

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Appropriations Committee

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BILL: SB 7054

INTRODUCER: Appropriations Committee

SUBJECT: Department of Transportation

DATE: March 18, 2015

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST

Miller

STAFF DIRECTOR

Kynoch

REFERENCE

ACTION

**AP Submitted as Committee Bill**

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## I. Summary:

SB 7054 redirects the portion of the \$225 additional fee imposed on initial registration of motor vehicles (referred to as the “New Wheels Fee”) that currently is deposited into the General Revenue Fund to the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF). The bill further specifies how the revenues from this fee are to be used by the Florida Department of Transportation. The designated uses include the following programs and amounts:

- The Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network - \$25 million.
- The New Starts Transit Program - 3.4 percent (\$7.1 million).
- The Small County Outreach Program - 5 percent (\$10.2 million).
- The Florida Strategic Intermodal System - 20.6 percent (\$42.5 million).
- The Transportation Regional Incentive Program - 6.9 percent (\$14.2 million).
- All remaining funds for any transportation purpose authorized by law.

The bill creates the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SunTrail) network, which is a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System. The statewide SunTrail network consists of multiuse trails or shared-use paths separated from motor vehicle traffic and constructed with asphalt, concrete or other hard surface which provides nonmotorized transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians statewide. The bill also provides legislative findings and intent related to the SunTrail network, and includes provisions for the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of the network components. The bill requires the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to annually allocate \$50 million for the SunTrail network in the FDOT work program.

The Revenue Estimating Conference has not met on this bill, but staff estimates that the bill will increase the distribution of the New Wheels fee revenue to the STTF from \$107 million to \$206 million, or a positive fiscal impact of \$99 million. There would be a corresponding negative fiscal impact of \$99 million to the General Revenue Fund. These estimated impacts are for the 2015-2016 fiscal year; future impacts would be on a recurring basis with the impact depending on the amount of New Wheels Fee revenue collected.

The bill provides and effective date of July 1, 2015.

## II. Present Situation:

### New Wheels Fee

Section 320.072, F.S., provides for the New Wheels Fee. Section 320.072(1), F.S., provides for a fee of \$225 on the initial application for registration of automobiles, light truck, motorhomes and truck campers. Section 320.072(4), F.S., provides that 44.5 percent of that fee is deposited into the State Transportation Trust Fund, 41.2 percent is deposited into the General Revenue Fund and 14.3 percent is deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund.

The fee was first established in 1989, and is designed primarily to affect only those vehicle owners whose actions result in net additions to the state's number of registered vehicles. This is accomplished by exempting several kinds of registration transactions such as trade-ins and transfers of title between family members living in the same house; and by allowing refunds of the fee, if another eligible vehicle is disposed of within 90 days. The fee applies only to automobiles, light trucks, and certain recreational vehicles.

### Trail Development

The development of Florida's bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure did not begin in earnest until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The American railroad industry was deregulated by the Staggers Rail Act of 1980, providing Florida with an immediate abundance of abandoned rail corridors.<sup>1</sup> Organizations such as The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land, the FDOT, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) coordinated to develop numerous abandoned rail corridors as shared-use "rail-trails" for nonmotorized transportation and recreation. Many of Florida's premier nonmotorized trails, including the Pinellas Trail, the Tallahassee-St. Marks Trail, and the West Orange Trail, are a result of rail-trail conversions.

The second major thrust in trail development came in 1991 when Congress shifted surface transportation policy through passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act.<sup>2</sup> For the first time, pedestrian and bicycle facilities were identified as components of the nation's transportation infrastructure, and a dedicated funding source was created for multiuse trails and paths with local governments serving as project sponsors.<sup>3</sup> Many of the resulting projects are community-centric, short-distance trails, initiated by local governments and other governmental entities not traditionally associated with transportation development, such as water management districts and school districts.

### Trail Connectivity

While many locales have benefited from federal trail funding, an unintended consequence of trail development being initiated by numerous state entities and local governments is a collection of random trails rather than a statewide system. As a result, many trails lack connectivity with other

<sup>1</sup> Pub. Law No. 96-448, H.R. 72365, 96th Cong. (Oct. 14, 1980).

