subsections (5)-(8) and, if approved, the Department of Transportation shall include the feasibility study in its budget request pursuant to subsection (9). If the study determines that a port in Citrus County is not feasible, the membership of Port Citrus on the council shall terminate.

Section 38. Subsection (90) of section 316.003, Florida Statutes, is amended, present subsections (91) through (93) of that section are redesignated as subsections (92) through (94), respectively, and a new subsection (91) is added to that section, to read:

316.003 Definitions.—The following words and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where the context otherwise requires:

(90) AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE.—Any vehicle equipped with autonomous technology. The term "autonomous technology" means

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technology installed on a motor vehicle that has the capability to drive the vehicle on which the technology is installed without the active control or monitoring by a human operator. The term excludes a motor vehicle enabled with active safety systems or driver assistance systems, including, without limitation, a system to provide electronic blind spot assistance, crash avoidance, emergency braking, parking assistance, adaptive cruise control, lane keep assistance, lane departure warning, or traffic jam and queuing assistant, unless any such system alone or in combination with other systems enables the vehicle on which the technology is installed to drive without the active control or monitoring by a human operator.

- (91) AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGY.—Technology installed on a motor vehicle that has the capability to drive the vehicle on which the technology is installed without the active control or monitoring by a human operator.
- (95) DRIVER-ASSISTIVE TRUCK PLATOONING.—Vehicle automation technology that integrates sensor array, wireless communications, vehicle controls, and specialized software to synchronize acceleration and braking between no more than two truck tractor-semitrailer combinations, while leaving each vehicle's steering control and systems command in control of the vehicle's driver.

Section 39. Subsection (2) of section 316.0895, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

316.0895 Following too closely.-

(2) It is unlawful for the driver of any motor truck, motor truck drawing another vehicle, or vehicle towing another vehicle

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or trailer, when traveling upon a roadway outside of a business or residence district, to follow within 300 feet of another motor truck, motor truck drawing another vehicle, or vehicle towing another vehicle or trailer. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to prevent overtaking and passing nor shall the same apply upon any lane specially designated for use by motor trucks or other slow-moving vehicles. This subsection shall not apply to two track tractorsemi-trailer combinations equipped and connected with driverassistive truck platooning technology, as defined in s. 316.003, and operating on a multilane limited access facility, if the owner or operator complies with the financial responsibility requirement of s. 316.86.

Section 40. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 316.303, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

316.303 Television receivers.

- (1) No motor vehicle operated on the highways of this state shall be equipped with television-type receiving equipment so located that the viewer or screen is visible from the driver's seat, unless the vehicle is equipped with autonomous technology, as defined in s. 316.003(91), and is being operated in autonomous mode, as provided in s. 316.85(2).
- (3) This section does not prohibit the use of an electronic display used in conjunction with a vehicle navigation system or an electronic display used by an operator of a vehicle equipped with autonomous technology, as defined in s. 316.003(91), while the vehicle is being operated in autonomous mode, as provided in s. 316.85(2).

Section 41. Subsection (14) of section 316.515, Florida



Statutes, is amended to read:

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316.515 Maximum width, height, length.

(14) MANUFACTURED BUILDINGS.—The Department of Transportation may, in its discretion and upon application and good cause shown therefor that the same is not contrary to the public interest, issue a special permit for truck tractorsemitrailer combinations where the total number of overwidth deliveries of manufactured buildings, as defined in s. 553.36(13), may be reduced by permitting the use of multiple sections or single units on an overlength trailer of no more than 80 54 feet.

Section 42. Subsections (5) and (6) of section 338.231, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

338.231 Turnpike tolls, fixing; pledge of tolls and other revenues.—The department shall at all times fix, adjust, charge, and collect such tolls and amounts for the use of the turnpike system as are required in order to provide a fund sufficient with other revenues of the turnpike system to pay the cost of maintaining, improving, repairing, and operating such turnpike system; to pay the principal of and interest on all bonds issued to finance or refinance any portion of the turnpike system as the same become due and payable; and to create reserves for all such purposes.

(5) In each fiscal year while any of the bonds of the Broward County Expressway Authority series 1984 and series 1986-A remain outstanding, the department is authorized to pledge revenues from the turnpike system to the payment of principal and interest of such series of bonds and the operation and maintenance expenses of the Sawgrass Expressway, to the extent

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gross toll revenues of the Sawgrass Expressway are insufficient to make such payments. The terms of an agreement relative to the pledge of turnpike system revenue will be negotiated with the parties of the 1984 and 1986 Broward County Expressway Authority lease-purchase agreements, and subject to the covenants of those agreements. The agreement must establish that the Sawgrass Expressway is subject to the planning, management, and operating control of the department limited only by the terms of the lease-purchase agreements. The department shall provide for the payment of operation and maintenance expenses of the Sawgrass Expressway until such agreement is in effect. This pledge of turnpike system revenues is subordinate to the debt service requirements of any future issue of turnpike bonds, the payment of turnpike system operation and maintenance expenses, and subject to any subsequent resolution or trust indenture relating to the issuance of such turnpike bonds.

(5) (6) The use and disposition of revenues pledged to bonds are subject to ss. 338.22-338.241 and such regulations as the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds or such trust agreement may provide.

