



Audubon OF FLORIDA

2507 Callaway Road
Suite 103
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone (850) 224-7546
Fax (850) 224-6056

October 1, 2007

Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Kopelousos:

I have had the opportunity to review the FDOT Long Range Program Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2009 through 2012-2013. The document makes reference to the 2025 Florida Transportation Plan and its goals which includes: *“Enriched quality of life and responsible environmental stewardship.”*

The 2025 Plan goals and some of the recommendations emerged from the 2025 Steering Committee. The committee’s recommendations included under the category of responsible environmental stewardship recommendations for dealing with transportation impacts to climate change. Unfortunately, those recommendations were not included in the Plan. Although the significant contribution transportation makes to Florida’s share of greenhouse gases was recognized during the steering committee’s discussions, there was significant agency resistance to including climate change recommendations in the Plan.

Governor Crist has made climate change a state policy priority. FDOT under your leadership in concert with Governor Christ could include reduction of greenhouse gases and mitigation and adaptation as elements in long range planning.

While there is evidence that FDOT is somewhat cooperative with various transit and bicycle/pedestrian strategies and solutions, so much more will need to be done. This is not just a matter of environmental stewardship, there are economic competitiveness reasons to broaden FDOT’s role in climate change strategies and solutions.

While not an expert, I remain available to discuss these issues.

Sincerely,

Eric Draper

Copy: Manley Fuller, Florida Wildlife Federation
David Guest, Earthjustice
Debbie Harrison, World Wildlife Fund
Gerald Karnas, Environmental Defense
Charles Pattison, 1000 Friends of Florida