<sup>2</sup> Pub. Law No. 102-240, H.R. 2950, 102nd Cong. (Dec. 18, 1991).

<sup>3</sup> Joe Maher, *Federal Funding for Conservation and Recreation Trails* (Feb. 2009), available at [http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-BCK-ORRG\\_DOT.pdf](http://www.rff.org/RFF/Documents/RFF-BCK-ORRG_DOT.pdf) (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

trails and often serve no meaningful origins and destinations. Trail users are often required to use roads, sidewalks, and highways to connect trails or to complete a trip. Many trail trips are “out-and-back” trips in which the origin and destination are the same location. Such trips serve little to no transportation function and do not realize the full economic potential of a trail network.

In 1995, the Legislature recognized the benefits of an expanded greenways and trails network and created the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council (FGCC).<sup>4</sup> The Legislature tasked the FGCC with promoting the creation of a statewide greenways and trails system and designated the DEP as the lead agency of the system.<sup>5</sup> The FGCC published the Connecting Florida Communities with Greenways and Trails Plan in 1998. The plan contains a multiuse recreational Opportunity Trail Map and is considered the first visioning document for connecting Florida’s greenways and trails. The plan provides a comprehensive approach to the Florida Greenways and Trails System (FGTS) by providing a review of existing greenways and trails and recommendations to complete the system. The plan recommends:

- The DEP establish a process to prioritize greenways and trails for ecological, recreational, and cultural significance;
- The DEP identify the critical linkages in the statewide greenways and trails system;
- The FGCC evaluate and prioritize greenways and trails proposed by the DEP based on:
  - Willingness of the landowner;
  - Ecological, recreational, and cultural significance;
  - Acquisition considerations;
  - Management considerations;
  - Community support; and
  - Identification of critical linkages.
- The DEP develop a process for designating lands for the statewide greenways and trails system;
- The FGCC promote awareness and generate support of the greenways and trails system;
- Encouraging landowners to voluntarily sell or donate conservation easements or fee simple title to land;
- Coordinating with owners to acquire linear facilities;
- Encouraging developers to include trails in residential areas and to link residential trails with the statewide system;
- Identifying a funding mechanism for the creation and maintenance of trail systems;
- Directing the Legislature to create the Florida Greenways and Trails Council; and
- Measuring the success of the statewide trails system by:
  - Tracking the current trail system and new land designations in a database;
  - Maintaining natural areas so they may be considered for designation or remain designated;
  - Creating a system that provides public access to a trail within 15 minutes of every Floridian; and
  - Ensuring a 95 percent satisfaction rate for visitors to greenways and trails facilities.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Chapter 95-260, Laws of Fla.

<sup>5</sup>*Id.*

<sup>6</sup> The DEP, Florida Greenways Coordinating Council, *Connecting Florida’s Communities with Greenways and Trails* (1998), available at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS\\_Plan/PDF/1998FGTSPanConnectingFlorida'sCommunities.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS_Plan/PDF/1998FGTSPanConnectingFlorida'sCommunities.pdf) (last visited Mar. 5, 2015).

In 1999, the Legislature created the Florida Greenways and Trails Council as recommended by the 1998 Connecting Communities with Greenways and Trails Plan. Section 260.0142(4), F.S., directs the council to:

- Facilitate a statewide system of interconnected landscape linkages, conservation corridors, greenbelts, recreational corridors and trails, scenic corridors, utilitarian corridors, reserves, regional parks and preserves, ecological sites, and cultural/historic/recreational sites using land-based trails that connect, urban, suburban, and rural areas of the state;
- Recommend priorities for critical links in the FGTS;
- Review recommendations for acquisition funding;
- Review designation proposals to be include in the FGTS;
- Encourage public-private partnerships;
- Review the established benchmarks and make recommendations for appropriate action;
- Recommend updates to the implementation plan for the FGTS;
- Promote greenways and trails support organizations; and
- Support the FGTS through intergovernmental coordination, budget recommendations, and any other appropriate way.