Section 43. Paragraph (c) of subsection (7) of section 339.175, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.-

(7) LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.-Each M.P.O. must develop a long-range transportation plan that addresses at least a 20-year planning horizon. The plan must include both longrange and short-range strategies and must comply with all other state and federal requirements. The prevailing principles to be considered in the long-range transportation plan are: preserving

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the existing transportation infrastructure; enhancing Florida's economic competitiveness; and improving travel choices to ensure mobility. The long-range transportation plan must be consistent, to the maximum extent feasible, with future land use elements and the goals, objectives, and policies of the approved local government comprehensive plans of the units of local government located within the jurisdiction of the M.P.O. Each M.P.O. is encouraged to consider strategies that integrate transportation and land use planning to provide for sustainable development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The approved long-range transportation plan must be considered by local governments in the development of the transportation elements in local government comprehensive plans and any amendments thereto. The long-range transportation plan must, at a minimum:

- (c) Assess capital investment and other measures necessary to:
- 1. Ensure the preservation of the existing metropolitan transportation system including requirements for the operation, resurfacing, restoration, and rehabilitation of major roadways and requirements for the operation, maintenance, modernization, and rehabilitation of public transportation facilities; and
- 2. Make the most efficient use of existing transportation facilities to relieve vehicular congestion, improve safety, and maximize the mobility of people and goods. Such efforts shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of infrastructure and technological improvements necessary to accommodate advances in vehicle technology, such as autonomous vehicle technology and other developments.



In the development of its long-range transportation plan, each M.P.O. must provide the public, affected public agencies, representatives of transportation agency employees, freight shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private providers of transportation, representatives of users of public transit, and other interested parties with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the long-range transportation plan. The long-range transportation plan must be approved by the M.P.O.

Section 44. Paragraph (c) is added to subsection (3) of section 339.64, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of that section is amended, to read:

339.64 Strategic Intermodal System Plan.-

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- (c) The department also shall coordinate with federal, regional, and local partners, as well as industry representatives, to consider infrastructure and technological improvements necessary to accommodate advances in vehicle technology, such as autonomous vehicle technology and other developments, in Strategic Intermodal System facilities.
- (4) The Strategic Intermodal System Plan shall include the following:
- (a) A needs assessment. Such assessment shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of infrastructure and technological improvements necessary to accommodate advances in vehicle technology, such as autonomous vehicle technology and other developments.

Section 45. Section 341.0532, Florida Statutes, is repealed.



214 Section 46. Section 341.1025, Florida Statutes, is created 215 to read: 216 341.1025 Public transit providers; transportation network 217 company agreements for the provision of public transit service.-218 A public transit provider may enter into agreements with a 219 transportation network company under which the transportation network company provides paratransit or public transit service 220 221 on behalf of the provider. As used in this section, the term 222 "transportation network company" means an entity that uses a 223 digital or software application to connect passengers to 224 services provided by transportation network company drivers. 225 Section 47. The Division of Law Revision and Information is 226 directed to create chapter 345, Florida Statutes, consisting of 227 ss. 345.0001-345.0014, Florida Statutes, to be entitled the 228 "Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Finance Authority." 229 Section 48. Section 345.0001, Florida Statutes, is created 230 to read: 231 345.0001 Short title.—This act may be cited as the 232 "Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Finance Authority Act." 233 234 Section 49. Section 345.0002, Florida Statutes, is created 235 to read: 236 345.0002 Definitions.—As used in this chapter, the term: 237 (1) "Agency of the state" means the state and any 238 department of, or any corporation, agency, or instrumentality 239 created, designated, or established by, the state. 240 (2) "Area served" means Escambia County. However, upon a 241 contiguous county's consent to inclusion within the area served 242 by the authority and with the agreement of the authority, the

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term shall also include the geographical area of such county contiguous to Escambia County.

- (3) "Authority" means the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Finance Authority, a body politic and corporate, and an agency of the state, established under this chapter.
- (4) "Bonds" means the notes, bonds, refunding bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness or obligations, in temporary or definitive form, which the authority may issue under this chapter.
 - (5) "Department" means the Department of Transportation.
- (6) "Division" means the Division of Bond Finance of the State Board of Administration.
- (7) "Federal agency" means the United States, the President of the United States, and any department of, or any bureau, corporation, agency, or instrumentality created, designated, or established by, the United States Government.
- (8) "Members" means the governing body of the authority, and the term "member" means one of the individuals constituting such governing body.
- (9) "Regional system" or "system" means, generally, a modern system of roads, bridges, causeways, tunnels, and mass transit services within the area of the authority, with access limited or unlimited as the authority may determine, and the buildings and structures and appurtenances and facilities related to the system, including all approaches, streets, roads, bridges, and avenues of access for the system.
- (10) "Revenues" means the tolls, revenues, rates, fees, charges, receipts, rentals, contributions, and other income derived from or in connection with the operation or ownership of

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a regional system, including the proceeds of any use and occupancy insurance on any portion of the system, but excluding state funds available to the authority and any other municipal or county funds available to the authority under an agreement with a municipality or county. Section 50. Section 18. Section 345.0003, Florida

Statutes, is created to read:

345.0003 Regional transportation finance authority formation and membership.-

- (1) Escambia County, alone or together with any consenting contiguous county, may form a regional finance authority for the purposes of constructing, maintaining, and operating transportation projects in the northwest region of this state. The authority shall be governed in accordance with this chapter. The area served by the authority may not be expanded beyond Escambia County without the approval of the county commission of each contiguous county that will be a part of the authority.
- (2) The governing body of the authority shall consist of a board of voting members as follows:
- (a) The county commission of each county in the area served by the authority shall appoint two members. Each member must be a resident of the county from which he or she is appointed and, if possible, must represent the business and civic interests of the community.
- (b) The Governor shall appoint an equal number of members to the board as those appointed by the county commissions. The members appointed by the Governor must be residents of the area served by the authority.
 - (c) The district secretary of the department serving in the

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district that includes Escambia County.

