

Florida Recommendations for the Reauthorization of MAP-21

The "Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act" (MAP-21) was enacted on July 6, 2012. The Act extended federal highway and transit funding through September 30, 2014. The Florida Department of Transportation offers the following three key recommendations for the reauthorization of MAP-21:

1. Let MAP-21 Policy Changes Work

MAP-21 simplified an overly complex federal program structure; introduced features to speed up the delivery of projects; increased alternative financing options including public-private partnerships, tolling and loan guarantees; included performance management requirements; and, provided funding incentives for freight projects. These changes must be given time to work prior to legislating any further significant changes.

2. Fix the Funding Problem

Prior federal transportation legislation (ISTEA in 1991, TEA-21 in 1998, and SAFETEA-LU in 2005) authorized funding for five or six year periods. MAP-21 provided only two full years of funding by transferring \$18.8 billion of general funds to the Highway Trust Fund. MAP-21 should be reauthorized to:

- Extend current funding levels for at least four more years,
- Restore the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund and enact other policies that expand transportation investment to reduce the massive backlog of needs, and
- Continue to distribute at least 92% of all highway funds to the states by formula.

3. Performance Measures Should Not Be Used to Distribute Funds

If states do not meet their performance targets, they should not receive additional federal funds, but be required to target their existing federal funds to improve performance. The *reward for good performance* should be greater flexibility to use federal funds to best meet each state's unique needs. Washington must resist the temptation to "fix" *poor performance* by redistributing funding among the states. Transportation investments should be used to support the mobility and access requirements for economic growth.