

By the Committees on Regulated Industries; and Transportation;  
and Senator DiCeglie

580-03186-25

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1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to transportation; amending s. 212.20,  
3       F.S.; requiring the Department of Revenue to  
4       distribute from the proceeds of a specified tax a  
5       specified amount monthly to the State Transportation  
6       Trust Fund beginning on a certain date; creating s.  
7       218.3215, F.S.; requiring each county to provide the  
8       Department of Transportation with uniform project  
9       data; providing requirements for such data; requiring  
10      the department to compile the data and publish it on  
11      its website; amending s. 316.183, F.S.; requiring the  
12      department to determine the safe and advisable minimum  
13      speed limit on certain highways; amending s. 316.187,  
14      F.S.; revising the maximum allowable speed limit on  
15      certain highways and roadways; amending s. 331.3051,  
16      F.S.; conforming provisions to changes made by the  
17      act; amending s. 332.004, F.S.; revising definitions;  
18      amending s. 332.006, F.S.; revising duties and  
19      responsibilities of the department relating to  
20      airports; amending s. 332.007, F.S.; revising  
21      provisions relating to the administration and  
22      financing of certain aviation and airport programs and  
23      projects; authorizing certain airports to participate  
24      in a specified federal program in a certain manner;  
25      authorizing the department to provide for improvements  
26      to certain entities for the capital cost of a  
27      discretionary improvement project at a public-use  
28      airport, subject to the availability of certain funds;  
29      amending s. 334.044, F.S.; authorizing the department

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30 to acquire property or property rights in advance to  
31 preserve a corridor for future proposed improvements;  
32 authorizing the department to expend from the State  
33 Transportation Trust Fund a certain amount of grant  
34 funds annually to state colleges and school districts  
35 for certain construction workforce development  
36 programs; requiring that priority be given to certain  
37 colleges and school districts; amending s. 334.065,  
38 F.S.; revising membership of the Center for Urban  
39 Transportation Research advisory board; creating s.  
40 334.63, F.S.; providing requirements for certain  
41 project concept studies and project development and  
42 environment studies; amending s. 337.11, F.S.;

43 clarifying a provision related to third-party  
44 beneficiary rights; revising the bidding and award  
45 process for contracts for road construction and  
46 maintenance projects; revising the circumstances in  
47 which the department must competitively award a phased  
48 design-build contract for phase one; authorizing a  
49 design-build firm to self-perform portions of work  
50 under a contract; requiring that contracts let by the  
51 department on or after a certain date for bridge  
52 construction or maintenance over navigable waters  
53 include protection and indemnity coverage; amending s.  
54 337.1101, F.S.; prohibiting the department from  
55 creating a new contract in certain circumstances  
56 unless the contract is competitively procured;  
57 amending s. 337.14, F.S.; authorizing the department  
58 to waive contractor certification requirements for

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59 certain projects; reducing the threshold value of  
60 contracts for which the department may waive a  
61 contract bond requirement; requiring that a contractor  
62 seeking to bid on certain maintenance contracts  
63 possess certain qualifications; amending s. 337.185,  
64 F.S.; increasing the limits of claims per contract  
65 which a contractor may submit to the State Arbitration  
66 Board; limiting the period in which an arbitration  
67 request may be made for a claim related to a written  
68 warranty or defect; amending s. 339.175, F.S.;

69 revising legislative intent; revising requirements for  
70 the designation of additional metropolitan planning  
71 organizations (M.P.O.'s); revising projects and  
72 strategies to be considered in developing an M.P.O.'s  
73 long-range transportation plan and transportation  
74 improvement program; deleting obsolete provisions;  
75 requiring the department to convene M.P.O.'s of  
76 similar size to exchange best practices at least  
77 annually; authorizing M.P.O.'s to develop committees  
78 or working groups; requiring training for new M.P.O.  
79 governing board members to be provided by the  
80 department or another specified entity; deleting  
81 provisions relating to M.P.O. coordination mechanisms;  
82 including public-private partnerships in authorized  
83 financing techniques; revising proposed transportation  
84 enhancement activities that must be indicated by the  
85 long-range transportation plan; authorizing each  
86 M.P.O. to execute a written agreement with the  
87 department regarding state and federal transportation

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88 planning requirements; requiring the department, in  
89 collaboration with M.P.O.'s, to establish certain  
90 quality performance metrics and develop certain  
91 performance targets; requiring the department to  
92 evaluate and post on its website whether each M.P.O.  
93 has made significant progress toward such targets;  
94 deleting provisions relating to the Metropolitan  
95 Planning Organization Advisory Council; amending s.  
96 339.65, F.S.; requiring the department to prioritize  
97 certain Strategic Intermodal System highway corridor  
98 projects; amending s. 348.0304, F.S.; revising  
99 membership of the governing body of the Greater Miami  
100 Expressway Agency; amending s. 331.310, F.S.;  
101 conforming a cross-reference; reenacting s.  
102 332.115(1), F.S., relating to joint project agreements  
103 with port districts for transportation corridors  
104 between airports and port facilities, to incorporate  
105 the amendment made to s. 332.004, F.S., in a reference  
106 thereto; providing a legislative finding; requiring  
107 the department to develop a report on widening  
108 Interstate 4; providing requirements for the report;  
109 requiring the department to submit the report to the  
110 Governor and the Legislature by a specified date;  
111 providing an effective date.

112  
113 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

114  
115 Section 1. Paragraph (d) of subsection (6) of section  
116 212.20, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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117           212.20 Funds collected, disposition; additional powers of  
118 department; operational expense; refund of taxes adjudicated  
119 unconstitutionally collected.—

120           (6) Distribution of all proceeds under this chapter and ss.  
121 202.18(1)(b) and (2)(b) and 203.01(1)(a)3. is as follows:

122           (d) The proceeds of all other taxes and fees imposed  
123 pursuant to this chapter or remitted pursuant to s. 202.18(1)(b)  
124 and (2)(b) shall be distributed as follows:

125           1. In any fiscal year, the greater of \$500 million, minus  
126 an amount equal to 4.6 percent of the proceeds of the taxes  
127 collected pursuant to chapter 201, or 5.2 percent of all other  
128 taxes and fees imposed pursuant to this chapter or remitted  
129 pursuant to s. 202.18(1)(b) and (2)(b) shall be deposited in  
130 monthly installments into the General Revenue Fund.

131           2. After the distribution under subparagraph 1., 8.9744  
132 percent of the amount remitted by a sales tax dealer located  
133 within a participating county pursuant to s. 218.61 shall be  
134 transferred into the Local Government Half-cent Sales Tax  
135 Clearing Trust Fund. Beginning July 1, 2003, the amount to be  
136 transferred shall be reduced by 0.1 percent, and the department  
137 shall distribute this amount to the Public Employees Relations  
138 Commission Trust Fund less \$5,000 each month, which shall be  
139 added to the amount calculated in subparagraph 3. and  
140 distributed accordingly.

141           3. After the distribution under subparagraphs 1. and 2.,  
142 0.0966 percent shall be transferred to the Local Government  
143 Half-cent Sales Tax Clearing Trust Fund and distributed pursuant  
144 to s. 218.65.

145           4. After the distributions under subparagraphs 1., 2., and

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146 3., 2.0810 percent of the available proceeds shall be  
147 transferred monthly to the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund for  
148 Counties pursuant to s. 218.215.

149 5. After the distributions under subparagraphs 1., 2., and  
150 3., 1.3653 percent of the available proceeds shall be  
151 transferred monthly to the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund for  
152 Municipalities pursuant to s. 218.215. If the total revenue to  
153 be distributed pursuant to this subparagraph is at least as  
154 great as the amount due from the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund for  
155 Municipalities and the former Municipal Financial Assistance  
156 Trust Fund in state fiscal year 1999-2000, no municipality shall  
157 receive less than the amount due from the Revenue Sharing Trust  
158 Fund for Municipalities and the former Municipal Financial  
159 Assistance Trust Fund in state fiscal year 1999-2000. If the  
160 total proceeds to be distributed are less than the amount  
161 received in combination from the Revenue Sharing Trust Fund for  
162 Municipalities and the former Municipal Financial Assistance  
163 Trust Fund in state fiscal year 1999-2000, each municipality  
164 shall receive an amount proportionate to the amount it was due  
165 in state fiscal year 1999-2000.