- (3) The term of office of each member shall be for 4 years or until his or her successor is appointed and qualified.
- (4) A member may not hold an elected office during the term of his or her membership.
- (5) A vacancy occurring in the governing body before the expiration of the member's term shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the respective appointing authority in the same manner as the original appointment.
- (6) Before entering upon his or her official duties, each member must take and subscribe to an oath before an official authorized by law to administer oaths that he or she will honestly, faithfully, and impartially perform the duties of his or her office as a member of the governing body of the authority and that he or she will not neglect any duties imposed on him or her by this chapter.
- (7) The Governor may remove from office a member of the authority for misconduct, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office.
- (8) Members of the authority shall designate a chair from among the membership.
- (9) Members of the authority shall serve without compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and other expenses in accordance with s. 112.061 while in performance of their official duties.
- (10) A majority of the members of the authority shall constitute a quorum, and resolutions enacted or adopted by a vote of a majority of the members present and voting at any meeting are effective without publication, posting, or any



330 further action of the authority. Section 51. Section 345.0004, Florida Statutes, is amended 331 332 to read: 333 345.0004 Powers and duties.-334 (1) The authority shall plan, develop, finance, construct, reconstruct, improve, own, operate, and maintain a regional 335 336 system in the area served by the authority. The authority may 337 not exercise these powers with respect to an existing system for 338 transporting people and goods by any means that is owned by 339 another entity without the consent of that entity. If the 340 authority acquires, purchases, or inherits an existing entity, 341 the authority shall inherit and assume all rights, assets, 342 appropriations, privileges, and obligations of the existing 343 entity. 344 (2) The authority may exercise all powers necessary, appurtenant, convenient, or incidental to the carrying out of 345 346 the purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, the 347 following rights and powers: 348 (a) To sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, and 349 complain and defend in all courts in its own name. 350 (b) To adopt and use a corporate seal. 351 (c) To have the power of eminent domain, including the 352 procedural powers granted under chapters 73 and 74. 353 (d) To acquire, purchase, hold, lease as a lessee, and use 354 any property, real, personal, or mixed, tangible or intangible, 355 or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for carrying out 356 the purposes of the authority. 357 (e) To sell, convey, exchange, lease, or otherwise dispose 358 of any real or personal property acquired by the authority,

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including air rights, which the authority and the department have determined is not needed for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the system.

(f) To fix, alter, charge, establish, and collect rates, fees, rentals, and other charges for the use of any system owned or operated by the authority, which rates, fees, rentals, and other charges must be sufficient to comply with any covenants made with the holders of any bonds issued under this act. This right and power may be assigned or delegated by the authority to the department.

(g) To borrow money; to make and issue negotiable notes, bonds, refunding bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness or obligations, in temporary or definitive form, to finance all or part of the improvement of the authority's system and appurtenant facilities, including the approaches, streets, roads, bridges, and avenues of access for the system and for any other purpose authorized by this chapter, the bonds to mature no more than 30 years after the date of the issuance; to secure the payment of such bonds or any part thereof by a pledge of its revenues, rates, fees, rentals, or other charges, including municipal or county funds received by the authority under an agreement between the authority and a municipality or county; and, in general, to provide for the security of the bonds and the rights and remedies of the holders of the bonds. However, municipal or county funds may not be pledged for the construction of a project for which a toll is to be charged unless the anticipated tolls are reasonably estimated by the governing board of the municipality or county, on the date of its resolution pledging the funds, to be sufficient to cover the

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principal and interest of such obligations during the period when the pledge of funds is in effect.

- 1. The authority shall reimburse a municipality or county for sums spent from municipal or county funds used for the payment of the bond obligations.
- 2. If the authority elects to fund or refund bonds issued by the authority before the maturity of the bonds, the proceeds of the funding or refunding bonds, pending the prior redemption of the bonds to be funded or refunded, shall be invested in direct obligations of the United States, and the outstanding bonds may be funded or refunded by the issuance of bonds under this chapter.
- (h) To make contracts of every name and nature, including, but not limited to, partnerships providing for participation in ownership and revenues, and to execute each instrument necessary or convenient for the conduct of its business.
- (i) Without limitation of the foregoing, to cooperate with, to accept grants from, and to enter into contracts or other transactions with any federal agency, the state, or any agency or any other public body of the state.
- (j) To employ an executive director, attorney, staff, and consultants. Upon the request of the authority, the department shall furnish the services of a department employee to act as the executive director of the authority.
- (k) To accept funds or other property from private donations.
- (1) To act and do things necessary or convenient for the conduct of its business and the general welfare of the authority, in order to carry out the powers granted to it by



this act or any other law.

