



October 9, 2009

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## New GAO Report Highlights Florida's Effective Implementation of Recovery Act Funding

A recently released report by the federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) finds Florida's implementation of Recovery Act funding to be effective and on target, particularly in the allocation of highway funds. The report shows Florida has obligated 74 percent of its total highway funding, compared to 67 percent nationally.

The GAO also emphasized Florida's focus on funding new roads and bridges, rather than short-term resurfacing projects. Florida has obligated 21 percent of highway funds, compared to eight percent nationally, to building new roads and bridges. Florida has also obligated 40 percent of highway funds for road widening, compared to 16 percent nationally. The result will mean more sustained economic development and job creation within the Sunshine State.

Florida was one of 16 states selected for review by the GAO, the non-partisan audit, evaluation and investigative arm of Congress. Their recently published report is the third bimonthly report on Recovery Act implementation.



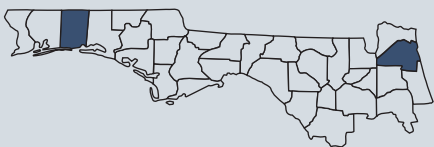
Pictured above: Construction on the Avalon Boulevard stimulus project in Milton.

## FAST FACTS ON HIGHWAY STIMULUS PROJECTS

- ★ At least 521 highway projects will be funded by federal stimulus dollars.
- ★ Nearly \$987,000,000 in stimulus funding for Florida highway projects has already been authorized.
- ★ Florida's total highway stimulus funding is \$1,346,735,003.

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### NORTH FLORIDA



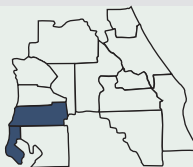
- **Duval County: Beach Boulevard (US 90/State Road 212)** Adding lanes from Hodges Boulevard to San Pablo Road – 96 jobs created/saved to date.

*"Had we not been successful in winning this project, our company would have been faced with laying off some 40 to 50 additional employees," said Sam Mousa, executive vice president of J.B. Coxwell Contracting Inc.*

- **Okaloosa County: State Road 85 and State Road 123** New interchange and lane additions – 49 jobs created/saved to date.

*Two military veterans have been hired to assist with construction. This project has helped prevent potential contractor layoffs.*

### CENTRAL FLORIDA



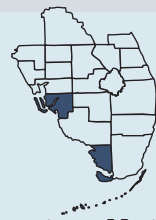
- **Pasco County: US 41/State Road 45 from Tower Road to Ridge Road-Connerton Boulevard** Lane widening – 27 jobs created/saved to date.

*R.E. Purcell is a family owned general contractor operating in the Tampa Bay area since 1973. Stimulus funding will sustain the employment of their 150 employees for the next two years. "If we had not gotten this job and had not picked up any more work before the end of the year, we could have lost up to half our workers," said company controller Larry Bane. (Tampa Tribune, June 20, 2009)*

- **Pinellas County: State Road 55 (US 19) from Whitney Road to State Road 60** Major reconstruction including new interchanges and multiple turn lanes – 3 jobs created/saved to date.

*Approximately 25 percent of the workforce for this project will be new hires from the Tampa Bay area.*

### SOUTH FLORIDA



- **Lee County: Metro Parkway (State Road 739)** New 6-lane road from US 41 to Six Mile Cypress Parkway – 78 jobs created/saved to date.

*Stimulus funding made this project a reality after years of unsuccessful budgeting attempts.*

- **Monroe County: US 1/State Road 5 from Mile Marker 121.32 to 124.18** Road reconstruction, shoulder addition for hurricane evacuation and bridge to protect wildlife – 12 jobs created/saved to date.

*Eric Echeverria is a father of 5 that had to take a lower paying position as a result of the economic downturn. This project will provide Eric a better opportunity to provide for his family.*