



Brevard Legislative Delegation

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Senator Thad Altman
Chair

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March 1, 2010

The Honorable Stephanie Kopelousos
Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street, MS 59
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

RE: City of Palm Bay
Interstate 95 South Parkway Interchange

Dear Secretary Kopelousos:

On February 16, 2010, we had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the City of Palm Bay and other stakeholders to discuss the Interstate 95 South Parkway Interchange project and its relationship to the deferred widening of Interstate 95 south of Malabar Road.

The deferral of FM 413072-1 Interstate 95 widening from South of State Road 514 (Malabar Road) to the Indian River County Line from 2015 to 2019 significantly impairs the City's initiative to develop a new South Parkway Interchange between Grant Road and Micco Road. The interchange project is now in the Project Development & Environment (PD & E) process and is funded through the design phase using federal earmarks. The goal has been for the interchange project and the widening project to be constructed as one project, reducing construction costs and minimizing disruption to the motorists.

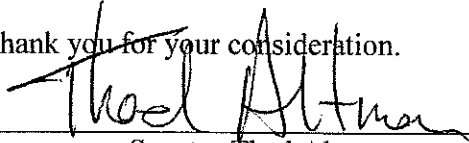
Because the deferred widening project is over 17 miles long, the City has suggested that FDOT consider segmenting the Interstate widening project at the South Parkway Interchange. This action would create a 7+ mile segment (north) and a 9+ mile segment (south). The northern segment is shorter and should be less than half of the total cost (based only on pro-rated length). This is a much more reasonably sized project, rather than retaining a 17+ mile project that costs close to \$100 million. We are concerned that a project of this size would likely be a target for continuous deferral.

We understand that FDOT is considering this request and would like to offer our support based on the strong economic development and transportation benefits that this project will bring to the community, Brevard County and the East Central Florida region. In addition, the City has secured private sector partners who are not only willing to invest in the interchange project but are also bringing several thousand health care, manufacturing and education sector jobs. This is an opportunity for us to demonstrate that state and local

government can work together with the private sector to achieve significant economic benefit at a time when unemployment, particularly in Brevard County, is continuing to rise.

We urge you to work with the City and their private sector partners to develop a strategy where the schedule for the Interstate widening project from Malabar to the South Parkway Interchange can be restored to 2015, in the funded portion of the work program, and also ask that you support the Interchange project as the City pursues various construction funding opportunities. The goal is for the interchange and the widening project to be constructed concurrently and your commitment will assure the private sector investors and prospective companies that FDOT is prepared to do what it takes to bring the project to reality within the next five years.

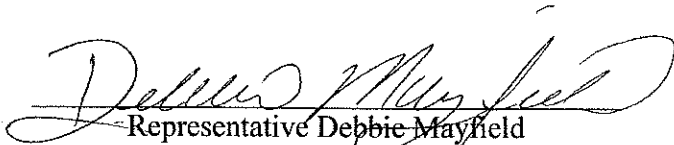
Thank you for your consideration.



Senator Thad Altman



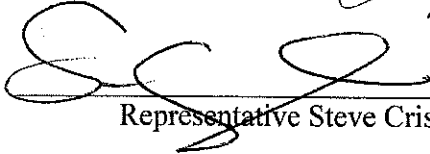
Senator Mike Haridopolos




Representative Debbie Mayfield



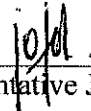
Representative Ritch Workman



Representative Steve Crisafulli



Representative Ralph Poppell



Representative John Tobia