

Florida Alliance

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public testimony to this Transportation Subcommittee on Highway and Transit Hearing.

I represent the Florida Alliance, a coalition of grassroots organizations in the state of Florida, representing thousands of citizens across the state, who have focused on transportation issues in Florida over the last year. We want to ensure that the taxpayer stakeholder is allowed to provide input and ideas as we are the users and the funders of transportation projects.

There are limited resources available today to fund transportation projects. The economic climate insists that those limited resources be used for the must-do needs and not the nice-to-do expenditures. Therefore, the Highway Trust Fund must be reformed to its original core functions. To that end we support the *Transportation Empowerment Act* introduced by Senator DeMint in April 2008. This bill empowers the states to collect most of the federal gas tax monies that are currently being sent to Washington and reverses the trend started in 1982 where politicians included 10 earmarks in the Transportation Reauthorization bill. This earmarking grew to over 7,000 earmarks in the 2005. The *Transportation Empowerment Act* would reduce federal bureaucracies and empower the states to determine their own transportation priorities. This bill would allow donor states, like Florida, to retain 100% of their gas tax dollars rather than receiving only about 80 cents back for every dollar sent to Washington.

Secondly, regarding the Highway Trust Fund, approximately 38% of federal automobile gas taxes are diverted from roads and highways, the largest diversion being made to transit programs. Re-diverting those funds back to roads and highways will bring the much needed revenue to improve our roads, highways and bridges, which are used on average by 98% of all Americans who travel each day.

Thirdly, all transportation projects should be required to pass cost-effectiveness criteria, state its return on investment, reflect the share of the total cost paid by users and what benefits that other taxpayers get from their share of the cost. Transportation projects must not consider "Livability" criteria which is subjective, cannot be well defined or quantified. Immeasurable livability objectives perversely justify projects that increase traffic congestion, increase travel times and raise housing prices. Capital projects must prove they have funding to support the ongoing operations, maintenance and periodic major rehabilitation, replacement or reconstruction that is required to sustain the projects. For example, there is currently a backlog of major maintenance for existing rail systems of \$78 Billion. Transit projects should be approved only if they improve automobile travel times and do it at lower cost per passenger mile than any alternative, including expansion of highways. Effective use of the limited resources for transportation projects require efficient use of resources by setting measurable goals with the ability to meet those goals at the lowest cost with the greatest benefit.

Furthermore, Private bus service also exists in Florida, and nationwide private bus service moved more people last year than Amtrak. We need to remove barriers and regulations to encourage private sector solutions such as local shared taxi services which resemble airport shuttle services many airports provide. These services are used today in Atlantic City and Puerto Rico.

Finally, Innovative solutions are on the horizon to support personal mobility, which includes Intelligent Traffic Management and Cooperative Adaptive cruise control that allows more throughput on existing roads. Road solutions such as the double-decker Selmon Expressway in Hillsborough County increased

Florida Alliance

capacity without having to acquire additional right of way. We also cannot discount telecommuting which will decrease congestion on our roads at zero cost to the taxpayer.

Thank you again on behalf of the Florida Alliance, representing the taxpayer stakeholder, for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sharon Calvert

Spokesperson on Transportation issues for Florida Alliance, a coalition of over 120 Tea Party organizations in Florida

President of Tampa Tea Party

Spokesperson for No Tax For Tracks, Hillsborough County PAC

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Truth in Testimony Disclosure

Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of House Rule XI, in the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include: (1) a curriculum vitae; and (2) a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness. Such statements, with appropriate redaction to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(1) Name:

Sharon Calvert

(2) Other than yourself, name of entity you are representing:

Florida Alliance

(3) Are you testifying on behalf of an entity other than a Government (federal, state, local) entity?

YES

If yes, please provide the information requested below and attach your curriculum vitae.

NO

(4) Please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by you or by the entity you are representing:

Federal grants = \emptyset

Federal contracts = \emptyset

Sharon Calvert

Signature

3/24/2011
Date

Sharon Calvert

Functional Summary

Business Analyst with over 25 years experience supporting best practices for IT Projects and Operational Processes, mainly for data networking services. An early grassroots leader in the Tea Party Movement representing taxpayer stakeholders.

Work Experience

05/2009 - Present

Bright House Networks

Riverview, Florida

Business Analyst

- Responsible for Business Processes supporting voice and data services.

01/2007 - 04/2008

JP Morgan Chase

Tampa, Florida

Business Analyst (Contractor)

- Provided analysis, reporting and process support for operational management of client migration projects moving customers to new banking platform

05/2006-12/2006

AT&T

Tampa, Florida

Sales Process Engineer (Contractor)

- Responsible for user requirements and process definition for sales/contracting processes for new AT&T product development and investment portfolio projects

1999 - 11/2004

AT&T

Tampa, Florida

District Manager

- Responsibilities included program and project management of strategic Business initiatives; Billing Operations Manager responsible for sales support and business analysis functions

Previous Experience

IBM

Tampa, Florida

Sales Technical Support, Financial and Data Analyst and Administrative Support

Transportation

President, Tampa Tea Party

Spokesperson on Transportation issues, Florida Alliance (coalition of over 120 grassroots leaders in Florida)

Treasurer and Spokesperson, NoTaxForTracks (Hillsborough County Florida PAC)

- Taxpayer advocate for fiscal responsibility and limited government
- Advocates and Promotes Common Sense Transportation policies
- Presented grassroots view at American Dream Coalition Annual Conference Sept. 2010
- Hosted Transportation event in Tampa with speakers from Heritage, CATO Sept. 2010
- Promotes Reform in Transportation funding for equitable state funding of gas taxes
- Led an effort to defeat local sales tax increase to fund light rail

Education

University of South Florida

Tampa, Florida

B.A., Finance