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- (3) The authority may not pledge the credit or taxing power of the state or a political subdivision or agency of the state. Obligations of the authority may not be considered to be obligations of the state or of any other political subdivision or agency of the state. Except for the authority, the state or any political subdivision or agency of the state is not liable for the payment of the principal of or interest on such obligations.
- (4) The authority may not, other than by consent of the affected county or an affected municipality, enter into an agreement that would legally prohibit the construction of a road by the county or the municipality.
- (5) The authority shall comply with the statutory requirements of general application which relate to the filing of a report or documentation required by law, including the requirements of ss. 189.015, 189.016, 189.051, and 189.08.

Section 52. Section 345.0005, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0005 Bonds.-

- (1) Bonds may be issued on behalf of the authority pursuant to the State Bond Act in such principal amount as the authority determines is necessary to achieve its corporate purposes, including construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, and repair of the regional system; the acquisition cost of real property; interest on bonds during construction and for a reasonable period thereafter; and establishment of reserves to secure bonds.
 - (2) Bonds issued on behalf of the authority under



subsection (1) must:

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- (a) Be authorized by resolution of the members of the authority and bear such date or dates; mature at such time or times not exceeding 30 years after their respective dates; bear interest at a rate or rates not exceeding the maximum rate fixed by general law for authorities; be in such denominations; be in such form, either coupon or fully registered; carry such registration, exchangeability, and interchangeability privileges; be payable in such medium of payment and at such place or places; be subject to such terms of redemption; and be entitled to such priorities of lien on the revenues and other available moneys as such resolution or any resolution after the bonds' issuance provides.
- (b) Be sold at public sale in the manner provided in the State Bond Act. Temporary bonds or interim certificates may be issued to the purchaser or purchasers of such bonds pending the preparation of definitive bonds and may contain such terms and conditions as determined by the authority.
- (3) A resolution that authorizes bonds may specify provisions that must be part of the contract with the holders of the bonds as to:
- (a) The pledging of all or any part of the revenues, available municipal or county funds, or other charges or receipts of the authority derived from the regional system.
- (b) The construction, reconstruction, improvement, extension, repair, maintenance, and operation of the system, or any part or parts of the system, and the duties and obligations of the authority with reference thereto.
 - (c) Limitations on the purposes to which the proceeds of

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the bonds, then or thereafter issued, or of any loan or grant by any federal agency or the state or any political subdivision of the state may be applied.

- (d) The fixing, charging, establishing, revising, increasing, reducing, and collecting of tolls, rates, fees, rentals, or other charges for use of the services and facilities of the system or any part of the system.
- (e) The setting aside of reserves or sinking funds and the regulation and disposition of such reserves or sinking funds.
 - (f) Limitations on the issuance of additional bonds.
- (g) The terms of any deed of trust or indenture securing the bonds, or under which the bonds may be issued.
- (h) Any other or additional matters, of like or different character, which in any way affect the security or protection of the bonds.
- (4) The authority may enter into deeds of trust, indentures, or other agreements with banks or trust companies within or without the state, as security for such bonds, and may, under such agreements, assign and pledge any of the revenues and other available moneys, including any available municipal or county funds, under the terms of this chapter. The deed of trust, indenture, or other agreement may contain provisions that are customary in such instruments or that the authority may authorize, including, but without limitation, provisions that:
- (a) Pledge any part of the revenues or other moneys lawfully available.
 - (b) Apply funds and safeguard funds on hand or on deposit.
 - (c) Provide for the rights and remedies of the trustee and



the holders of the bonds.

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- (d) Provide for the terms of the bonds or for resolutions authorizing the issuance of the bonds.
- (e) Provide for any additional matters, of like or different character, which affect the security or protection of the bonds.
- (5) Bonds issued under this act are negotiable instruments and have the qualities and incidents of negotiable instruments under the law merchant and the negotiable instruments law of the state.
- (6) A resolution that authorizes the issuance of authority bonds and pledges the revenues of the system must require that revenues of the system be periodically deposited into appropriate accounts in sufficient sums to pay the costs of operation and maintenance of the system for the current fiscal year as set forth in the annual budget of the authority and to reimburse the department for any unreimbursed costs of operation and maintenance of the system from prior fiscal years before revenues of the system are deposited into accounts for the payment of interest or principal owing or that may become owing on such bonds.
- (7) State funds may not be used or pledged to pay the principal of or interest on any authority bonds, and all such bonds must contain a statement on their face to this effect.
- Section 52. Section 345.0006, Florida Statutes, is created to read:
 - 345.0006 Remedies of bondholders.-
- (1) The rights and the remedies granted to authority bondholders under this chapter are in addition to and not in

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limitation of any rights and remedies lawfully granted to such bondholders by the resolution or indenture providing for the issuance of bonds, or by any deed of trust, indenture, or other agreement under which the bonds may be issued or secured. If the authority defaults in the payment of the principal or interest on the bonds issued under this chapter after such principal or interest becomes due, whether at maturity or upon call for redemption, as provided in the resolution or indenture, and such default continues for 30 days, or if the authority fails or refuses to comply with this chapter or any agreement made with, or for the benefit of, the holders of the bonds, the holders of 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the bonds then outstanding are entitled as of right to the appointment of a trustee to represent such bondholders for the purposes of the default if the holders of 25 percent in aggregate principal amount of the bonds then outstanding first give written notice to the authority and to the department of their intention to appoint a trustee.

