



NEWS RELEASE



STOP UNPRECEDENTED RAID OF \$25 Billion in PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Floridians Urged To Contact Rep. Vern Buchanan Today

TALLAHASSEE, FL – February 2, 2012 – The Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA) is warning riders, citizens, commuters, and voters that Florida faces gridlock if proposed drastic cuts to the nation's transportation system are passed.

The House Ways and Means Committee has released the tax title of the American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act of 2012 – the House of Representatives surface transportation authorization bill.

The Ways and Means Committee title makes drastic changes by eliminating the use of motor fuel tax revenues for public transportation, revenues that have been dedicated to public transportation for nearly 30 years. These revenues, which currently go to public transportation, will generate \$25 billion in funding over the 5 year life of the bill, and would support nearly half of the authorized funding for public transportation. This legislation would eliminate the use of the Mass Transit Account's motor fuel revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 for public transportation. The bill eliminates the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund and creates the new Alternative Transportation Account that would provide funding for public transportation, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Control (CMAQ) program, and several other programs. This reallocation of funds would eliminate a dependable and predictable source of funding for much needed investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure. The Ways and Means mark-up is scheduled for 9 am on Friday February 3, 2012.

TAKE ACTION NOW (Before 9 AM Friday's mark-up)

1. **Call Florida's only rep on the House Ways and means Committee, Rep. Buchanan, today at (941) 951-6643 and ask him to stop the assault on transit or [Email](#) him. Tell him that public transportation is important to the future of Florida and a portion of the Highway Trust Fund should remain dedicated to public transportation**
2. ***Please call your Congressional delegation today and urge them to leave fuel tax revenues untouched. House of Representatives main line: 202-224-3121***

Public Transportation benefits all Floridians because it creates jobs, gets people to work, it's green, important to our Florida's tourism industry, provides an alternative to traffic congestion, and helps America's energy independence. Most trips on transit are taken to and from jobs.

The Florida Public Transportation Association is a nonprofit association whose members include all 31 public transit agencies in Florida, as well as interested citizens and businesses. The FPTA acts as a collective voice in promoting the recognition, use, expansion and enhancement of public transportation in the state of Florida. The transit industry in Florida employs tens of thousands of Floridians, transports about 262 million riders a year, and creates billions of dollars per year in annual economic activity.

For more information visit www.FloridaTransit.com
Contact [Denis Eirikis](#) at 561-798-9633