



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

**HURRICANE HELENE (TROPICAL CYCLONE NINE)
FDOT EMERGENCY ORDER 24-11
(Pursuant to Executive Order Nos. 24-208, 24-209 and 24-213)**

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-208 regarding showers and thunderstorms located over the northwestern Caribbean Sea and portions of Central America that were associated with a broad area of low pressure, previously identified as Potential Tropical Cyclone Nine, and which later developed into Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-209 amending Executive Order 24-208 and declaring a state of emergency for additional counties within the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on October 1, 2024, the International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) rejected an offer from the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX) on a Master Contract, leading to an organized strike (ILA Strike) at all seaports along the East and Gulf Coasts of the United States where its members are employed; and

WHEREAS, the ILA Strike is shutting down portions of the largest four of Florida's sixteen seaports – JAXPORT, Port Tampa Bay, Port Everglades, and PortMiami – at a time when the State of Florida is working to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Helene, a Category 4 hurricane; and

WHEREAS, the shutdown at our seaports will disrupt supply chains and delay the delivery of critical commodities and materials, including lumber, steel, construction materials,

vehicle parts, electronics, machinery, perishable food products, apparel, home goods, and medical equipment; and

WHEREAS, such delays will also cause inventory shortages, thereby forcing shippers and businesses to seek alternative supply routes, including routes outside the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, commodity shortages and higher consumer prices will uniquely and acutely harm the people of Florida, many of whom will need commodities, materials, and consumer goods to recover and rebuild from the impacts of Hurricane Helene; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts will be felt across Florida's sixteen deepwater seaports, which produce 900,000 direct and indirect jobs, annually provide more than \$117 billion in economic value, and handled over 114.2 million tons of cargo in 2023; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2024, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 24-213 amending Executive Order 24-208 to declare a state of emergency for additional counties within the State of Florida, direct the Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation to waive the collection of tolls and other fees and charges for commercial motor vehicles transporting goods impacted by the ILA Strike, and direct the Secretary to waive the size and weight restrictions for divisible loads on vehicles transporting goods from seaports in the State of Florida and establish alternate size and weight restrictions for all such vehicles for the duration of the emergency; and

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2024, the ILA reached a partial resolution with workers planning to return to the seaports; however, a full resolution has not been reached and there are still impacts as a result of the shutdown and;

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation is prepared to deploy resources to mitigate these disruptions and to continue to support the disaster response efforts related to Hurricane Helene.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JARED W. PERDUE, P.E., Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 24-208, as amended by Executive Order Nos. 24-209 and 24-213, hereby:

1. Waive the collection of tolls as provided in Executive Order No. 24-208, as amended, on all toll facilities on the Florida Turnpike and on the State Highway System within the State of Florida for all commercial motor vehicles transporting goods and materials impacted by the ILA Strike from seaports to intermodal logistics centers, distribution centers, and delivery points. The Florida Department of Transportation will facilitate reimbursements to support compliance with covenants made with its bondholders, the bondholders of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, or the bondholders of other Florida toll facility entities which are in the trust indentures or resolutions adopted in connection with the issuance of such bonds.

2. Waive and suspend the following rules and statutes: sections 316.515(1)-(3), 316.535(1) and (3), 316.545(2) and (4), 316.550(1), and 337.401(1)(a), Florida Statutes, and Rules 14-28.002(4) and (5), and 14-46.001(2), Florida Administrative Code, to the extent needed to allow the establishment of alternate size and weight restrictions for divisible loads on any vehicles transporting goods and materials impacted by the ILA Strike from seaports to intermodal logistics centers, distribution centers, and delivery points, emergency equipment, services, supplies or personnel, or to transport FEMA mobile homes or office style mobile homes, and agricultural commodities and citrus as recommended by the Commissioner of Agriculture, and as needed to waive by special permit the warning signal requirements in the

Utility Accommodation Manual to accommodate public utility companies from other jurisdictions to render assistance in restoring vital services, subject to the limitations expressed in Executive Order Nos. 24-208, 24-209, and 24-213.

3. Waive and suspend sections 112.061, 216.292, 216.313, 287.055, 287.056, 287.057(1)-(10), (12), (17), (20) and (25), 287.0823, 287.15, 337.02(2), 337.107, 337.11, 339.08, and 339.135(6), Florida Statutes, and Rules 60A-1.002, 60A-1.017, 60A-1.021, 60A-1.043, and 60A-1.045, Florida Administrative Code, as they relate to leasing, printing, purchasing, travel, the conditions of employment and the compensation of employees, or the use of State Transportation Trust Funds off the State Highway System, to the extent necessary to ensure the timely performance of the Department of Transportation's disaster response functions as prescribed in the State Comprehensive Management Plan, or as directed by the State Coordinating Officer or Deputy State Coordinating Officer.

4. The waivers and suspensions of statute are limited to Alachua, Baker, Bay, Bradford, Brevard, Calhoun, Charlotte, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Columbia, DeSoto, Dixie, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Glades, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hendry, Hernando, Highlands, Hillsborough, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Monroe, Nassau, Okaloosa, Okeechobee, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Putnam, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Seminole, St. Johns, Sumter, Suwannee, Taylor, Union, Volusia, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington counties. The waivers and suspension of statute are applicable to Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach counties for the limited purpose of responding to any disruptions caused by the ILA Strike referenced in Executive Order 24-213.

5. All actions taken by the Florida Department of Transportation with respect to this emergency before the issuance of this Emergency Order are hereby ratified.

This order shall expire on November 22, 2024, the expiration or rescission of Executive Order No. 24-208, as amended by Executive Order Nos. 24-209 and 24-213, or my further order, whichever is earlier.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2024.

DocuSigned by:

Jared W. Perdue

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Jared W. Perdue, P.E., Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation