

# SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: Transportation Committee

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BILL: SB 1778

SPONSOR: Transportation

SUBJECT: Department of Transportation / Strategic Planning Regions

DATE: March 30, 2005

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	<u>Eichin</u>	<u>Meyer</u>	<u>TR</u>	<b>Favorable</b>
2.	_____	_____	<u>CM</u>	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____	_____

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## I. Summary:

This bill requires the Florida Transportation Commission (Commission) to examine the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) district boundaries relative to the strategic planning regions established in Florida's strategic plan for economic development developed by Enterprise Florida.

This bill substantially amends section 20.23 of the Florida Statutes.

## II. Present Situation:

Section 20.23, F.S., establishes the Florida Department of Transportation and directs the operations of FDOT to be organized into seven districts plus the Turnpike Enterprise. The headquarters of the districts are required to be located in Polk, Columbia, Washington, Broward, Volusia, Dade, and Hillsborough Counties. The section specifies FDOT's Ft. Myers Urban Office as having operational responsibility for Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties.

Section 20.23, F.S., also establishes the Florida Transportation Commission to function independently of the control and direction of FDOT. The Commission is tasked with, among other things, recommending to the Governor and the Legislature, improvements to FDOT's organization in order to streamline and optimize the efficiency of FDOT. Specifically, the Commission is to determine whether the current district organizational structure is responsive to Florida's changing economic and demographic development patterns.

Section 288.905, F.S., requires Enterprise Florida, Inc., to develop a strategic plan for economic development for Florida. The plan is developed in conjunction with the Office of Tourism,

Trade, and Economic Development, the Office of Urban Opportunities, and local and regional economic development partners.

According to Enterprise Florida, Inc., the strategic planning regions established in the strategic plan were developed over a number of years and represent a natural economic diversification of the state. In 2003, Enterprise Florida, Inc., suggested FDOT use the strategic planning regions in their efforts. Similarly in 2003, the Florida Chamber Foundation's "New Cornerstone" report encouraged the use of the regions "as a basis for cross-agency planning and coordination" reflecting "a market-based, bottom-up approach to economic development." FDOT has used the strategic planning regions as a framework for designating the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and defining what constitutes interregional travel. The following are maps of the FDOT districts and the strategic planning regions found in Enterprise Florida, Inc.'s strategic plan for economic development.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

Section 20.23, F.S., is amended to require the Florida Transportation Commission to examine the FDOT district boundaries in specific relation to the strategic planning regions established in Florida's strategic plan for economic development prepared by Enterprise Florida, Inc., under s. 288.905, F.S. The results of the study are to be delivered to the Governor and Legislature by December 15, 2005.

### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

#### **A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:**

None.

#### **B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:**

None.

#### **C. Trust Funds Restrictions:**

None.

### **V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:**

#### **A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

#### **B. Private Sector Impact:**

None.

C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

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This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.

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## **VIII. Summary of Amendments:**

None.

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