



## *Florida Department of Transportation*

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## **FIRST COAST OUTER BELTWAY UPDATE**

**LAKE CITY:** The request for qualifications of companies to fund the design, construction and operation of the First Coast Outer Beltway around Jacksonville has been postponed pending resolution of a number of issues, announced the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) today.

The postponement of the concession agreement will allow the FDOT time to resolve the issue associated with potential property taxes on the First Coast Outer Beltway Public Private Partnership project. The environmental studies associated with the proposed \$1.8 billion project will also be substantially completed.

“This beltway project is very important to Florida and to the region as it will ensure the mobility of people and goods and enhance economic prosperity while at the same time preserving the quality of our environment and communities along this important corridor,” said Charles Baldwin, FDOT District Two Secretary. “The FDOT is still committed to serving the needs of the region and providing a transportation system that is safe and efficient.”

The FDOT is committed to pursue this innovative project by continuing the preliminary design, environmental studies, property acquisition and other project development activities.

The First Coast Outer Beltway is proposed as a four-lane limited access toll road that would connect Interstate 10 on the west side of Jacksonville and Interstate 95 in northern St. Johns County. The 46.5 mile long roadway would include a new bridge over the St. Johns River in the vicinity of the Shands Bridge and 13 interchanges. It is proposed as a public private partnership in which private concessionaires are solicited to build, operate and maintain, thus saving the state money and allowing it to be built sooner than if using just state funds.

For more information, visit the website, [www.fdotfirstcoastouterbeltway.com](http://www.fdotfirstcoastouterbeltway.com).