In 2008, Florida was recognized as a leader in greenways and trails and awarded the Best Trails State Award by American Trail. Although the statewide system of trails had expanded to include thousands of miles of paved, unpaved, and paddling trails to accommodate hikers, bikers, equestrians, and paddlers, many gaps to the trail system remain.<sup>7</sup>

In 2013, the DEP published the 2013-2017 Florida Greenways and Trails System Plan. The 2013-2017 plan was the first update to the FGTS since the Connecting Florida Communities with Greenways and Trails Plan was published in 1998. The updated plan provides goals for the FGTS to advance Florida's economy, tourism, health, transportation, recreation, conservation, and quality of life. Specifically, the plan:

- Establishes priorities for coordinating, directing, and focusing resources;
- Provides a new framework for systematically closing the gaps in trails and connecting priority corridors within the FGTS to establish a fully connected and integrated statewide trail network; and
- Provides linkages between additional state planning efforts and the FGTS. The additional state planning efforts include:
  - The Florida Five-year Strategic Plan for Economic Development;
  - The VISIT Florida Marketing Plan;
  - The Florida State Health Improvement Plan;
  - The Florida Transportation Plan 2060;
  - The Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan; and
  - The Cooperative Conservation Blueprint and Wildlife Action Plan.

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<sup>7</sup> The DEP, *Coast to Coast Connector, Status Report : July 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014*, available at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS\\_Plan/Long%20Distance%20Corridors/1st%20Edition%20Jan%202015.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS_Plan/Long%20Distance%20Corridors/1st%20Edition%20Jan%202015.pdf) (last visited Mar. 5, 2015).

The Coast-to-Coast Connector (C2C) is an essential component of the 2013-2017 FGTS plan and the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation “Close the Gaps” campaign.<sup>8</sup> The C2C is an approximately 275-mile system of local, regional, state, and federal trails crossing nine counties from Titusville to St. Petersburg. Approximately 200 miles of the corridor are developed or funded for completion. The remaining portion of the C2C will cost an estimated \$42 million to complete.<sup>9</sup>

Once complete, the C2C will link communities and provide a year-round ecotourism engine throughout the region. The C2C includes two of the state's most popular trails, the Pinellas Trail and the West Orange Trail, each of which have served approximately 1 million users per year and fueled the economic transformation of trail communities, particularly Dunedin and Winter Garden.<sup>10</sup> Components of the C2C will also serve other planned trails including multi-day loop trails such as the 250-mile Heart of Florida Greenway<sup>11</sup> and the 300-mile St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop<sup>12</sup>.

### ***Interagency Coordination***

The FDOT created the Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council in 2010, which includes representatives from the FDOT, state agencies, local governments, and non-profit organizations. The council provides policy recommendations for the state's walking, biking, and trail facilities to the FDOT and its partners. The primary focus of the council is to implement bicycle and pedestrian connections, promote bicycle and pedestrian safety, promote the use of design discretion to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian needs, and to promote the State Health Improvement Plan.<sup>13</sup>

The council has directed the FDOT to partner with the DEP to pursue opportunities that contribute to the full implementation of the FGTS Priority Network including:

- Considering additional right of ways for separate shared-use paths during all transportation corridor planning;
- Expanding the limited access pilot-projects;
- Developing an interagency Memoranda of Agreements to promote cooperation; and
- Working with metropolitan planning organizations and other regional entities.

### **Trail Benefits**

In addition to the intrinsic value nonmotorized travel brings to community mobility, sustainable transportation, and personal health, trails provide access to conservation lands and create wildlife corridors. Trails also produce numerous quantifiable economic benefits, including increasing the

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<sup>8</sup> The Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation is a non-profit organization that supports the mission and programs of the DEP Office of Greenways and Trails.

<sup>9</sup> *Supra* note 7.

<sup>10</sup> *Supra* note 7.

