

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



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FTC: REASON FOUNDATION ANNUAL HIGHWAY REPORT METHODOLOGY IS FLAWED

Highway statistical information is not easily comparable across states

TALLAHASSEE – Today, Jay Trumbull, chairman of the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC), issued the following statement on yesterday's release of Reason Foundation's 22nd Annual Highway Report: The Performance of State Highway Systems.

Chairman Trumbull said, "Approximately 52 percent of the Florida Department of Transportation budget goes towards the preservation and maintenance of the existing transportation system, yet this is factored against Florida in the overall rankings. The 'maintenance disbursements per state-controlled mile' indicator works against states that have made policy decisions to preserve its existing system, as we have done in Florida. The bottom line is—if a state's highways and bridges are in good condition by spending a greater percentage of resources, then by Reason's methodology we can end up near the bottom of the cost effectiveness rankings. This flawed methodology fails to reflect actual road and bridge conditions experienced by our 20 million citizens and 100 million annual visitors who travel on some of the best pavement conditions in the nation. For this reason, we agree with the assessment by the Federal Highway Administration—the data source used in the analysis—that highway statistical information is not easily comparable across states."

BACKGROUND: The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) currently maintains 12,110 miles of the public road system, split between rural areas and cities. Although the State Highway System consists of only 10 percent of the lane miles in Florida, it carries more than half of Florida's total traffic. The remaining 90 percent of roadways are maintained by either counties or cities. Since 1984, the number of highway system miles has increased by 26 percent, while the daily vehicle miles traveled increased by 90 percent.

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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