166 6. Of the remaining proceeds:

167 a. In each fiscal year, the sum of \$29,915,500 shall be  
168 divided into as many equal parts as there are counties in the  
169 state, and one part shall be distributed to each county. The  
170 distribution among the several counties must begin each fiscal  
171 year on or before January 5th and continue monthly for a total  
172 of 4 months. If a local or special law required that any moneys  
173 accruing to a county in fiscal year 1999-2000 under the then-  
174 existing provisions of s. 550.135 be paid directly to the

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175 district school board, special district, or a municipal  
176 government, such payment must continue until the local or  
177 special law is amended or repealed. The state covenants with  
178 holders of bonds or other instruments of indebtedness issued by  
179 local governments, special districts, or district school boards  
180 before July 1, 2000, that it is not the intent of this  
181 subparagraph to adversely affect the rights of those holders or  
182 relieve local governments, special districts, or district school  
183 boards of the duty to meet their obligations as a result of  
184 previous pledges or assignments or trusts entered into which  
185 obligated funds received from the distribution to county  
186 governments under then-existing s. 550.135. This distribution  
187 specifically is in lieu of funds distributed under s. 550.135  
188 before July 1, 2000.

189       b. The department shall distribute \$166,667 monthly to each  
190 applicant certified as a facility for a new or retained  
191 professional sports franchise pursuant to s. 288.1162. Up to  
192 \$41,667 shall be distributed monthly by the department to each  
193 certified applicant as defined in s. 288.11621 for a facility  
194 for a spring training franchise. However, not more than \$416,670  
195 may be distributed monthly in the aggregate to all certified  
196 applicants for facilities for spring training franchises.  
197 Distributions begin 60 days after such certification and  
198 continue for not more than 30 years, except as otherwise  
199 provided in s. 288.11621. A certified applicant identified in  
200 this sub-subparagraph may not receive more in distributions than  
201 expended by the applicant for the public purposes provided in s.  
202 288.1162(5) or s. 288.11621(3).

203       c. The department shall distribute up to \$83,333 monthly to

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204 each certified applicant as defined in s. 288.11631 for a  
205 facility used by a single spring training franchise, or up to  
206 \$166,667 monthly to each certified applicant as defined in s.  
207 288.11631 for a facility used by more than one spring training  
208 franchise. Monthly distributions begin 60 days after such  
209 certification or July 1, 2016, whichever is later, and continue  
210 for not more than 20 years to each certified applicant as  
211 defined in s. 288.11631 for a facility used by a single spring  
212 training franchise or not more than 25 years to each certified  
213 applicant as defined in s. 288.11631 for a facility used by more  
214 than one spring training franchise. A certified applicant  
215 identified in this sub-subparagraph may not receive more in  
216 distributions than expended by the applicant for the public  
217 purposes provided in s. 288.11631(3).

218 d. The department shall distribute \$15,333 monthly to the  
219 State Transportation Trust Fund.

220 e.(I) On or before July 25, 2021, August 25, 2021, and  
221 September 25, 2021, the department shall distribute \$324,533,334  
222 in each of those months to the Unemployment Compensation Trust  
223 Fund, less an adjustment for refunds issued from the General  
224 Revenue Fund pursuant to s. 443.131(3)(e)3. before making the  
225 distribution. The adjustments made by the department to the  
226 total distributions shall be equal to the total refunds made  
227 pursuant to s. 443.131(3)(e)3. If the amount of refunds to be  
228 subtracted from any single distribution exceeds the  
229 distribution, the department may not make that distribution and  
230 must subtract the remaining balance from the next distribution.

231 (II) Beginning July 2022, and on or before the 25th day of  
232 each month, the department shall distribute \$90 million monthly



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233 to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund.

234 (III) If the ending balance of the Unemployment  
235 Compensation Trust Fund exceeds \$4,071,519,600 on the last day  
236 of any month, as determined from United States Department of the  
237 Treasury data, the Office of Economic and Demographic Research  
238 shall certify to the department that the ending balance of the  
239 trust fund exceeds such amount.

240 (IV) This sub-subparagraph is repealed, and the department  
241 shall end monthly distributions under sub-sub-subparagraph (II),  
242 on the date the department receives certification under sub-sub-  
243 subparagraph (III).

244 f. Beginning July 1, 2023, in each fiscal year, the  
245 department shall distribute \$27.5 million to the Florida  
246 Agricultural Promotional Campaign Trust Fund under s. 571.26,  
247 for further distribution in accordance with s. 571.265.

248 g. To account for the impact of electric and hybrid  
249 vehicles on the state highway system and the use of taxes  
250 collected from motorists when charging such vehicles, beginning  
251 July 2025, and reassessed every 5 fiscal years, on or before the  
252 25th day of each month thereafter, of the portion of the  
253 proceeds of the tax imposed under s. 212.05(1)(e)1.c., the  
254 department shall distribute \$4.167 million to the State  
255 Transportation Trust Fund.

256 7. All other proceeds must remain in the General Revenue  
257 Fund.

258 Section 2. Section 218.3215, Florida Statutes, is created  
259 to read:

260 218.3215 County transportation project data.—Each county  
261 shall annually provide the Department of Transportation with

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262 uniform project data. The data must conform to the county's  
263 fiscal year and must include details on transportation revenues  
264 by source of taxes or fees, expenditure of such revenues for  
265 projects that were funded, and any unexpended balance for the  
266 fiscal year. The data must also include project details,  
267 including the project cost, location, and scope. The scope of  
268 the project must be categorized broadly using a category such as  
269 widening, repair and rehabilitation, or sidewalks. The data must  
270 specify which projects the revenues not dedicated to specific  
271 projects are supporting. The Department of Transportation shall  
272 inform each county of the method and required format for  
273 submitting the data. The Department of Transportation shall  
274 compile the data and publish such compilation on its website.

275 Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 316.183, Florida  
276 Statutes, is amended to read:

277 316.183 Unlawful speed.—

278 (2) On all streets or highways, the maximum speed limits  
279 for all vehicles must be 30 miles per hour in business or  
280 residence districts, and 55 miles per hour at any time at all  
281 other locations. However, with respect to a residence district,  
282 a county or municipality may set a maximum speed limit of 20 or  
283 25 miles per hour on local streets and highways after an  
284 investigation determines that such a limit is reasonable. It is  
285 not necessary to conduct a separate investigation for each  
286 residence district. The Department of Transportation shall  
287 determine the safe and advisable minimum speed limit on all  
288 highways that comprise a part of the National System of  
289 Interstate and Defense Highways and have at least ~~not fewer than~~  
290 ~~four lanes is 40 miles per hour, except that when the posted~~

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291 ~~speed limit is 70 miles per hour, the minimum speed limit is 50~~  
292 ~~miles per hour.~~

293 Section 4. Subsection (2) of section 316.187, Florida  
294 Statutes, is amended to read:

295 316.187 Establishment of state speed zones.—

296 (2) (a) The maximum allowable speed limit on limited access  
297 highways is 75 ~~70~~ miles per hour.

298 (b) The maximum allowable speed limit on any other highway  
299 that ~~which~~ is outside an urban area of 5,000 or more persons and  
300 that ~~which~~ has at least four lanes divided by a median strip is  
301 70 ~~65~~ miles per hour.

302 (c) The Department of Transportation is authorized to set  
303 such maximum and minimum speed limits for travel over other  
304 roadways under its authority as it deems safe and advisable, not  
305 to exceed as a maximum limit 65 ~~60~~ miles per hour.

306 Section 5. Subsection (14) of section 331.3051, Florida  
307 Statutes, is amended to read:

308 331.3051 Duties of Space Florida.—Space Florida shall:

309 ~~(14) Partner with the Metropolitan Planning Organization~~  
310 ~~Advisory Council to coordinate and specify how aerospace~~  
311 ~~planning and programming will be part of the state's cooperative~~  
312 ~~transportation planning process.~~

313 Section 6. Subsections (4), (5), (7), and (8) of section  
314 332.004, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

315 332.004 Definitions of terms used in ss. 332.003-332.007.—

316 As used in ss. 332.003-332.007, the term:

317 (4) "Airport or aviation development project" or  
318 "development project" means any activity associated with the  
319 design, construction, purchase, improvement, or repair of a

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320 public-use airport or portion thereof, including, but not  
321 limited to: the purchase of equipment; the acquisition of land,  
322 including land required as a condition of a federal, state, or  
323 local permit or agreement for environmental mitigation; off-  
324 airport noise mitigation projects; the removal, lowering,  
325 relocation, marking, and lighting of airport hazards; the  
326 installation of navigation aids used by aircraft in landing at  
327 or taking off from a public-use ~~public~~ airport; the installation  
328 of safety equipment required by rule or regulation for  
329 certification of the airport under s. 612 of the Federal  
330 Aviation Act of 1958, and amendments thereto; and the  
331 improvement of access to the airport by road or rail system  
332 which is on airport property and which is consistent, to the  
333 maximum extent feasible, with the approved local government  
334 comprehensive plan of the units of local government in which the  
335 airport is located.

336 (5) "Airport or aviation discretionary capacity improvement  
337 projects" or "discretionary capacity improvement projects" means  
338 capacity improvements which are consistent, to the maximum  
339 extent feasible, with the approved local government  
340 comprehensive plans of the units of local government in which  
341 the public-use airport is located, and which enhance  
342 intercontinental capacity at airports which:

343 (a) Are international airports with United States Bureau of  
344 Customs and Border Protection;

345 (b) Had one or more regularly scheduled intercontinental  
346 flights during the previous calendar year or have an agreement  
347 in writing for installation of one or more regularly scheduled  
348 intercontinental flights upon the commitment of funds for

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349 stipulated airport capital improvements; and

350 (c) Have available or planned public ground transportation  
351 between the airport and other major transportation facilities.

352 (7) "Eligible agency" means a political subdivision of the  
353 state or an authority, or a public-private partnership through a  
354 lease or an agreement under s. 255.065 with a political  
355 subdivision of the state or an authority, which owns or seeks to  
356 develop a public-use airport.

357 (8) "Federal aid" means funds made available from the  
358 Federal Government for the accomplishment of public-use airport  
359 or aviation development projects.

360 Section 7. Subsections (4) and (8) of section 332.006,  
361 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

362 332.006 Duties and responsibilities of the Department of  
363 Transportation.—The Department of Transportation shall, within  
364 the resources provided pursuant to chapter 216:

365 (4) Upon request, provide financial and technical  
366 assistance to public agencies that own ~~which operate~~ public-use  
367 airports by making department personnel and department-owned  
368 facilities and equipment available on a cost-reimbursement basis  
369 to such agencies for special needs of limited duration. The  
370 requirement relating to reimbursement of personnel costs may be  
371 waived by the department in those cases in which the assistance  
372 provided by its personnel was of a limited nature or duration.

373 (8) Encourage the maximum allocation of federal funds to  
374 local public-use airport projects in this state.

375 Section 8. Paragraphs (a) and (c) of subsection (4),  
376 subsection (6), paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (7), and  
377 subsections (8) and (10) of section 332.007, Florida Statutes,

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378 are amended, and subsection (11) is added to that section, to  
379 read:

380 332.007 Administration and financing of aviation and  
381 airport programs and projects; state plan.-

382 (4) (a) The annual legislative budget request for aviation  
383 and airport development projects shall be based on the funding  
384 required for development projects in the aviation and airport  
385 work program. The department shall provide priority funding in  
386 support of the planning, design, and construction of proposed  
387 projects by local sponsors of public-use airports, with special  
388 emphasis on projects for runways and taxiways, including the  
389 painting and marking of runways and taxiways, lighting, other  
390 related airside activities, and airport access transportation  
391 facility projects on airport property.

392 (c) No single airport shall secure airport or aviation  
393 development project funds in excess of 25 percent of the total  
394 airport or aviation development project funds available in any  
395 given budget year. However, any public-use airport which  
396 receives discretionary capacity improvement project funds in a  
397 given fiscal year shall not receive greater than 10 percent of  
398 total aviation and airport development project funds  
399 appropriated in that fiscal year.

400 (6) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, the  
401 department may participate in the capital cost of eligible  
402 public-use ~~public~~ airport and aviation development projects in  
403 accordance with the following rates, unless otherwise provided  
404 in the General Appropriations Act or the substantive bill  
405 implementing the General Appropriations Act:

406 (a) The department may fund up to 50 percent of the portion

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407 of eligible project costs which are not funded by the Federal  
408 Government, except that the department may initially fund up to  
409 75 percent of the cost of land acquisition for a new airport or  
410 for the expansion of an existing airport which is owned ~~and~~  
411 ~~operated~~ by a municipality, a county, or an authority, and shall  
412 be reimbursed to the normal statutory project share when federal  
413 funds become available or within 10 years after the date of  
414 acquisition, whichever is earlier. Due to federal budgeting  
415 constraints, the department may also initially fund the federal  
416 portion of eligible project costs subject to:

417 1. The department receiving adequate assurance from the  
418 Federal Government or local sponsor that this amount will be  
419 reimbursed to the department; and

420 2. The department having adequate funds in the work program  
421 to fund the project.

422  
423 Such projects must be contained in the Federal Government's  
424 Airport Capital Improvement Program, and the Federal Government  
425 must fund, or have funded, the first year of the project.

426 (b) The department may retroactively reimburse cities,  
427 counties, or airport authorities up to 50 percent of the  
428 nonfederal share for land acquisition when such land is needed  
429 for airport safety, expansion, tall structure control, clear  
430 zone protection, or noise impact reduction. No land purchased  
431 prior to July 1, 1990, or purchased prior to executing the  
432 required department agreements shall be eligible for  
433 reimbursement.

434 (c) When federal funds are not available, the department  
435 may fund up to 80 percent of master planning and eligible

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436 aviation development projects at public-use ~~publicly owned,~~  
437 ~~publicly operated~~ airports. If federal funds are available, the  
438 department may fund up to 80 percent of the nonfederal share of  
439 such projects. Such funding is limited to general aviation  
440 airports, or commercial service airports that have fewer than  
441 100,000 passenger boardings per year as determined by the  
442 Federal Aviation Administration.

443 (d) The department is authorized to fund up to 100 percent  
444 of the cost of an eligible project that is statewide in scope or  
445 that involves more than one county where no other governmental  
446 entity or appropriate jurisdiction exists.

447 (7) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds in  
448 addition to aviation fuel tax revenues, the department may  
449 participate in the capital cost of eligible public airport and  
450 aviation discretionary capacity improvement projects. The annual  
451 legislative budget request shall be based on the funding  
452 required for discretionary capacity improvement projects in the  
453 aviation and airport work program.

454 (a) The department shall provide priority funding in  
455 support of:

456 1. Land acquisition which provides additional capacity at  
457 the qualifying international airport or at that airport's  
458 supplemental air carrier airport.

459 2. Runway and taxiway projects that add capacity or are  
460 necessary to accommodate technological changes in the aviation  
461 industry.

462 3. Public-use airport access transportation projects that  
463 improve direct airport access and are approved by the airport  
464 sponsor.



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465 4. International terminal projects that increase  
466 international gate capacity.

467 (d) The department may fund up to 50 percent of the portion  
468 of eligible project costs which are not funded by the Federal  
469 Government except that the department may initially fund up to  
470 75 percent of the cost of land acquisition for a new public-use  
471 airport or for the expansion of an existing public-use airport  
472 which is owned ~~and operated~~ by a municipality, a county, or an  
473 authority, and shall be reimbursed to the normal statutory  
474 project share when federal funds become available or within 10  
475 years after the date of acquisition, whichever is earlier.

476 (8) The department may also fund eligible projects  
477 performed by not-for-profit organizations that represent a  
478 majority of public airports in this state. Eligible projects may  
479 include activities associated with aviation master planning,  
480 professional education, safety and security planning, enhancing  
481 economic development and efficiency at airports in this state,  
482 or other planning efforts to improve the viability of public-use  
483 airports in this state.

484 (10) Subject to the availability of appropriated funds, and  
485 unless otherwise provided in the General Appropriations Act or  
486 the substantive bill implementing the General Appropriations  
487 Act, the department may fund up to 100 percent of eligible  
488 project costs of all of the following at a public-use ~~publicly~~  
489 ~~owned, publicly operated~~ airport located in a rural community as  
490 defined in s. 288.0656 which does not have any scheduled  
491 commercial service:

492 (a) The capital cost of runway and taxiway projects that  
493 add capacity. Such projects must be prioritized based on the

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494 amount of available nonstate matching funds.

495 (b) Economic development transportation projects pursuant  
496 to s. 339.2821.

497  
498 Any remaining funds must be allocated for projects specified in  
499 subsection (6).

500 (11) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a  
501 municipality, a county, or an authority that owns a public-use  
502 airport may participate in the Federal Aviation Administration  
503 Airport Investment Partnership Program under federal law by  
504 contracting with a private partner to operate the airport under  
505 lease or agreement. Subject to the availability of appropriated  
506 funds from aviation fuel tax revenues, the department may  
507 provide for improvements under this section to a municipality, a  
508 county, or an authority that has a private partner under the  
509 Airport Investment Partnership Program for the capital cost of a  
510 discretionary improvement project at a public-use airport.

511 Section 9. Subsections (6) and (35) of section 334.044,  
512 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

513 334.044 Powers and duties of the department.—The department  
514 shall have the following general powers and duties:

515 (6) To acquire, by the exercise of the power of eminent  
516 domain as provided by law, all property or property rights,  
517 whether public or private, which it may determine are necessary  
518 to the performance of its duties and the execution of its  
519 powers, including, but not limited to, in advance to preserve a  
520 corridor for future proposed improvements.

521 (35) To expend funds for ~~provide~~ a construction workforce  
522 development program, in consultation with affected stakeholders,

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523 for delivery of projects designated in the department's work  
524 program. The department may annually expend up to \$5 million  
525 from the State Transportation Trust Fund for fiscal years 2025-  
526 2026 through 2029-2030 in grants to state colleges and school  
527 districts, with priority given to state colleges and school  
528 districts in counties that are rural communities as defined in  
529 s. 288.0656(2), for the purchase of equipment simulators with  
530 authentic original equipment manufacturer controls and a  
531 companion curriculum, for the purchase of instructional aids for  
532 use in conjunction with the equipment simulators, and to support  
533 offering an elective course in heavy civil construction which  
534 must, at a minimum, provide the student with an Occupational  
535 Safety and Health Administration 10-hour certification and a  
536 fill equipment simulator certification.

537 Section 10. Subsection (3) of section 334.065, Florida  
538 Statutes, is amended to read:

539 334.065 Center for Urban Transportation Research.—

540 (3) An advisory board shall be created to periodically and  
541 objectively review and advise the center concerning its research  
542 program. Except for projects mandated by law, state-funded base  
543 projects shall not be undertaken without approval of the  
544 advisory board. The membership of the board shall be composed  
545 ~~consist~~ of nine experts in transportation-related areas, as  
546 follows:

547 (a) A member appointed by the President of the Senate.

548 (b) A member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
549 Representatives.

550 (c) The Secretary of Transportation, or his or her  
551 designee.

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552 (d) The Secretary of Commerce, or his or her designee.  
553 ~~including the secretaries of the Department of Transportation,~~  
554 ~~the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department~~  
555 ~~of Commerce, or their designees, and~~

556 (e) A member of the Florida Transportation Commission.

557 (f) The nomination of the remaining four members of the  
558 board shall be made to the President of the University of South  
559 Florida by the College of Engineering at the University of South  
560 Florida. ~~and~~ The appointment of these members must be reviewed  
561 and approved by the Florida Transportation Commission and  
562 confirmed by the Board of Governors.

563 Section 11. Section 334.63, Florida Statutes, is created to  
564 read:

565 334.63 Project concept studies and project development and  
566 environment studies.-

567 (1) Project concept studies and project development and  
568 environment studies for capacity improvement projects on limited  
569 access facilities must include the evaluation of alternatives  
570 that provide transportation capacity using elevated roadway  
571 above existing lanes.

572 (2) Project development and environment studies for new  
573 alignment projects and capacity improvement projects must be  
574 completed within 18 months after the date of commencement.

575 Section 12. Subsections (1) and (4), paragraph (b) of  
576 subsection (7), and subsection (15) of section 337.11, Florida  
577 Statutes, are amended to read:

578 337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids; emergency  
579 repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders; combined  
580 design and construction contracts; progress payments; records;

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581 requirements of vehicle registration.—

582 (1) The department shall have authority to enter into  
583 contracts for the construction and maintenance of all roads  
584 designated as part of the State Highway System or the State Park  
585 Road System or of any roads placed under its supervision by law.  
586 The department shall also have authority to enter into contracts  
587 for the construction and maintenance of rest areas, weigh  
588 stations, and other structures, including roads, parking areas,  
589 supporting facilities and associated buildings used in  
590 connection with such facilities. A contractor who enters into  
591 such a contract with the department provides a service to the  
592 department, and such contract does not ~~However, no such contract~~  
593 ~~shall~~ create any third-party beneficiary rights in any person  
594 not a party to the contract.

595 (4) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b), the department  
596 may award the proposed construction and maintenance work to the  
597 lowest responsible bidder, or in the instance of a time-plus-  
598 money contract, the lowest evaluated responsible bidder, or it  
599 may reject all bids and proceed to rebid the work in accordance  
600 with subsection (2) or otherwise perform the work.

601 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
602 contrary:

603 1. If the department receives bids outside the award  
604 criteria set forth by the department, the department must:

605 a. Arrange an in-person meeting with the lowest responsive,  
606 responsible bidder to determine why the bids are over the  
607 department's estimate and may subsequently award the contract to  
608 the lowest responsive, responsible bidder at its discretion;

609 b. Reject all bids and proceed to rebid the work in

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610 accordance with subsection (2); or

611 c. Invite all responsive, responsible bidders to provide  
612 best and final offers without filing a protest or posting a bond  
613 under paragraph (5) (a). If the department thereafter awards the  
614 contract, the award must be to the bidder that presents the  
615 lowest best and final offer.

616 2. If the department intends to reject all bids on any  
617 project after announcing, but before posting official notice of,  
618 such intent, the department must provide to the lowest  
619 responsive, responsible bidder the opportunity to negotiate the  
620 scope of work with a corresponding reduction in price, as  
621 provided in the bid, to provide a best and final offer without  
622 filing a protest or posting a bond under paragraph (5) (a). Upon  
623 reaching a decision regarding the lowest bidder's best and final  
624 offer, the department must post notice of final agency action to  
625 either reject all bids or accept the best and final offer.

626 (c) This subsection does not prohibit the filing of a  
627 protest by any bidder or alter the deadlines provided in s.  
628 120.57.

629 (d) Notwithstanding the requirements of ss. 120.57(3)(c)  
630 and 287.057(25), upon receipt of a formal written protest that  
631 is timely filed, the department may continue the process  
632 provided in this subsection but may not take final agency action  
633 as to the lowest bidder except as part of the department's final  
634 agency action in the protest or upon dismissal of the protest by  
635 the protesting party.