<sup>11</sup> The Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation, *Close the Gaps: Heart of Florida Greenway* (May 29, 2012), available at <http://fgtf.org/maps/hof/overview.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> ETM, *St. Johns River-to-Sea Loop Trail Status Update* (Sept 2011), available at [http://www.etmnc.com/SJR2C/sg\\_userfiles/SJR2C\\_Summary\\_Report\\_09-19-11.pdf](http://www.etmnc.com/SJR2C/sg_userfiles/SJR2C_Summary_Report_09-19-11.pdf) (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>13</sup> The DOT, *The Florida Bicycle and Pedestrian Partnership Council: 2012/2013 Annual Progress Report* (Oct. 2013), available at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped/Annualrpt2012-13.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

value of nearby properties, increasing spending at local businesses, influencing business location and relocation decisions, revitalizing depressed areas, providing sustainable tourism opportunities, and creating jobs.

### ***Property Values***

Based on an analysis of comparable trails from across the country, the construction of Miami-Dade County's Ludlam Trail will increase property values within a half mile of the trail 0.32 to 0.73 percent faster than other properties throughout the county. This translates into a total property value increase over a 25-year period of \$121 million to \$282 million.<sup>14</sup> A study of property values near trails in Delaware found that properties within 50 meters of the bike paths sell for \$8,800 more than similar homes.<sup>15</sup> A survey co-sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders and the National Association of Realtors found that proximity to nonmotorized trails came in second only to highway access when recent home buyers were asked about the "importance of community amenities."<sup>16</sup>

### ***Local Businesses and Economic Development***

An economic impact analysis of trails in Orange County, Florida, found in 2010 average spending per trail user was \$20 per visit, representing food and beverages, transportation, books and maps, bike maintenance, rentals, and more. The West Orange Trail supports 61 jobs and represents an estimated economic impact of \$5 million for downtown Winter Garden. Longer destination trails increase spending and benefit hotels, bed and breakfasts, and outdoor outfitters.<sup>17</sup> A study of the Great Allegheny Passage, a 132-mile corridor in Pennsylvania, found that users reporting longer average travel distances to the trail were more likely to spend successive days on or near the trail. Those who reported an overnight stay in conjunction with their trips averaged spending \$203 per person.<sup>18</sup> A survey on the Greenbrier River Trail, an 81-mile corridor in West Virginia, found an overwhelming majority of trail users were highly educated professionals with high income levels, two-thirds were from outside of West Virginia, 93 percent were staying in the area from one to four days, 58 percent spent between \$100 and \$500 in the area, and 93 percent indicated that they were highly likely to plan a return trip.<sup>19</sup>

### ***Revitalization of Depressed Areas***

Companies often choose locations in communities that offer a high level of amenities to employees as a means of attracting and retaining top-level workers. Trails can make

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<sup>14</sup> Miami-Dade County, Park and Recreation Department, *Miami-Dade County Trail Benefits Study: Ludlam Trail Case Study* (Jan. 2011), available at <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/Miami-Dade-Ludlam-Trail-Benefits.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>15</sup> Lindsey et al, *Property Values, Recreation Values, and Urban Greenways* (2004) available at [http://staff.washington.edu/kwolf/Archive/Classes/ESRM304\\_SocSci/304%20Soc%20Sci%20Lab%20Articles/Lindsey\\_2004.pdf](http://staff.washington.edu/kwolf/Archive/Classes/ESRM304_SocSci/304%20Soc%20Sci%20Lab%20Articles/Lindsey_2004.pdf) (Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>16</sup> National Trails Training Partnership, *Benefits of Trails and Greenways* <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/benefits/homebuyers02.html> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>17</sup> East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, *Economic Impact Analysis of Orange County Trails* available at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/economic/PDF/Orange\\_County\\_Trail\\_Report\\_final\\_May2011.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/economic/PDF/Orange_County_Trail_Report_final_May2011.pdf) (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>18</sup> The Great Allegheny Passage, *The Great Allegheny Passage Economic Impact Study (2007-2008)* available at <http://www.atatrail.org/docs/GAPEconomicImpactStudy200809.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>19</sup> ATI, *Maximizing Economic Benefits from a Rails-to-Trails Project in Southern West Virginia – A Case Study of the Greenbrier River Trail* (May 2001) available at <http://atfiles.org/files/pdf/greenbrierecon.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

communities attractive to businesses looking to expand or relocate both because of the amenities they offer to employees and the opportunities they offer to trail visitors.<sup>20</sup>

