



- Lake County
- Sumter County
- Town of Astatula
- City of Bushnell
- City of Center Hill
- City of Clermont
- City of Coleman
- City of Eustis
- City of Fruitland Park
- City of Groveland
- Town of Howey-in-the-Hills
- Town of Lady Lake
- City of Leesburg
- City of Mascotte
- City of Minneola
- Town of Montverde
- City of Mount Dora
- City of Tavares
- City of Umatilla
- City of Webster
- City of Wildwood
- Central Florida Expressway Authority
- Florida Central Railroad
- Lake County Schools
- Sumter County Schools

June 26, 2019

Mr. Michael Shannon, PE

Secretary

Florida Department of Transportation – District Five

719 S. Woodland Boulevard

DeLand, FL 32720-6834

RE: TRIP Funding Priority – I-75 Interchange at NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street, Marion County

Dear Secretary Shannon:

I wish to express the Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization's support for the I-75 Interchange at NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street in Marion County. This project is the subject of consideration for Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funding through the Ocala/Marion County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). I recognize the many regional benefits of this project and am pleased to join the TPO as a partnering agency.

The proposed investment will improve safety, mobility and accessibility of transportation in Marion County from the construction of a new interchange on I-75 at NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street and an extension of NW 49<sup>th</sup> Street from NW 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue to NW 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The project will support the TPO's long-range vision for a new east-west corridor parallel to U.S. 27 and State Road (SR) 326, accommodate future traffic growth, and provide significant relief to the existing interchanges. The project will also improve the overall safety of the local street network, which is impacted by the growth and development of several new distribution centers. This area of the county is projected to continue to grow as a major logistics hub supporting the creation of new jobs and a vibrant economy.

Approval of TRIP funding for this project will enhance the transportation infrastructure of Marion County and support the Central Florida regional economy. We ask that you give positive consideration to this project as part of a more integrated transportation network in the region.

Sincerely,

Chair Nick Girone

C: Lake County Commissioner Leslie Campione  
Sumter County Commissioner Don Burgess  
Ocala/Marion TPO Executive Director Robert Balmes  
Marion County Commissioner Michelle Stone  
Marion County Administrator Mounir Bouyounes

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