- (2) The trustee and a trustee under a deed of trust, indenture, or other agreement may, or upon the written request of the holders of 25 percent or such other percentages specified in any deed of trust, indenture, or other agreement, in principal amount of the bonds then outstanding, shall, in any court of competent jurisdiction, in its own name:
- (a) By mandamus or other suit, action, or proceeding at law, or in equity, enforce all rights of the bondholders, including the right to require the authority to fix, establish, maintain, collect, and charge rates, fees, rentals, and other charges, adequate to carry out any agreement as to, or pledge

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of, the revenues, and to require the authority to carry out any other covenants and agreements with or for the benefit of the bondholders, and to perform its and their duties under this chapter.

- (b) Bring suit upon the bonds.
- (c) By action or suit in equity, require the authority to account as if it were the trustee of an express trust for the bondholders.
- (d) By action or suit in equity, enjoin any acts or things that may be unlawful or in violation of the rights of the bondholders.
- (3) A trustee, if appointed under this section or acting under a deed of trust, indenture, or other agreement, and regardless of whether all bonds have been declared due and payable, is entitled to the appointment of a receiver. The receiver may enter upon and take possession of the system or the facilities or any part or parts of the system, the revenues, and other pledged moneys, for and on behalf of and in the name of, the authority and the bondholders. The receiver may collect and receive revenues and other pledged moneys in the same manner as the authority. The receiver shall deposit such revenues and moneys in a separate account and apply all such revenues and moneys remaining after allowance for payment of all costs of operation and maintenance of the system in such manner as the court directs. In a suit, action, or proceeding by the trustee, the fees, counsel fees, and expenses of the trustee, and the receiver, if any, and all costs and disbursements allowed by the court must be a first charge on any revenues after payment of the costs of operation and maintenance of the system. The

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trustee also has all other powers necessary or appropriate for the exercise of any functions specifically described in this section or incident to the representation of the bondholders in the enforcement and protection of their rights.

(4) A receiver appointed pursuant to this section to operate and maintain the system or a facility or a part of a facility may not sell, assign, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of any of the assets belonging to the authority. The powers of the receiver are limited to the operation and maintenance of the system or any facility or part of a facility and to the collection and application of revenues and other moneys due the authority, in the name and for and on behalf of the authority and the bondholders. A holder of bonds or a trustee does not have the right in any suit, action, or proceeding, at law or in equity, to compel a receiver, or a receiver may not be authorized or a court may not direct a receiver, to sell, assign, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of any assets of whatever kind or character belonging to the authority.

Section 53. Section 345.0007, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0007 Department to construct, operate, and maintain facilities.-

(1) The department is the agent of the authority for the purpose of performing all phases of a project, including, but not limited to, constructing improvements and extensions to the system, with the exception of the transit facilities. The division and the authority shall provide to the department complete copies of the documents, agreements, resolutions, contracts, and instruments that relate to the project and shall

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request that the department perform the construction work, including the planning, surveying, design, and actual construction of the completion of, extensions of, and improvements to the system. After the issuance of bonds to finance construction of an improvement or addition to the system, the division and the authority shall transfer to the credit of an account of the department in the State Treasury the necessary funds for construction. The department shall proceed with construction and use the funds for the purpose authorized by law for construction of roads and bridges. The authority may alternatively, with the consent and approval of the department, elect to appoint a local agency certified by the department to administer federal aid projects in accordance with federal law as the authority's agent for the purpose of performing each phase of a project.

- (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), the department is the agent of the authority for the purpose of operating and maintaining the system, with the exception of transit facilities. The costs incurred by the department for operation and maintenance shall be reimbursed from revenues of the system. The appointment of the department as agent for the authority does not create an independent obligation on the part of the department to operate and maintain a system. The authority shall remain obligated as principal to operate and maintain its system, and the authority's bondholders do not have an independent right to compel the department to operate or maintain the authority's system.
- (3) The authority shall fix, alter, charge, establish, and collect tolls, rates, fees, rentals, and other charges for the

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authority's facilities, as otherwise provided in this chapter. Section 54. Section 345.0008, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 345.0008 Department contributions to authority projects.

- (1) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, the department may, at the request of the authority, pay all or part of the cost of financial, engineering, or traffic feasibility studies or of the design, financing, acquisition, or construction of an authority project or portion of the system that is included in the 10-year Strategic Intermodal Plan.
- (a) Pursuant to chapter 216, the department shall include funding for such payments in its legislative budget request. The request for funding may be included in the 5-year Tentative Work Program developed under s. 339.135; however, it must appear as a distinct funding item in the legislative budget request and must be supported by a financial feasibility test provided by the department.
- (b) Funding provided for authority projects shall appear in the General Appropriations Act as a distinct fixed capital outlay item and must clearly identify the related authority project.
- (c) The department may not make a budget request to fund the acquisition or construction of a proposed authority project unless the estimated net revenues of the proposed project will be sufficient to pay at least 50 percent of the annual debt service on the bonds associated with the project by the end of 12 years of operation and at least 100 percent of the debt service on the bonds by the end of 30 years of operation.
 - (2) The department may use its engineers and other

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678 personnel, including consulting engineers and traffic engineers, 679 to conduct the feasibility studies authorized under subsection 680 (1).681

