

# ***FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION***

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## **MATTHEW D. UBBEN RETURNS TO FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*Served as Public Affairs Director in the late '90's*

**TALLAHASSEE** – The Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) has appointed Matthew D. Ubben as the Commission's Executive Director. Ubben, who begins his assignment on August 22, replaces Brad Swanson, who recently became the president of the Florida Cable Telecommunications Association. Ubben, a public affairs professional with more than 30 years experience working for associations, corporations and state government, has been serving as President of Floridians for Better Transportation since January, 2012.

"Matthew D. Ubben is a well-respected professional whose breadth of knowledge and experience in transportation will benefit our nine Governor-appointed board members from throughout the state to provide leadership to meet Florida's transportation needs through policy guidance on issues of statewide importance and by maintaining oversight and public accountability for the Florida Department of Transportation," said Jay Trumbull, Chairman of the FTC, from Panama City. "We appreciate his willingness to return to the FTC as executive director, having served as public affairs director during the late '90's, and look forward his leadership as we promote 21<sup>st</sup> Century mobility solutions for 20 million Floridians and more than 100 million annual visitors."

"The FTC is a case study in good government which has a proven track record of shaping and promoting transportation policy in Florida for nearly 30 years," said Matthew D. Ubben. "I look forward to working with Chairman Trumbull and the other eight Commissioners in an effort to recommend major transportation policies for the Governor's approval; review the status of the state transportation system and recommend improvements to the Governor and the Legislature; perform an in-depth evaluation of the

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annual department budget request, the Florida Transportation Plan, and the tentative work program; and monitor the financial status of the department on a regular basis.”

Ubben's non-profit advocacy in Florida includes serving as Executive Director of the Florida Chapter of Consumer Energy Alliance; serving as Vice President of the Florida Trucking Association; and, serving as chief development officer and director of public policy at Volunteers of America – Florida. Ubben's state government service in Florida includes stints as the Director of Legislative & Cabinet Affairs at the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and the agency's chief spokesman, Executive Director of the Florida Commission on Veterans' Affairs; Public Affairs Director of the Florida Transportation Commission; Director of External Affairs at the Department of Management Services' Division of State Group Insurance; and Deputy Communications Director at the Florida Department of Education.

Prior to his arrival in Tallahassee in 1997, Ubben spent more than a decade in public affairs positions in Washington, DC. He managed political action committees for United Technologies Corporation and MCI Communications, directed a major-donor program at the Republican National Committee and lobbied for the Helicopter Association International.

Ubben, founder of Confianza Consulting, Inc., a government and public affairs consulting firm, received a B.A. in Political Science, with a minor in International Relations, from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Ubben is married to Michelle, a partner at Sachs Media Group. They have six children.

*The Florida Transportation Commission is an appointed body that provides performance and fiscal oversight of the FDOT, and makes transportation policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.*

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