PROPOSED APWA FLORIDA CHAPTER STATE LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS:

Water Supply Funding
Support legislation that enhances regional and local financial capacity to address water resource and water supply development.

Solid Waste Management
Support legislation that reinstates state funding of Solid Waste Management Grants; maintains the waste tire fee as a dedicated revenue source for funding mosquito control programs and waste tire recycling.
Oppose legislation that preempts county authority to franchise and otherwise regulate Construction & Demolition (C&D) haulers, recyclers, or disposal facilities.

State Transportation Funding Policy
Support legislation that:
- Ensures the state’s Other Arterial Capacity Program is not impacted by Florida Department of Transportation’s (FDOT) Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funding policies;
- Establishes a statutory funding cap preventing FDOT from allocating more than 65 percent of any “new discretionary highway capacity funds” to the SIS;
- Increases funding from FDOT for local government projects for bridge replacement, Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) grants, traffic signal maintenance and infrastructure to serve commuter rail;
- Indexes gas tax and removes restrictions on use of local option gas taxes to allow for major road and bridge rehabilitations;
- Expands the use of state transportation dollars to non-state roads that provide alternative access and reduce congestion on state roads.
- Maintain or increase funding for Small County Road Assistance Program
- Funding the Florida MPO revenue study to find additional $12.1 billion in additional investment, and all 6 of the revenue funding options recommended by the Florida MPO Advisory Council.

Background:
The Florida MPO Advisory Council (AC) has spent the last two years on Transportation Revenue Study (refer to attached letter to Governor). The Florida MPOAC Revenue Study found that an additional $12.1 billion in additional investment in transportation would be needed to match the level of investment the state made in FY 99/00. The Florida MPOAC Governing Board is pursuing 6 revenue funding options for legislative action in 2013. The 6 revenue options are:
1. * Implement a 2-cent fuel tax increase per year for 5 years (total increase of 10 Cents), indexed for inflation (STATE)
2. * Index all fuel taxes not currently indexed (LOCAL)
3. * Allow up to a 1-cent municipal optional sales tax (cities > 100,000 population) (L
4. * Conduct a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) study
5. * Increase the local diesel tax by 5-cents
6. * Return motor vehicle license and registration and titling fee increases to the State Transportation Trust Fund.

Oppose legislation that:
• Diverts any revenues from the state transportation trust fund;
• Redirects any state program funds to the SIS that currently benefits local government transportation needs.

Monitor legislation that:
• Suspends impact fees, either permanently or temporarily.

Water Governance
Support legislation that:
• Enhances local government participation in the water management district permitting and regulatory process;
• Encourages and assists in the long term funding of alternative water systems and transmission mains;
• Maintains oversight of reclaimed water usage at the local utility level rather than at the water management level.

Oppose the legislative creation of a statewide water commission that would redefine the water supply relationship among the state, water management districts, and local governments.

Water Supply Planning and Permitting
Support legislation that:
• Encourages the use of state owned lands including existing highway rights-of-way for purposes such as water wells, transmission piping and recharge infiltration;
• Encourages the use of alternative methods to achieve minimum flows and levels established by state water management districts to include reclaimed water augmentation, mitigation by aquifer recharge and other methods;
• Provides additional time for planning, permitting and necessary environmental studies associated with alternative water supply systems.

Agriculture Preemption
Oppose legislation that would preempt county regulations pertaining to agriculture under certain circumstances, and that restrict counties’ ability to impose storm water fees on agricultural properties.
WHO WE ARE

The American Public Works Association (APWA) is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals, with a diversified membership of over 29,000. Originally chartered in 1937, APWA is the largest and oldest organization of its kind in the world, with headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, an office in Washington, D.C., and 64 chapters throughout North America. APWA provides a forum in which public works professionals can exchange ideas, improve professional competency, increase the performance of their agencies and companies, and bring important public works-related topics to public attention in local, state and federal arenas.

The Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association marked its official beginning at the inaugural meeting held in the Cherry Plaza Hotel in Orlando Florida on May 6, 1960. The Florida Chapter is the largest chapter in the National organization with nearly 1,300 members and 11 local branches throughout the state.

Governmental Affairs Committee

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APWA Involvement:
Florida Chapter President 2011-12
Florida West Coast Branch Chair: 2005 - 2006
Government Affairs Committee (Florida)

OUR CONCERNS

Florida has been hard hit in the current economic downturn and APWA members are no exception. Cutbacks in Public Works have left many agencies short of manpower and underfunded. The Florida Chapter of APWA recognizes the need for cutbacks in government spending. However, we are concerned about the ability of our cities, municipalities and counties to function effectively at greatly reduced budget levels, impacting our abilities to provide:

- Acceptable levels of public services (transportation, utilities, community functions) to taxpayers
- Maintenance of Florida's aging infrastructure, every $1 spent on preventative maintenance saves $7 to $10 over reconstruction costs
- Emergency response to natural disasters, such as hurricanes
OUR POSITIONS

The Florida Chapter of APWA has adopted the following position statements regarding public works:

- **INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING – WE SUPPORT** increased funding in Florida’s infrastructure. Significant investment is needed to help reverse years of decay and such investment will lead to the creation of thousands of jobs. Studies show that every $1 invested in transportation infrastructure yields $5.50 in positive economic activity.

- **STATE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND – WE OPPOSE** any effort to further divert revenues from the state transportation trust fund for non-transportation purposes. We also oppose dedicating anymore than the current 65% level of funding for Strategic Inter-model Systems (SIS) facilities.

- **WATER – WE SUPPORT** alternative water supply programs. Water infrastructure projects also stimulate economic development and create jobs. It is estimated that for every $1 invested in water supply projects there is a $7 return on investment.

OUR REQUESTS

The Florida Chapter of APWA would like to thank you for your continued support of public infrastructure in Florida and offer to:

- Partner with the Florida Legislature in developing a solution(s) to meet our fiscal responsibilities and continued investment in our public infrastructure.

- Provide expertise in reviewing critical public works related issues that may come before the Florida Legislature, offering analysis of potential impacts and testimony.