- (3) The department may participate in authority-funded projects that, at a minimum:
- (a) Serve national, statewide, or regional functions and function as part of an integrated regional transportation system.
- (b) Are identified in the capital improvements element of a comprehensive plan that has been determined to be in compliance with part II of chapter 163. Further, the project shall be in compliance with local government comprehensive plan policies relative to corridor management.
- (c) Are consistent with the Strategic Intermodal System Plan developed under s. 339.64.
- (d) Have a commitment for local, regional, or private financial matching funds as a percentage of the overall project cost.
- (4) Before approval, the department must determine that the proposed project:
 - (a) Is in the public's best interest;
- (b) Does not require state funding, unless the project is on the State Highway System;
- (c) Has adequate safeguards in place to ensure that no additional costs will be imposed on or service disruptions will affect the traveling public and residents of this state if the department cancels or defaults on the agreement; and
- (d) Has adequate safequards in place to ensure that the department and the authority have the opportunity to add

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capacity to the proposed project and other transportation facilities serving similar origins and destinations.

- (5) An obligation or expense incurred by the department under this section is a part of the cost of the authority project for which the obligation or expense was incurred. The department may require that money contributed by the department under this section be repaid from tolls of the project on which the money was spent, other revenue of the authority, or other sources of funds.
- (6) The department shall receive from the authority a share of the authority's net revenues equal to the ratio of the department's total contributions to the authority under this section to the sum of: the department's total contributions under this section; contributions by any local government to the cost of revenue-producing authority projects; and the sale proceeds of authority bonds after payment of costs of issuance. For the purpose of this subsection, the net revenues of the authority are determined by deducting from gross revenues the payment of debt service, administrative expenses, operations and maintenance expenses, and all reserves required to be established under any resolution under which authority bonds are issued.

Section 55. Section 345.0009, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0009 Acquisition of lands and property.-

(1) For the purposes of this chapter, the authority may acquire private or public property and property rights, including rights of access, air, view, and light, by gift, devise, purchase, condemnation by eminent domain proceedings, or

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transfer from another political subdivision of the state, as the authority may find necessary for any of the purposes of this chapter, including, but not limited to, any lands reasonably necessary for securing applicable permits, areas necessary for management of access, borrow pits, drainage ditches, water retention areas, rest areas, replacement access for landowners whose access is impaired due to the construction of a facility, and replacement rights-of-way for relocated rail and utility facilities; for existing, proposed, or anticipated transportation facilities on the system or in a transportation corridor designated by the authority; or for the purposes of screening, relocation, removal, or disposal of junkyards and scrap metal processing facilities. Each authority shall also have the power to condemn any material and property necessary for such purposes.

- (2) The authority shall exercise the right of eminent domain conferred under this section in the manner provided by law.
- (3) An authority that acquires property for a transportation facility or in a transportation corridor is not liable under chapter 376 or chapter 403 for preexisting soil or groundwater contamination due solely to its ownership. This section does not affect the rights or liabilities of any past or future owners of the acquired property or the liability of any governmental entity for the results of its actions which create or exacerbate a pollution source. The authority and the Department of Environmental Protection may enter into interagency agreements for the performance, funding, and reimbursement of the investigative and remedial acts necessary

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for property acquired by the authority.

Section 56. Section 345.001, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.001 Cooperation with other units, boards, agencies, and individuals.—A county, municipality, drainage district, road and bridge district, school district, or any other political subdivision, board, commission, or individual in, or of, the state may make and enter into a contract, lease, conveyance, partnership, or other agreement with the authority which complies with this chapter. The authority may make and enter into contracts, leases, conveyances, partnerships, and other agreements with any political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the state and any federal agency, corporation, or individual to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

Section 57. Section 345.0011, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0011 Covenant of the state.—The state pledges to, and agrees with, any person, firm, or corporation, or federal or state agency subscribing to or acquiring the bonds to be issued by the authority for the purposes of this chapter that the state will not limit or alter the rights vested by this chapter in the authority and the department until all bonds at any time issued, together with the interest thereon, are fully paid and discharged insofar as the rights vested in the authority and the department affect the rights of the holders of bonds issued under this chapter. The state further pledges to, and agrees with, the United States that if a federal agency constructs or contributes any funds for the completion, extension, or

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improvement of the system, or any parts of the system, the state will not alter or limit the rights and powers of the authority and the department in any manner that is inconsistent with the continued maintenance and operation of the system or the completion, extension, or improvement of the system, or that would be inconsistent with the due performance of any agreements between the authority and any such federal agency, and the authority and the department shall continue to have and may exercise all powers granted in this section, so long as the powers are necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this chapter and the purposes of the United States in the completion, extension, or improvement of the system, or any part of the system.

Section 58. Section 345.0012, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0012 Exemption from taxation.—The authority created under this chapter is for the benefit of the people of the state, for the increase of their commerce and prosperity, and for the improvement of their health and living conditions. The authority performs essential governmental functions under this chapter, therefore, the authority is not required to pay any taxes or assessments of any kind or nature upon any property acquired or used by it for such purposes, or upon any rates, fees, rentals, receipts, income, or charges received by it. Also, the bonds issued by the authority, their transfer and the income from their issuance, including any profits made on the sale of the bonds, shall be free from taxation by the state or by any political subdivision, taxing agency, or instrumentality of the state. The exemption granted by this section does not

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apply to any tax imposed by chapter 220 on interest, income, or profits on debt obligations owned by corporations.