636 (7)

637 (b) If the department determines that it is in the best  
638 interests of the public, the department may combine the design

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639 and construction phases of a project fully funded in the work  
640 program into a single contract and select the design-build firm  
641 in the early stages of a project to ensure that the design-build  
642 firm is part of the collaboration and development of the design  
643 as part of a step-by-step progression through construction. Such  
644 a contract is referred to as a phased design-build contract. For  
645 phased design-build contracts, selection and award must include  
646 a two-phase process. For phase one, the department shall  
647 competitively award the contract to a design-build firm based  
648 upon qualifications, provided that the department receives at  
649 least three statements of qualifications from qualified design-  
650 build firms. If during phase one the department elects to enter  
651 into contracts with more than one design-build firm based upon  
652 qualifications, the department must competitively award the  
653 contract for phase two to a single design-build firm. For phase  
654 two, the design-build firm may self-perform portions of the work  
655 and shall competitively bid construction trade subcontractor  
656 packages and, based upon these bids, negotiate with the  
657 department a fixed firm price or guaranteed maximum price that  
658 meets the project budget and scope as advertised in the request  
659 for qualifications.

660 (15) Each contract let by the department for performance of  
661 bridge construction or maintenance over navigable waters must  
662 contain a provision requiring marine general liability  
663 insurance, in an amount to be determined by the department,  
664 which covers third-party personal injury and property damage  
665 caused by vessels used by the contractor in the performance of  
666 the work. For a contract let by the department on or after July  
667 1, 2025, such insurance must include protection and indemnity

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668 coverage, which may be covered by endorsement on the marine  
669 general liability insurance policy or may be a separate policy.

670 Section 13. Subsection (3) is added to section 337.1101,  
671 Florida Statutes, to read:

672 337.1101 Contracting and procurement authority of the  
673 department; settlements; notification required.—

674 (3) The department may not, through a settlement of a  
675 protest filed in accordance with s. 120.57(3) of the award of a  
676 contract being procured pursuant to s. 337.11 or related to the  
677 purchase of commodities or contractual services being procured  
678 pursuant to s. 287.057, create a new contract unless the new  
679 contract is competitively procured.

680 Section 14. Subsections (1), (2), and (8) of section  
681 337.14, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

682 337.14 Application for qualification; certificate of  
683 qualification; restrictions; request for hearing.—

684 (1) Any contractor desiring to bid for the performance of  
685 any construction contract in excess of \$250,000 which the  
686 department proposes to let must first be certified by the  
687 department as qualified pursuant to this section and rules of  
688 the department. The rules of the department must address the  
689 qualification of contractors to bid on construction contracts in  
690 excess of \$250,000 and must include requirements with respect to  
691 the equipment, past record, experience, financial resources, and  
692 organizational personnel of the applying contractor which are  
693 necessary to perform the specific class of work for which the  
694 contractor seeks certification. Any contractor who desires to  
695 bid on contracts in excess of \$50 million and who is not  
696 qualified and in good standing with the department as of January



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697 1, 2019, must first be certified by the department as qualified  
698 and must have satisfactorily completed two projects, each in  
699 excess of \$15 million, for the department or for any other state  
700 department of transportation. The department may limit the  
701 dollar amount of any contract upon which a contractor is  
702 qualified to bid or the aggregate total dollar volume of  
703 contracts such contractor is allowed to have under contract at  
704 any one time. Each applying contractor seeking qualification to  
705 bid on construction contracts in excess of \$250,000 shall  
706 furnish the department a statement under oath, on such forms as  
707 the department may prescribe, setting forth detailed information  
708 as required on the application. Each application for  
709 certification must be accompanied by audited, certified  
710 financial statements prepared in accordance with generally  
711 accepted accounting principles and auditing standards by a  
712 certified public accountant licensed in this state or another  
713 state. The audited, certified financial statements must be for  
714 the applying contractor and must have been prepared within the  
715 immediately preceding 12 months. The department may not consider  
716 any financial information of the parent entity of the applying  
717 contractor, if any. The department may not certify as qualified  
718 any applying contractor who fails to submit the audited,  
719 certified financial statements required by this subsection. If  
720 the application or the annual financial statement shows the  
721 financial condition of the applying contractor more than 4  
722 months before the date on which the application is received by  
723 the department, the applicant must also submit interim audited,  
724 certified financial statements prepared in accordance with  
725 generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards

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726 by a certified public accountant licensed in this state or  
727 another state. The interim financial statements must cover the  
728 period from the end date of the annual statement and must show  
729 the financial condition of the applying contractor no more than  
730 4 months before the date that the interim financial statements  
731 are received by the department. However, upon the request of the  
732 applying contractor, an application and accompanying annual or  
733 interim financial statement received by the department within 15  
734 days after either 4-month period under this subsection shall be  
735 considered timely. An applying contractor desiring to bid  
736 exclusively for the performance of construction contracts with  
737 proposed budget estimates of less than \$2 million may submit  
738 reviewed annual or reviewed interim financial statements  
739 prepared by a certified public accountant. The information  
740 required by this subsection is confidential and exempt from s.  
741 119.07(1). The department shall act upon the application for  
742 qualification within 30 days after the department determines  
743 that the application is complete. The department may waive the  
744 requirements of this subsection for projects having a contract  
745 price of \$1 million or less which have diverse scopes of work  
746 that may or may not be performed or \$500,000 or less if the  
747 department determines that the project is of a noncritical  
748 nature and the waiver will not endanger public health, safety,  
749 or property. Contracts for projects that have diverse scopes of  
750 work that may or may not be performed are typically referred to  
751 as push-button or task work order contracts.

752 (2) Certification is ~~shall be~~ necessary in order to bid on  
753 a road, bridge, or public transportation construction contract  
754 of more than \$250,000. However, the successful bidder on any

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755 construction contract must furnish a contract bond before ~~prior~~  
756 ~~to~~ the award of the contract. The department may waive the  
757 requirement for all or a portion of a contract bond for  
758 contracts of \$250,000 ~~\$150,000~~ or less under s. 337.18(1).

759 (8) This section does not apply to maintenance contracts.  
760 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a  
761 contractor seeking to bid on a maintenance contract that  
762 predominantly includes repair and replacement of safety  
763 appurtenances, including, but not limited to, guardrails,  
764 attenuators, traffic signals, and striping, must possess the  
765 prescribed qualifications, equipment, record, and experience to  
766 perform such repair and replacement.

767 Section 15. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 337.185,  
768 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

769 337.185 State Arbitration Board.—

770 (4) The contractor may submit a claim greater than \$250,000  
771 up to \$2 ~~\$1~~ million per contract or, upon agreement of the  
772 parties, greater than ~~up to~~ \$2 million per contract to be  
773 arbitrated by the board. An award issued by the board pursuant  
774 to this subsection is final if a request for a trial de novo is  
775 not filed within the time provided by Rule 1.830, Florida Rules  
776 of Civil Procedure. At the trial de novo, the court may not  
777 admit evidence that there has been an arbitration proceeding,  
778 the nature or amount of the award, or any other matter  
779 concerning the conduct of the arbitration proceeding, except  
780 that testimony given in connection with ~~at~~ an arbitration  
781 hearing may be used for any purpose otherwise permitted by the  
782 Florida Evidence Code. If a request for trial de novo is not  
783 filed within the time provided, the award issued by the board is

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784 final and enforceable by a court of law.

785 (5) An arbitration request may not be made to the board  
786 before final acceptance but must be made to the board within 820  
787 days after final acceptance or within 360 days after written  
788 notice by the department of a claim related to a written  
789 warranty or defect after final acceptance.

