



PRESS RELEASE

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Strengthen—Don't Consolidate—Local Toll Agencies *~ Reason Foundation Study Shows Greater Independence Will Lead to Efficiencies, Innovation~*

TALLAHASSEE – Rather than consolidating local toll agencies in Florida's large urban areas with the Florida Turnpike, those agencies should be made independent of the Florida Department of Transportation so they can better meet local needs. That is the primary conclusion of a 51-page study released today by the Reason Foundation, a national nonprofit public policy think tank based in Los Angeles, California.

"Florida has long been a national leader with its local tolling authority model," said the Reason Foundation's Robert Poole, one of the principle authors of the study. "Other states like Texas embrace this model, and for Florida to consolidate creating a bigger government bureaucracy, would be a mistake."

The study found that the two primary reasons put forth for toll agency consolidation in Florida—cost savings and interoperability—are being achieved already without consolidation. The study analyzed claims that consolidation will bring as much as \$24-million in annual cost savings and found that most of those savings have already been realized through collaboration among local authorities and contracting with private-sector vendors.

The study was made possible by a grant to the Reason Foundation from Associated Industries of Florida (AIF), representing Florida's business community. "Reason Foundation is a nationally recognized public policy think tank, and we value co-authors Robert Poole and Daryl Fleming's professional assessment of this topic," said Jose L. Gonzalez, AIF Vice President of Governmental Affairs.

The study also recommends that local tolling authorities be given greater autonomy from the state. Instead of consolidating, the state should foster strong, self-supporting urban toll agencies and level the playing field for all tolling agencies.

To view the full study, [click here](#).

Reason Foundation is a nonprofit think tank dedicated to advancing free minds and free markets. Reason Foundation produces respected public policy research on a variety of issues and publishes the critically acclaimed Reason magazine and its website, Reason.com.

Known as "The Voice of Florida Business," AIF has advocated for the principles of prosperity and free enterprise since 1920. Representing more than 10,000 businesses across the state, AIF is one of Florida's most powerful and successful government affairs and business lobbying groups.

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