



February 22, 2023

CMC 2023-02

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo, President
Florida Senate
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

The Honorable Paul Renner, Speaker
The Florida House of Representatives
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative

Dear President Passidomo and Speaker Renner:

On behalf of the River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), I'm conveying our members' enthusiastic support for the *Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative*. This initiative would advance many critical infrastructure projects throughout the state, including the reconstruction of the I-95 Interchange at US 1 in Volusia County.

The I-95 at US 1 Interchange was originally constructed in the early 1960s and is one of the oldest interchanges in the state of Florida. In the decades since its construction, design standards have been updated to keep pace with changes in automobile technology, safety requirements and driver characteristics. As such, some of the original interchange elements such as median openings and driveway connections along US 1, the tight loop ramps, and vertical clearance of the I-95 bridges over US 1 do not meet current FDOT standards.

As the northern gateway to Volusia County and the City of Ormond Beach, this significant interchange serves a high volume of unique traffic, including freight trucks, passenger vehicles serving nearby residential areas and businesses, tourism and special event traffic, motorcycles, and bicycle and pedestrian users.

With growth in the area expected to continue, the proposed project will accommodate the existing and future travel demand by improving traffic operations and mobility, reducing congestion, improving pedestrian connectivity and enhancing safety for all travel modes. The

February 22, 2023

Page 2 of 2

project is currently undergoing overlapping project development and environmental (PD&E) study and design phases. However, through traditional funding, construction of this project wouldn't be cost feasible for a couple decades.

The *Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative* proposes an unexpected and welcome major investment in transportation. The River to Sea TPO Board supports the initiative and the major investment in infrastructure that it provides throughout the state and looks forward to working in partnership with FDOT to complete this important project for our region.

Sincerely,

City of DeLand Mayor Christopher M. Cloudman
Chairperson, River to Sea TPO

Cc: Jared Perdue, FDOT Secretary
Volusia and Flagler County Legislative Delegation
Senate Commission on Transportation
Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism and Economic Development
House Transportation and Modals Subcommittee