790 Section 16. Present subsection (10) of section 339.175,  
791 Florida Statutes, is redesignated as subsection (11), a new  
792 subsection (10) is added to that section, and subsection (1),  
793 paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraphs (b), (i), and (j) of  
794 subsection (6), paragraphs (a), (b), and (d) of subsection (7),  
795 and present subsection (11) of that section are amended, to  
796 read:

797 339.175 Metropolitan planning organization.—

798 (1) PURPOSE.—It is the intent of the Legislature to  
799 encourage and promote the safe and efficient management,  
800 operation, and development of multimodal ~~surface~~ transportation  
801 systems that will serve the mobility needs of people and freight  
802 and foster economic growth and development within and through  
803 urbanized areas of this state while balancing conservation of  
804 natural resources ~~minimizing transportation-related fuel~~  
805 ~~consumption, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions through~~  
806 ~~metropolitan transportation planning processes identified in~~  
807 ~~this section.~~ To accomplish these objectives, metropolitan  
808 planning organizations, referred to in this section as M.P.O.'s,  
809 shall develop, in cooperation with the state and public transit  
810 operators, transportation plans and programs for metropolitan  
811 areas. The plans and programs for each metropolitan area must  
812 provide for the development and integrated management and

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813 operation of transportation systems and facilities, including  
814 pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities that  
815 will function as an intermodal transportation system for the  
816 metropolitan area, based upon the prevailing principles provided  
817 in s. 334.046(1). The process for developing such plans and  
818 programs shall provide for consideration of all modes of  
819 transportation and shall be continuing, cooperative, and  
820 comprehensive, to the degree appropriate, based on the  
821 complexity of the transportation problems to be addressed. To  
822 ensure that the process is integrated with the statewide  
823 planning process, M.P.O.'s shall develop plans and programs that  
824 identify transportation facilities that should function as an  
825 integrated metropolitan transportation system, giving emphasis  
826 to facilities that serve important national, state, and regional  
827 transportation functions. For the purposes of this section,  
828 those facilities include the facilities on the Strategic  
829 Intermodal System designated under s. 339.63 and facilities for  
830 which projects have been identified pursuant to s. 339.2819(4).

831 (2) DESIGNATION.—

832 (a)1. An M.P.O. shall be designated for each urbanized area  
833 of the state; however, this does not require that an individual  
834 M.P.O. be designated for each such area. Such designation shall  
835 be accomplished by agreement between the Governor and units of  
836 general-purpose local government representing at least 75  
837 percent of the population of the urbanized area; however, the  
838 unit of general-purpose local government that represents the  
839 central city or cities within the M.P.O. jurisdiction, as  
840 defined by the United States Bureau of the Census, must be a  
841 party to such agreement.

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842 2. To the extent possible, only one M.P.O. shall be  
843 designated for each urbanized area or group of contiguous  
844 urbanized areas. More than one M.P.O. may be designated within  
845 an existing urbanized area only if the Governor and the existing  
846 M.P.O. determine that the size and complexity of the existing  
847 urbanized area makes the designation of more than one M.P.O. for  
848 the area appropriate. After July 1, 2025, no additional M.P.O.'s  
849 may be designated in this state except in urbanized areas, as  
850 defined by the United States Census Bureau, where the urbanized  
851 area boundary is not contiguous to an urbanized area designated  
852 before the 2020 census, ~~in which case each M.P.O. designated for~~  
853 ~~the area must:~~

854 a. ~~Consult with every other M.P.O. designated for the~~  
855 ~~urbanized area and the state to coordinate plans and~~  
856 ~~transportation improvement programs.~~

857 b. ~~Ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, the~~  
858 ~~consistency of data used in the planning process, including data~~  
859 ~~used in forecasting travel demand within the urbanized area.~~

860  
861 Each M.P.O. required under this section must be fully operative  
862 no later than 6 months following its designation.

863 (6) POWERS, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The powers,  
864 privileges, and authority of an M.P.O. are those specified in  
865 this section or incorporated in an interlocal agreement  
866 authorized under s. 163.01. Each M.P.O. shall perform all acts  
867 required by federal or state laws or rules, now and subsequently  
868 applicable, which are necessary to qualify for federal aid. It  
869 is the intent of this section that each M.P.O. be involved in  
870 the planning and programming of transportation facilities,

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871 including, but not limited to, airports, intercity and high-  
872 speed rail lines, seaports, and intermodal facilities, to the  
873 extent permitted by state or federal law. An M.P.O. may not  
874 perform project production or delivery for capital improvement  
875 projects on the State Highway System.

876 (b) In developing the long-range transportation plan and  
877 the transportation improvement program required under paragraph  
878 (a), each M.P.O. shall provide for consideration of projects and  
879 strategies that will:

880 1. Support the economic vitality of the contiguous  
881 urbanized metropolitan area, especially by enabling global  
882 competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.

883 2. Increase the safety and security of the transportation  
884 system for motorized and nonmotorized users.

885 3. Increase the accessibility and mobility options  
886 available to people and for freight.

887 4. Protect and enhance the environment, conserve natural  
888 resources ~~promote energy conservation~~, and improve quality of  
889 life.

890 5. Enhance the integration and connectivity of the  
891 transportation system, across and between modes and contiguous  
892 urbanized metropolitan areas, for people and freight.

893 6. Promote efficient system management and operation.

894 7. Emphasize the preservation of the existing  
895 transportation system.

896 8. Improve the resilience of transportation infrastructure.

897 9. Reduce traffic and congestion.

898 ~~(i) By December 31, 2023, the M.P.O.'s serving~~  
899 ~~Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties must submit a~~

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900 ~~feasibility report to the Governor, the President of the Senate,~~  
901 ~~and the Speaker of the House of Representatives exploring the~~  
902 ~~benefits, costs, and process of consolidation into a single~~  
903 ~~M.P.O. serving the contiguous urbanized area, the goal of which~~  
904 ~~would be to:~~

905 ~~1. Coordinate transportation projects deemed to be~~  
906 ~~regionally significant.~~

907 ~~2. Review the impact of regionally significant land use~~  
908 ~~decisions on the region.~~

909 ~~3. Review all proposed regionally significant~~  
910 ~~transportation projects in the transportation improvement~~  
911 ~~programs.~~

912 ~~(i)1.(j)1.~~ To more fully accomplish the purposes for which  
913 M.P.O.'s have been mandated, the department shall, at least  
914 annually, convene M.P.O.'s of similar size, based on the size of  
915 population served, for the purpose of exchanging best practices.  
916 M.P.O.'s ~~may shall~~ develop committees or working groups as  
917 needed to accomplish such purpose. At the discretion of the  
918 department, training for new M.P.O. governing board members  
919 shall be provided by the department, by an entity pursuant to a  
920 contract with the department, by the Florida Center for Urban  
921 Transportation Research, or by the Implementing Solutions from  
922 Transportation Research and Evaluation of Emerging Technologies  
923 (I-STREET) living lab coordination mechanisms with one another  
924 ~~to expand and improve transportation within the state. The~~  
925 ~~appropriate method of coordination between M.P.O.'s shall vary~~  
926 ~~depending upon the project involved and given local and regional~~  
927 ~~needs. Consequently, it is appropriate to set forth a flexible~~  
928 ~~methodology that can be used by M.P.O.'s to coordinate with~~



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929 ~~other M.P.O.'s and appropriate political subdivisions as~~  
930 ~~circumstances demand.~~

931       2. Any M.P.O. may join with any other M.P.O. or any  
932 individual political subdivision to coordinate activities or to  
933 achieve any federal or state transportation planning or  
934 development goals or purposes consistent with federal or state  
935 law. When an M.P.O. determines that it is appropriate to join  
936 with another M.P.O. or any political subdivision to coordinate  
937 activities, the M.P.O. or political subdivision shall enter into  
938 an interlocal agreement pursuant to s. 163.01, which, at a  
939 minimum, creates a separate legal or administrative entity to  
940 coordinate the transportation planning or development activities  
941 required to achieve the goal or purpose; provides the purpose  
942 for which the entity is created; provides the duration of the  
943 agreement and the entity and specifies how the agreement may be  
944 terminated, modified, or rescinded; describes the precise  
945 organization of the entity, including who has voting rights on  
946 the governing board, whether alternative voting members are  
947 provided for, how voting members are appointed, and what the  
948 relative voting strength is for each constituent M.P.O. or  
949 political subdivision; provides the manner in which the parties  
950 to the agreement will provide for the financial support of the  
951 entity and payment of costs and expenses of the entity; provides  
952 the manner in which funds may be paid to and disbursed from the  
953 entity; and provides how members of the entity will resolve  
954 disagreements regarding interpretation of the interlocal  
955 agreement or disputes relating to the operation of the entity.  
956 Such interlocal agreement shall become effective upon its  
957 recordation in the official public records of each county in

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958 which a member of the entity created by the interlocal agreement  
959 has a voting member. Multiple M.P.O.'s may merge, combine, or  
960 otherwise join together as a single M.P.O.