Section 59. Section 345.0013, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0013 Eligibility for investments and security.—Bonds or other obligations issued under this chapter are legal investments for banks, savings banks, trustees, executors, administrators, and all other fiduciaries, and for all state, municipal, and other public funds, and are also securities eligible for deposit as security for all state, municipal, or other public funds, notwithstanding any other law to the contrary.

Section 60. Section 345.0014, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

345.0014 Applicability.-

(1) The powers conferred by this chapter are in addition to the powers conferred by other laws and do not repeal any other general or special law or local ordinance, but supplement them, and provide a complete method for the exercise of the powers granted in this chapter. The extension and improvement of a system, and the issuance of bonds under this chapter to finance all or part of the cost of such extension or improvement, may be accomplished through compliance with this chapter without regard to or necessity for compliance with the limitations or restrictions contained in any other general, special, or local law, including, but not limited to, s. 215.821. Approval of any bonds issued under this act by the qualified electors or qualified electors who are freeholders in the state or in any political subdivision of the state is not required for the



852 issuance of such bonds under this chapter. (2) This act does not repeal, rescind, or modify any other 853 854 law relating to the State Board of Administration, the 855 Department of Transportation, or the Division of Bond Finance of 856 the State Board of Administration; however, this chapter 857 supersedes any other law that is inconsistent with its 858 provisions, including, but not limited to, s. 215.821. 859 Section 61. (1) The Commission for the Transportation 860 Disadvantaged, in cooperation with the Center for Urban 861 Transportation Research, shall develop and implement a pilot 862 program with at least one community transportation coordinator 863 to assess the potential for increasing accessibility and cost 864 effectiveness made possible through use of a transportation 865 network company as a transportation operator. As used in this 866 section, the term "transportation network company" means an 867 entity that uses a digital or software application to connect 868 passengers to services provided by transportation network 869 company drivers. 870 (2) The pilot program must allow for one or more 871 transportation network companies to provide all or some 872 nonsponsored paratransit services to eligible transportation 873 disadvantaged persons for no less than 6 months. A participating 874 transportation network company shall comply with all relevant 875 standards for transportation operators as required under s. 876 427.013(9), Florida Statutes. 877 (3) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, the 878 commission may expend up to \$750,000 for the pilot program. 879 (4) The commission shall present the findings of the pilot

program in a report to the chairs of the appropriate Senate and

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House Committees by October 1, 2016.

Section 62. (1) LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND INTENT.-The Legislature recognizes that the existing fuel tax structure used to derive revenues for the funding of transportation projects in this state will soon be inadequate to meet the state's needs. To address this emerging need, the Legislature directs the Center for Urban Transportation Research to establish an extensive study on the impact of implementing a system that charges drivers based on the vehicle miles traveled as an alternative, sustainable source of transportation funding and to establish the framework for implementation of a pilot demonstration project. The Legislature recognizes that, over time, the current fuel tax structure has become less viable as the primary funding source for transportation projects. While the fuel tax has functioned as a true user fee for decades, significant increases in mandated vehicle fuel efficiency and the introduction of electric and hybrid vehicles have significantly eroded the revenues derived from this tax. The Legislature also recognizes that there are legitimate privacy concerns related to a tax mechanism that would charge users of the highway system on the basis of miles traveled. Other concerns include the cost of implementing such a system and institutional issues associated with revenue sharing. Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature that this study and demonstration design will, at a minimum, address these issues. To accomplish this task, the Center for Urban Transportation Research in consultation with the Florida Transportation Commission shall establish a project advisory board to assist the center in analyzing this alternative funding concept and in developing specific elements

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of the pilot project that will demonstrate the feasibility of transitioning Florida to a transportation funding system based on vehicle miles traveled.

- (2) VEHICLE-MILES-TRAVELED STUDY.-The Center for Urban Transportation Research shall conduct a study on the viability of implementing a system in this state which charges drivers based on their vehicle miles traveled as an alternative to the present fuel tax structure to fund transportation projects. The study will inventory previous research and findings from pilot projects being conducted in other states. The study will address at a minimum previous work conducted in these broad areas: assessment of technologies; behavioral and privacy concerns; equity impacts; and policy implications of a vehicle miles traveled road charging system. The effort will also quantify the current costs to collect traditional highway user fees. This study will synthesize findings of completed research and demonstrations in the area of vehicle-miles-traveled charges and analyze their applicability to Florida. The Center for Urban Transportation Research shall present the findings of this study phase to the Legislature no later than January 30, 2016.
 - (3) VEHICLE-MILES-TRAVELED PILOT PROJECT DESIGN.-
- (a) In the course of the study, the Center for Urban Transportation Research in consultation with the Florida Transportation Commission shall establish the framework for a pilot project that will evaluate the feasibility of implementing a system that charges drivers based on their vehicle miles traveled.
- (b) In the design of the pilot project framework, the Center for Urban Transportation Research shall address at a



minimum these elements: the geographic location for the pilot; special fleets or classes of vehicles; evaluation criteria for the demonstration; consumer choice in the method of reporting miles traveled; privacy options for participants in the pilot project; the recording of miles traveled with and without locational information; records retention and destruction; and cyber security.

- (c) Contingent upon legislative appropriation, the Center for Urban Transportation Research may expend up to \$400,000 for the study and pilot project design.
- (d) The pilot project design shall be completed no later than December 31, 2016, and submitted in a report to the Legislature so that implementation of a pilot project can occur in 2017.

