

Board of County Commissioners

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2009
STATE LEGISLATIVE ISSUES

FOR





2009 TOP STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- SUPPORT**  **Charter County Transit System Surtax**
SUPPORT legislation that gives all charter counties the authority to implement the Charter County Transit System Surtax. **SUPPORT** current statutory authority giving counties the discretion to distribute these revenues to municipalities pursuant to an interlocal agreement under F.S. Chapter 163.
- SUPPORT**  **Local Option Rental Car Surcharge**
SUPPORT legislation giving counties the authority to implement a Local Option Rental Car Surcharge Tax for transportation related improvements.
- SUPPORT**  **Advance Central Florida Commuter Rail Project**
SUPPORT efforts to advance the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project and the resolution of liability issues.
- SUPPORT**  **Revenue Flexibility**
SUPPORT the creation or enhancement of Alternative Public Revenue Sources to fund essential service needs of local communities.
- SUPPORT**  **HOMETOWN Democracy**
SUPPORT any bill introduced to provide financial assistance to local governments forced to hold elections to achieve text amendments to their plans that are mandated by the Legislature, and **SUPPORT** any bill that provides financial and technical assistance to local governments in need of assistance with their Land Development Regulations as a result of Hometown Democracy.
- SUPPORT**  **Growth Management Legislative Changes**
SUPPORT legislation that reinforces local government support for Regional Growth Visions that preserve environmental lands and encourage compact, walkable development patterns that are energy-conservation.
- OPPOSE**  **OPPOSE** unfunded mandates to add Elements to local comprehensive plans and legislative and regulatory efforts that obstruct local efforts to implement the regional vision through unnecessarily requiring extensive commitment of immediate funding for infrastructure for redevelopment planned for a twenty-year planning horizon.
- SUPPORT**  **Deferred Compensation**
SUPPORT advancement of necessary language to allow local governments to participate in the State's Deferred Compensation Program.
- OPPOSE**  **Diminished Charter County Home Rule Authority**
OPPOSE efforts to diminish or eliminate County Home Rule Authority, both administrative and fiscal, allowing counties to develop and implement community-based solutions to local problems.
- OPPOSE**  **Cost Shifts of Government Services and Programs**
OPPOSE any state or federal actions that limit the ability of the Board of County Commissioners to make fiscal and public policy decisions for Seminole County.
- SUPPORT**  **SUPPORT** the establishment of an agreed upon course of action whereby state and county elected officials deliberatively evaluate the appropriate funding and delivery of intergovernmental service responsibilities between counties and the state.
- OPPOSE**  **Transportation Trust Fund**
OPPOSE any effort to divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes.

STATE/LOCAL - FUNDING PARTNERSHIP

State Road 46 – Regional Evacuation Route (SR 415 to US 1) - \$8.0 Million
Request - \$8.0 million to expand State Road 46 from SR 415 to US Highway 1. The funds sought would cover the project development and environment phase of this project, which expands State Road 46 to 4-lanes from SR 415 in Seminole County to US Highway 1 in Brevard County. Widening State Road 46 would significantly improve travel on a regional basis and provide an upgraded hurricane evacuation route. The total cost of the project is \$150.0 million. The project in Seminole County was approved and adopted by the Metro Plan Orlando Board in 2004 as part of the Long Range Plan 2025. The County expects the funds to be provided to the Florida Department of Transportation which would be the agency to implement the project since it is a State roadway and serves traffic on a regional basis. As an evacuation route, it directly serves Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Brevard Counties. Indirectly, it would serve as a primary or secondary route for other coastal Counties along the east coast of Florida.

Regional Alternative Water Supply Program - \$2.0 Million
Request - \$2.0 Million to assist in the design of the Yankee Lake Regional Surface Water Facility for augmentation of the reclaimed water system to offset potable ground water demands and the production of potable water to meet growth demands. The project will serve the Northwest/Northeast Service Areas of the County as well as provide resources to the Seminole, Lake Mary, and Sanford Tri-Party Re-claim System. This project also includes the design for the base infrastructure for expansion to a regional 25 million gallon per day potable water treatment plant to further offset regional groundwater withdrawals. St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) has determined, through studies conducted since the mid-1990's that the withdrawals from the Upper Floridian aquifer may result in adverse environmental impact. This project will help us meet the St. Johns River Water Management District regulatory controls along with possible grant funding from SJRWMD up to a maximum \$12.0 million for construction.

Commuter Rail Stations - \$2.0 million
On Nov. 30, 2007, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and CSX Transportation (CSXT) signed agreements to bring Commuter Rail to Central Florida, providing both convenience and new opportunities for Floridians who live and work along the 61.5-mile corridor, from Deland in Volusia County to Poinciana in Osceola County.

The project total is estimated to be \$615.0 million and will include four stations in Seminole County to be located in Sanford, Lake Mary, Longwood and Altamonte Springs. The project will help meet the growing needs of the state, reduce highway congestion, increase protection for the environment and enhance transportation capacity for consumer goods and other products. The FDOT also signed "Letters of Understanding" with bus providers Lynx and Votran to augment the Commuter Rail project. Funds are being sought by the cities from the Federal Bus and Bus Facilities Program, a federal program by which there are potential earmark funds available for development of the stations. The station sites to be located at Altamonte, Lake Mary, Longwood and Sanford have received the necessary environmental clearances to move forward with land acquisition. The project is funded primarily by state dollars for the first seven years. Seminole County supports additional funding to support the cities for enhancement of the standard rail stations through the Federal Bus and Bus Facilities Program.

State Road 429 – Wekiva Parkway & SR 46 Bypass
The Wekiva Parkway, which is being developed by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) – District 5 and the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, is believed to be critical to accommodate inter-county travel between Lake, Seminole, and Orange counties.

The 25-mile project would relieve congestion on US Highway 441, State Road 46 and local roads, and complete the beltway on the west side of Metropolitan Orlando. FDOT is overseeing development of the Lake and Seminole County portions of the roadway. An environmental study is pending by FDOT. Lake County listed this project as a legislative priority. Seminole County supports the development of the Wekiva Parkway.