961 (7) LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN.—Each M.P.O. must  
962 develop a long-range transportation plan that addresses at least  
963 a 20-year planning horizon. The plan must include both long-  
964 range and short-range strategies and must comply with all other  
965 state and federal requirements. The prevailing principles to be  
966 considered in the long-range transportation plan are: preserving  
967 the existing transportation infrastructure; enhancing Florida's  
968 economic competitiveness; and improving travel choices to ensure  
969 mobility. The long-range transportation plan must be consistent,  
970 to the maximum extent feasible, with future land use elements  
971 and the goals, objectives, and policies of the approved local  
972 government comprehensive plans of the units of local government  
973 located within the jurisdiction of the M.P.O. Each M.P.O. is  
974 encouraged to consider strategies that integrate transportation  
975 and land use planning to provide for sustainable development and  
976 reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The approved long-range  
977 transportation plan must be considered by local governments in  
978 the development of the transportation elements in local  
979 government comprehensive plans and any amendments thereto. The  
980 long-range transportation plan must, at a minimum:

981 (a) Identify transportation facilities, including, but not  
982 limited to, major roadways, airports, seaports, spaceports,  
983 commuter rail systems, transit systems, and intermodal or  
984 multimodal terminals that will function as an integrated  
985 metropolitan transportation system. The long-range  
986 transportation plan must give emphasis to those transportation

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987 facilities that serve national, statewide, or regional  
988 functions, and must consider the goals and objectives identified  
989 in the Florida Transportation Plan as provided in s. 339.155. If  
990 a project is located within the boundaries of more than one  
991 M.P.O., the M.P.O.'s must coordinate plans regarding the project  
992 in the long-range transportation plan. ~~Multiple M.P.O.'s within~~  
993 ~~a contiguous urbanized area must coordinate the development of~~  
994 ~~long-range transportation plans to be reviewed by the~~  
995 ~~Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council.~~

996 (b) Include a financial plan that demonstrates how the plan  
997 can be implemented, indicating resources from public and private  
998 sources which are reasonably expected to be available to carry  
999 out the plan, and recommends any additional financing strategies  
1000 for needed projects and programs. The financial plan may  
1001 include, for illustrative purposes, additional projects that  
1002 would be included in the adopted long-range transportation plan  
1003 if reasonable additional resources beyond those identified in  
1004 the financial plan were available. For the purpose of developing  
1005 the long-range transportation plan, the M.P.O. and the  
1006 department shall cooperatively develop estimates of funds that  
1007 will be available to support the plan implementation. Innovative  
1008 financing techniques may be used to fund needed projects and  
1009 programs. Such techniques may include the assessment of tolls,  
1010 public-private partnerships, the use of value capture financing,  
1011 or the use of value pricing. Multiple M.P.O.'s within a  
1012 contiguous urbanized area must ensure, to the maximum extent  
1013 possible, the consistency of data used in the planning process.

1014 (d) Indicate, as appropriate, proposed transportation  
1015 enhancement activities, including, but not limited to,

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1016 pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails or facilities that are  
1017 regionally significant or critical linkages for the Florida  
1018 Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network, scenic easements,  
1019 landscaping, integration of advanced air mobility, and  
1020 integration of autonomous and electric vehicles, electric  
1021 bicycles, and motorized scooters used for freight, commuter, or  
1022 micromobility purposes ~~historic preservation, mitigation of~~  
1023 ~~water pollution due to highway runoff, and control of outdoor~~  
1024 ~~advertising.~~

1025

1026 In the development of its long-range transportation plan, each  
1027 M.P.O. must provide the public, affected public agencies,  
1028 representatives of transportation agency employees, freight  
1029 shippers, providers of freight transportation services, private  
1030 providers of transportation, representatives of users of public  
1031 transit, and other interested parties with a reasonable  
1032 opportunity to comment on the long-range transportation plan.  
1033 The long-range transportation plan must be approved by the  
1034 M.P.O.

1035 (10) AGREEMENTS; ACCOUNTABILITY.—

1036 (a) Each M.P.O. may execute a written agreement with the  
1037 department, which shall be reviewed, and updated as necessary,  
1038 every 5 years, which clearly establishes the cooperative  
1039 relationship essential to accomplish the transportation planning  
1040 requirements of state and federal law. Roles, responsibilities,  
1041 and expectations for accomplishing consistency with federal and  
1042 state requirements and priorities must be set forth in the  
1043 agreement. In addition, the agreement must set forth the  
1044 M.P.O.'s responsibility, in collaboration with the department,

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1045 to identify, prioritize, and present to the department a  
1046 complete list of multimodal transportation projects consistent  
1047 with the needs of the metropolitan planning area. It is the  
1048 department's responsibility to program projects in the state  
1049 transportation improvement program.

1050 (b) The department must establish, in collaboration with  
1051 each M.P.O., quality performance metrics, such as safety,  
1052 infrastructure condition, congestion relief, and mobility. Each  
1053 M.P.O. must, as part of its long-range transportation plan, in  
1054 direct coordination with the department, develop targets for  
1055 each performance measure within the metropolitan planning area  
1056 boundary. The performance targets must support efficient and  
1057 safe movement of people and goods both within the metropolitan  
1058 planning area and between regions. Each M.P.O. must report  
1059 progress toward establishing performance targets for each  
1060 measure annually in its transportation improvement plan. The  
1061 department shall evaluate and post on its website whether each  
1062 M.P.O. has made significant progress toward its target for the  
1063 applicable reporting period.

1064 ~~(11) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL.~~

1065 ~~(a) A Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council~~  
1066 ~~is created to augment, and not supplant, the role of the~~  
1067 ~~individual M.P.O.'s in the cooperative transportation planning~~  
1068 ~~process described in this section.~~

1069 ~~(b) The council shall consist of one representative from~~  
1070 ~~each M.P.O. and shall elect a chairperson annually from its~~  
1071 ~~number. Each M.P.O. shall also elect an alternate representative~~  
1072 ~~from each M.P.O. to vote in the absence of the representative.~~  
1073 ~~Members of the council do not receive any compensation for their~~

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1074 ~~services, but may be reimbursed from funds made available to~~  
1075 ~~council members for travel and per diem expenses incurred in the~~  
1076 ~~performance of their council duties as provided in s. 112.061.~~

1077 ~~(c) The powers and duties of the Metropolitan Planning~~  
1078 ~~Organization Advisory Council are to:~~

1079 ~~1. Establish bylaws by action of its governing board~~  
1080 ~~providing procedural rules to guide its proceedings and~~  
1081 ~~consideration of matters before the council, or, alternatively,~~  
1082 ~~adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 to implement~~  
1083 ~~provisions of law conferring powers or duties upon it.~~

1084 ~~2. Assist M.P.O.'s in carrying out the urbanized area~~  
1085 ~~transportation planning process by serving as the principal~~  
1086 ~~forum for collective policy discussion pursuant to law.~~