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955 ========== T I T L E A M E N D M E N T ========= 956 And the title is amended as follows:

Delete line 195

958 and insert:

> in a reference thereto; amending s. 311.09, F.S.; reducing the number of members of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council; removing Port Citrus from membership on the Council; deleting dated authorization of Port Citrus to apply for a certain grant to perform a certain feasibility study; deleting direction to the Council to evaluate the application; deleting direction to the Department of Transportation to include the feasibility study in

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its budget request under certain conditions; deleting provisions terminating the membership of Port Citrus on the Council under certain conditions; amending s. 316.003, F.S.; making technical changes; defining the term "driver-assistive truck platooning:" amending s. 316.0895, F.S., providing that provisions prohibiting a driver from following certain vehicles within a certain distance do not apply to truck tractorsemitrailer combinations under certain conditions; providing for financial responsibility; amending s. 316.303, F.S.; providing exceptions to the prohibition of certain television-type receiving equipment and certain electronic displays in vehicles; amending s. 316.515, F.S.; authorizing the Department of Transportation to permit truck tractor-semitrailer combinations where the total number of overwidth deliveries of manufactured buildings may be reduced by the transport of multiple sections or single units on an overlength trailer of no more than a specified length under certain circumstances; amending s. 338.231, F.S.; deleting provisions relating to using the revenues from the turnpike system to pay the principal and interest of a specified series of bonds and certain expenses of the Sawgrass Expressway; amending s. 339.175, F.S.; requiring certain longrange transportation plans to include assessment of capital investment and other measures necessary to make the most efficient use of existing transportation facilities to improve safety; requiring the

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assessments to include consideration of infrastructure and technological improvements necessary to accommodate advances in vehicle technology; amending s. 339.64, F.S.; requiring the Department of Transportation to coordinate with certain partners and industry representatives to consider infrastructure and technological improvements necessary to accommodate advances in vehicle technology in Strategic Intermodal System facilities; requiring the Strategic Intermodal System Plan to include a needs assessment regarding such infrastructure and technological improvements; repealing s. 341.0532, F.S., relating to statewide transportation corridors; creating s. 341.1025, F.S.; authorizing a public transit provider to enter into agreements with a transportation network company for the provision of certain transit services; defining the term "transportation network company"; providing a directive to the Division of Law Revision and Information; creating s. 345.0001, F.S.; providing a short title; creating s. 345.0002, F.S.; defining terms; creating s. 345.0003, F.S.; authorizing certain counties to form the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Finance Authority to construct, maintain, or operate transportation projects in a given region of the state; specifying procedural requirements; creating s. 345.0004, F.S.; specifying the powers and duties of the authority, subject to certain restrictions; requiring that the authority

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comply with certain reporting and documentation requirements; creating s. 345.0005, F.S.; authorizing the issuing of bonds on behalf of the authority under the State Bond Act and by the authority itself; specifying requirements and restrictions for such bonds under certain circumstances; creating s. 345.0006, F.S.; providing rights and remedies of bondholders; creating s. 345.0007, F.S.; designating the Department of Transportation as the agent of the authority for specified purposes; authorizing the administration and management of projects by the department; limiting the powers of the department as an agent; establishing the fiscal responsibilities of the authority; creating s. 345.0008, F.S.; authorizing the department to provide for or commit its resources for the authority project or system, if approved by the Legislature, subject to legislative budget request procedures and prohibitions and appropriation procedures; authorizing the payment of expenses incurred by the department on behalf of the authority; requiring the department to receive a share of the revenue from the authority; providing calculations for disbursement of revenues; creating s. 345.0009, F.S.; authorizing the authority to acquire private or public property and property rights for a project or plan; establishing the rights and liabilities and remedial actions relating to property acquired for a transportation project or corridor; creating s. 345.001, F.S.; authorizing contracts between

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governmental entities and the authority; creating s. 345.0011, F.S.; pledging that the state will not limit or alter the vested rights of the authority or the department with regard to any issued bonds or other rights relating to the bonds if they affect the rights of bondholders; creating s. 345.0012, F.S.; exempting the authority from certain taxes and assessments; providing exceptions; creating s. 345.0013, F.S.; providing that bonds or obligations issued under this chapter are legal investments for specified entities; creating s. 345.0014, F.S.; providing applicability; directing the Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, in cooperation with the Center for Urban Transportation Research, to develop and implement a pilot program with at least one community transportation coordinator relating to the use of a transportation network company as a transportation operator; defining the term "transportation network company"; specifying requirements and restrictions of the pilot program; requiring the commission to present a report to the chairs of the appropriate Senate and House committees by a certain date; providing legislative findings and intent relating to transportation funding; directing the Center for Urban Transportation Research to conduct a study on implementing a system in this state which charges drivers based on their vehicle miles traveled as an alternative to the present fuel tax structure to fund transportation projects; specifying requirements of

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the study; requiring that the findings of the study be presented to the Legislature by a certain date; directing the center in consultation with the Florida Transportation Commission to establish the framework for a pilot project that will evaluate the feasibility of implementing a system that charges drivers based on their vehicle miles traveled; specifying requirements for the design of the pilot project framework; authorizing the center to expend up to a certain amount for the study and pilot project design contingent upon legislative appropriation; requiring that the pilot project design be completed by a certain date and submitted in a report to the Legislature; providing an effective date.