



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.  
SECRETARY

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### **FDOT Commends Governor DeSantis' Strategic Vision for Florida's Transportation Infrastructure in 2020**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. issued the statement below following Governor DeSantis' 2020 State of the State Address, which further emphasized the Governor's forward-thinking vision for transportation in Florida.

“Governor DeSantis continues to have bold plans for Florida's infrastructure, and the department is committed to turning his strategic vision into a reality as well as preparing for future growth,” said Secretary Thibault. “As a result of the Governor's leadership, the state is leveraging innovative solutions to improve safety and reduce congestion throughout the state's transportation system, and I look forward to reporting even more accomplishments in 2020.”

In 2019, some FDOT achievements included:

- **Receiving a national safety award from the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO)** for the use of technology to deploy innovative solutions to tackle the safety issues related to wrong-way driving.
- **National bond rating agencies reaffirmed the Turnpike's elite “AA” credit rating.**
- **Earning two USDOT awards for nearly \$100 million in infrastructure projects,** including \$90 million to replace the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Indian River Bridge.
- **Receiving over \$82 million in awards from USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao (the most of any state) as part of the national BUILD Program,** to be used on significant transportation projects like autonomous shuttles in Central Florida, transit improvements in Miami-Dade County and seaport improvements at JAXPort.
- **Directing Unprecedented Rail Safety Measures** that called for the implementation of various safety measures including the deployment of dynamic envelopes at all FDOT and state-owned land rail crossings and launching a statewide education initiative. The directive has the explicit goal of preventing fatalities on or near the state's rail corridors.
- **Completing construction of Phase 1 of SunTrax,** the nation's first state-owned autonomous vehicle testing facility, and beginning Phase 2 of construction.
- **Completing I-295 Express Lanes between S.R. 9B and J. Turner Butler Blvd (S.R. 202),** which included the opening of a third general use lane, decreasing travel times along the corridor by more than 20% and increasing traffic speeds by 16%.



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- **Widening I-75 from south of SR 50 to the Hernando/Sumter County Line** from 4 lanes to 6 lanes and improving the capacity of the I-75/SR 50 interchange, a critical evacuation route.
- **Reaching more than 1.5 million riders on SunRail.** The southern SunRail expansion increased ridership by 82%.
- **Significantly improving Sunpass customer call wait times from over 45 minutes to less than one minute and increasing the customer service score to an average of more than 4.5 out of 5.**
- **Providing Hurricane Michael recovery by removing 10 million cubic yards of debris on both state and local roadways from the storm-affected areas and repairing U.S. 98 in Bay and Gulf counties** to strengthen the roadway and prevent storm-related damages in the future.

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