In Dunedin, Florida, after the abandoned CSX railroad was transformed into the Pinellas Trail, the downtown went from 70 percent storefront occupancy to 95 percent occupancy.<sup>21</sup>

### ***Tourism Opportunities***

The Outer Banks of North Carolina generates \$60 million in economic activity through bicycle tourism. The one-time investment of \$6.7 million on bicycle infrastructure has resulted in an annual nine-to-one return. Analysis of Outer Banks trail amenities shows bicycle tourists tend to be affluent and educated. More than half of survey respondents said bicycling had a strong influence on their decision to return to the area. Two-thirds of respondents said that riding on bike facilities made them feel safer and three-quarters said that more paths, shoulders, and lanes should be built.<sup>22</sup>

Proponents of trail development contend that the longer a given trail is, the greater its propensity for becoming a “destination trail,” and the greater distance users will travel to use the trail. Users traveling farther stay in the area longer and, consequently, increase spending in the area. Users of the Great Allegheny Passage/C&O Canal Towpath, a 335-mile system of biking and hiking trails that connects Pittsburgh to Washington, DC, travel an average of 131 miles to the trailhead. Those that traveled 50 miles or more had daily expenditures approximately two times that of users that traveled less.<sup>23</sup>

### ***Trail development creates more jobs than road development***

A national comparison of the number of jobs created per \$1 million spent on various types of transportation projects found that for every \$1 million spent on the development of multiuse trails, 9.57 jobs were created while road-only development yields 7.75 jobs.<sup>24</sup>

## **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

**Section 1** amends s. 320.072 (4), F.S., to provide for the redistribution of the New Wheels Fee of \$225 on the initial application for registration of automobiles, light truck, motorhomes and truck campers. This section of the bill increases the percentage of revenues from the fee that is to be deposited into the State Transportation Trust Fund from 44.5 percent to 85.7 percent; and eliminates the requirement that 41.2 percent of the revenues from the fee be deposited into the General Revenue Fund. The 14.3 percent that is deposited in the Highway Safety Operating

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<sup>20</sup> NPS, *Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails, and Greenway Corridors: Corporate Relocation and Retention. Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program* (1995), available at [http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rca/econ\\_all.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/pwro/rca/econ_all.pdf) (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>21</sup> The DEP, *The Impact of Trails on Communities*, available at <http://www.opportunityflorida.com/pdf/Jim%20Wood%20-%20Trails%20and%20Economic%20Impact%20-%20Rural%20Summit.pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

<sup>22</sup> NCDOT, *Pathways to Prosperity: The Economic Impact of Investments in Bicycling Facilities* (July 2004), available at [http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/download/bikeped\\_research\\_eiafulltechreport.pdf](http://www.ncdot.gov/bikeped/download/bikeped_research_eiafulltechreport.pdf) (last visited Mar. 5, 2015).

<sup>23</sup> *Supra* note 19, at 70.

<sup>24</sup> PERI, *Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure: A National Study of Employment Impacts* (June 2011), available at <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.362.5819&rep=rep1&type=pdf> (last visited Mar. 11, 2015).

Trust Fund would remain unchanged. This provision is estimated to increase the distribution of the New Wheels fee revenue to the State Transportation Trust Fund from \$107 million to a total of \$206 million, an increase of \$99 million.

This section further specifies how the revenues from this fee are to be used by the FDOT. The designated uses include the following programs and amounts (estimated amounts from percentages are shown in parentheses):

- The Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network<sup>25</sup> - \$25 million.
- The New Starts Transit Program<sup>26</sup> - 3.4 percent (\$7.1 million).
- The Small County Outreach Program<sup>27</sup> - 5 percent (\$10.2 million).
- The Florida Strategic Intermodal System<sup>28</sup> - 20.6 percent (\$42.5 million).
- The Transportation Regional Incentive Program<sup>29</sup> - 6.9 percent (\$14.2 million).
- All remaining funds for any transportation purpose authorized by law.

