



Legislative Summary

June 2009

This was a very difficult legislative session for transportation. STARTUPS was very much engaged in trying to make it a positive session. Now that the session is over and the dust has settled, we are providing a brief summary of some of our key issues and the Legislative responses.

- STARTUPS supported a bill that would provide for indexing the local option gas tax to the CPI.
 - STARTUPS provided members of the House and Senate copies of a draft bill that would provide for indexing the local option gas tax to the CPI. STARTUPS was unable to obtain bill sponsors in the House or Senate.

- STARTUPS supported adjusting the tolls on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge to be comparable to the tolls on similar facilities within the state of Florida. STARTUPS supported a bill amending Section 338.165 Florida Statutes to include that one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of the Skyway toll revenues collected be used to fund the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA.)
 - Adjusting the tolls on the Sunshine Skyway Bridge was not an item that made it to the legislative floor during the session, however we were successful in working to protect the \$2M appropriation for TBARTA that was allocated during the 2008 Legislative Session. This funding was secured and will allow TBARTA to continue operating and move towards the implementation phases of their newly adopted Master Plan. STARTUPS will continue to work to support efforts to identify options for long-term dedicated funding for TBARTA.

- STARTUPS supported restoration and protection of the State Transportation Trust Fund.
 - Despite our efforts, \$120 million was raided from the State Transportation Trust Fund. We can only imagine how big the raid would have been without our efforts.
 - By raiding the Transportation Trust Fund to balance the State budget and trying to supplant federal stimulus funds for transportation, the Legislature and Governor made a foolish move and exempted Florida from being eligible for the second round of Stimulus funding.

- STARTUPS supported the local option rental car surcharge for regional transportation.
 - Cannot find any action by the legislature regarding this matter.

- STARTUPS supported the practice of utilizing mobility fees as a tool for mitigating transportation impacts.
 - STARTUPS was successful in convincing the Legislature to require the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the state land-planning agency (DCA) to evaluate and consider a mobility fee system to replace the existing transportation concurrency system. FDOT and DCA are directed to continue their respective Mobility Fee studies and to submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2009.

- STARTUPS supported changing the Charter County Surtax to an all-county surtax and providing funding for all transportation projects based upon local priorities.
 - STARTUPS was successful in working to get the Charter County Transportation System Surtax (HB 1205) name change to the “Charter County Transportation System Surtax” which expands eligibility to all charter counties; not just those chartered prior to January 1, 1984. This also requires interlocal agreements to be updated no less than every five years to include new municipalities.
- STARTUPS supported the creation of the Florida Transportation Funding Study Commission as defined in SB 582 and HB 941.
 - Cannot find any action by the legislature regarding this matter.
- STARTUPS supported public, private partnerships (P3) as related to transportation improvements.
 - STARTUPS co-hosted a very successful P3 Forum on May 29, 2009 at USF Selby Auditorium. The results of this Forum will lead to individual efforts by the FDOT at a macro level.
- STARTUPS supported legislation to stop red light running.
 - Bills passed in each Chamber, however, never negotiated their respective differences. For example, the Senate version had no provisions for public awareness – a major reason the bill died. Representative Ron Reagan and Senator Mike Bennett fought valiantly for the Mark Wandall Safety Act.
- STARTUPS will support improvements to ports and other freight movement facilities to take advantage of the Panama Canal expansion.
 - Exempts certain port-related land uses from DRI status subject to specific criteria. “... Facilities determined by the Department of Community Affairs and the applicable general purpose local government to be port-related industrial or commercial projects located within 3 miles of or in a port master plan area which rely upon the utilization of port and intermodal transportation facilities shall not be designated as developments of regional impact if such expansions, projects, or facilities are consistent with comprehensive master plans that are in compliance with this section.”