1087 ~~3. Serve as a clearinghouse for review and comment by~~  
1088 ~~M.P.O.'s on the Florida Transportation Plan and on other issues~~  
1089 ~~required to comply with federal or state law in carrying out the~~  
1090 ~~urbanized area transportation and systematic planning processes~~  
1091 ~~instituted pursuant to s. 339.155. The council must also report~~  
1092 ~~annually to the Florida Transportation Commission on the~~  
1093 ~~alignment of M.P.O. long range transportation plans with the~~  
1094 ~~Florida Transportation Plan.~~

1095 ~~4. Employ an executive director and such other staff as~~  
1096 ~~necessary to perform adequately the functions of the council,~~  
1097 ~~within budgetary limitations. The executive director and staff~~  
1098 ~~are exempt from part II of chapter 110 and serve at the~~  
1099 ~~direction and control of the council. The council is assigned to~~  
1100 ~~the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Transportation~~  
1101 ~~for fiscal and accountability purposes, but it shall otherwise~~  
1102 ~~function independently of the control and direction of the~~

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1103 ~~department.~~

1104 ~~5. Deliver training on federal and state program~~  
1105 ~~requirements and procedures to M.P.O. board members and M.P.O.~~  
1106 ~~staff.~~

1107 ~~6. Adopt an agency strategic plan that prioritizes steps~~  
1108 ~~the agency will take to carry out its mission within the context~~  
1109 ~~of the state comprehensive plan and any other statutory mandates~~  
1110 ~~and directives.~~

1111 ~~(d) The Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council~~  
1112 ~~may enter into contracts in accordance with chapter 287 to~~  
1113 ~~support the activities described in paragraph (c). Lobbying and~~  
1114 ~~the acceptance of funds, grants, assistance, gifts, or bequests~~  
1115 ~~from private, local, state, or federal sources are prohibited.~~

1116 Section 17. Subsection (4) of section 339.65, Florida  
1117 Statutes, is amended to read:

1118 339.65 Strategic Intermodal System highway corridors.—

1119 (4) The department shall develop and maintain a plan of  
1120 Strategic Intermodal System highway corridor projects that are  
1121 anticipated to be let to contract for construction within a time  
1122 period of at least 20 years. The department shall prioritize  
1123 projects affecting gaps in a corridor so that the corridor  
1124 becomes contiguous in its functional characteristics across the  
1125 corridor. The plan must ~~shall~~ also identify when segments of the  
1126 corridor will meet the standards and criteria developed pursuant  
1127 to subsection (5).

1128 Section 18. Paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section  
1129 348.0304, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1130 348.0304 Greater Miami Expressway Agency.—

1131 (3) (a) The governing body of the agency shall consist of

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1132 nine voting members. Except for the district secretary of the  
1133 department, each member must be a permanent resident of a county  
1134 served by the agency and may not hold, or have held in the  
1135 previous 2 years, elected or appointed office in such county,  
1136 except that this paragraph does not apply to any initial  
1137 appointment under paragraph (b) or to any member who previously  
1138 served on the governing body of the former Greater Miami  
1139 Expressway Agency. Each member may only serve two terms of 4  
1140 years each, except that there is no restriction on the term of  
1141 the department's district secretary. Four members, each of whom  
1142 must be a permanent resident of Miami-Dade County, shall be  
1143 appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by the Senate  
1144 at the next regular session of the Legislature. Refusal or  
1145 failure of the Senate to confirm an appointment shall create a  
1146 vacancy. Appointments made by the Governor and board of county  
1147 commissioners of Miami-Dade County shall reflect the state's  
1148 interests in the transportation sector and represent the intent,  
1149 duties, and purpose of the Greater Miami Expressway Agency, and  
1150 have at least 3 years of professional experience in one or more  
1151 of the following areas: finance; land use planning; tolling  
1152 industry; or transportation engineering. Two members, who must  
1153 be residents of an unincorporated portion of the geographic area  
1154 described in subsection (1) and residing within 15 miles of an  
1155 ~~area with the highest amount of agency toll~~ road roads, shall be  
1156 appointed by the board of county commissioners of Miami-Dade  
1157 County. Two members, who must be residents of incorporated  
1158 municipalities within a county served by the agency, shall be  
1159 appointed by the metropolitan planning organization for a county  
1160 served by the agency. The district secretary of the department



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1161 serving in the district that contains Miami-Dade County shall  
1162 serve as an ex officio voting member of the governing body.

1163 Section 19. Paragraph (e) of subsection (2) of section  
1164 331.310, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1165 331.310 Powers and duties of the board of directors.—

1166 (2) The board of directors shall:

1167 (e) Prepare an annual report of operations as a supplement  
1168 to the annual report required under s. 331.3051(15) ~~s.~~

1169 ~~331.3051(16)~~. The report must include, but not be limited to, a  
1170 balance sheet, an income statement, a statement of changes in  
1171 financial position, a reconciliation of changes in equity  
1172 accounts, a summary of significant accounting principles, the  
1173 auditor's report, a summary of the status of existing and  
1174 proposed bonding projects, comments from management about the  
1175 year's business, and prospects for the next year.

1176 Section 20. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment  
1177 made by this act to section 332.004, Florida Statutes, in a  
1178 reference thereto, subsection (1) of section 332.115, Florida  
1179 Statutes, is reenacted to read:

1180 332.115 Joint project agreement with port district for  
1181 transportation corridor between airport and port facility.—

1182 (1) An eligible agency may acquire, construct, and operate  
1183 all equipment, appurtenances, and land necessary to establish,  
1184 maintain, and operate, or to license others to establish,  
1185 maintain, operate, or use, a transportation corridor connecting  
1186 an airport operated by such eligible agency with a port  
1187 facility, which corridor must be acquired, constructed, and used  
1188 for the transportation of persons between the airport and the  
1189 port facility, for the transportation of cargo, and for the

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1190 location and operation of lines for the transmission of water,  
1191 electricity, communications, information, petroleum products,  
1192 products of a public utility (including new technologies of a  
1193 public utility nature), and materials. However, any such  
1194 corridor may be established and operated only pursuant to a  
1195 joint project agreement between an eligible agency as defined in  
1196 s. 332.004 and a port district as defined in s. 315.02, and such  
1197 agreement must be approved by the Department of Transportation  
1198 and the Department of Commerce. Before the Department of  
1199 Transportation approves the joint project agreement, that  
1200 department must review the public purpose and necessity for the  
1201 corridor pursuant to s. 337.273(5) and must also determine that  
1202 the proposed corridor is consistent with the Florida  
1203 Transportation Plan. Before the Department of Commerce approves  
1204 the joint project agreement, that department must determine that  
1205 the proposed corridor is consistent with the applicable local  
1206 government comprehensive plans. An affected local government may  
1207 provide its comments regarding the consistency of the proposed  
1208 corridor with its comprehensive plan to the Department of  
1209 Commerce.

1210       Section 21. (1) The Legislature finds that the widening of  
1211 Interstate 4, from U.S. 27 in Polk County to Interstate 75 in  
1212 Hillsborough County, is in the public interest and the strategic  
1213 interest of the region to improve the movement of people and  
1214 goods.

1215       (2) The Department of Transportation shall develop a report  
1216 on widening Interstate 4, from U.S. 27 in Polk County to  
1217 Interstate 75 in Hillsborough County, as efficiently as possible  
1218 which includes, but is not limited to, detailed cost projections

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1219 and schedules for project development and environment studies,  
1220 design, acquisition of rights-of-way, and construction. The  
1221 report must identify funding shortfalls and provide strategies  
1222 to address such shortfalls, including, but not limited to, the  
1223 use of express lane toll revenues generated on the Interstate 4  
1224 corridor and available department funds for public-private  
1225 partnerships. The Department of Transportation shall submit the  
1226 report by December 31, 2025, to the Governor, the President of  
1227 the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1228 Section 22. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.