**Section 2** creates s. 339.81, F.S., to establish for the Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail (SunTrail) network, as a component of the Florida Greenways and Trails System.<sup>30</sup> The bill provides legislative findings and intent related to the SunTrail network. The bill specifies that SunTrails are constructed with asphalt, concrete, or another hard surface, and by the virtue of the design, location, extent of connectivity or potential connectivity, and allowable uses, provide nonmotorized transportation opportunities for bicyclists and pedestrians statewide. SunTrails would include many points of origin and destinations including, but not limited to, communities, conservation areas, state parks, beaches, and other natural or cultural attractions. A variety of statewide trip purposes would be served by the SunTrail network including work, school, shopping, social, recreational, and personal fitness purposes.

The SunTrail components would not include sidewalks, nature trails, or loop trails in a single park or natural area, or on-road facilities, other than:

- An on-road facility that is no greater than one-half mile in length connecting two or more nonmotorized trails, if the provision of the non-road facility is unfeasible and if the on-road facility is signed and marked for nonmotorized use; and
- On-road components of the Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.

The bill specifies that the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of the SunTrail network is a public purpose. The FDOT and other agencies and units of government are authorized to expend funds and accept gifts and grants of funds, property, and property rights for the development of the SunTrail network.

The bill requires the FDOT to include SunTrail network projects within the five-year work program.<sup>31</sup> The bill requires the FDOT to annually allocate \$50 million for the SunTrail network. The FDOT is authorized to enter into memoranda of agreement with other governmental entities

<sup>25</sup> Created as s. 339.81, F.S. by section 2 of this bill.

<sup>26</sup> Title 49, U.S.C. s. 5309 and s. 341.051, F.S.

<sup>27</sup> Section 339.2818, F.S.

<sup>28</sup> Sections 339.61, 339.62, 339.63, and 339.64, F.S.

<sup>29</sup> Section 339.2819, F.S.

<sup>30</sup> Established in ch. 260, F.S.

<sup>31</sup> Section 339.135, F.S.



and contract with private entities to provide maintenance services on individual components of the network and may adopt rules to assist in developing and maintaining the network. The bill also provides FDOT with authority to adopt rules related to the SunTrail network.

#### IV. Constitutional Issues:

##### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

##### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

##### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

#### V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

##### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

##### B. Private Sector Impact:

Under SB 7054, expanding the state's trail network has the potential of producing numerous economic benefits, including increasing the value of nearby properties, increasing spending at local businesses, influencing business location and relocation decisions, revitalizing depressed areas, providing sustainable tourism opportunities, and creating jobs.<sup>32</sup>

##### C. Government Sector Impact:

**Section 1** of the bill provides for the redistribution of the New Wheels Fee of \$225 on the initial application for registration of automobiles, light truck, motorhomes and truck campers. The Revenue Estimating Conference has not met on this bill, but staff estimates that the bill will increase the distribution of the New Wheels Fee revenue to the STTF from \$107 million to \$206 million, or a positive fiscal impact of \$99 million. There would be a corresponding negative fiscal impact of \$99 million to the General Revenue Fund. These estimated impacts are for the 2015-2016 fiscal year; future impacts would be on a recurring basis with the impact depending on the amount of New Wheels Fee revenue collected.

The bill further specifies how the revenues from this fee are to be used by the FDOT. The designated uses include the following programs and amounts (estimated amounts from percentages are shown in parentheses):

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<sup>32</sup> See the description of Trail Benefits beginning on page 5 above.

- The Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network - \$25 million.
- The New Starts Transit Program - 3.4 percent (\$7.1 million).
- The Small County Outreach Program - 5 percent (\$10.2 million).
- The Florida Strategic Intermodal System - 20.6 percent (\$42.5 million).
- The Transportation Regional Incentive Program - 6.9 percent (\$14.2 million).
- All remaining funds for any transportation purpose authorized by law.

**Section 2** of the bill creates the SunTrail network, and requires the FDOT to annually allocate \$50 million for the SunTrail network in the FDOT work program. This would require that in addition to the funding specified in section 1, \$25 million of other transportation resources be used annually by FDOT for the SunTrail network.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 320.072 of the Florida Statutes.

This bill creates section 339.81 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.