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 North Florida TPO Board Room

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The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was awarded \$1.25 billion from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) as part of the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program. The first phase will be the Tampa-Orlando corridor, expected to be completed in 2014. For details please visit the [Department's Stimulus site](#).

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At least not the one we wanted. The U.S. Department of Transportation [announced 61 grants](#) for funding from the ARRA Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program on February 17, 2010. Unfortunately, none of these grants were for Florida projects.

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As the year ended, Congress passed the FY 2010 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Consolidated Appropriations Bill. The bill provides \$122.1 billion funding for [specified programs](#) and [earmarks](#).

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The USDOT and the National Safety Council recently created [FocusDriven-Advocates for Cell-Free Driving](#), the first of its kind advocacy group to raise awareness and support victims of distracted driving. A direct outgrowth of the national [Distracted Driving Summit](#) in Washington, D.C. last fall, FocusDriven is modeled after Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

[Contact us](#) and let us know where you stand on cell-free driving.

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Amtrak, Operation Lifesaver Inc., California's transportation agencies and major freight railroad companies launched the "[Common Sense](#)" rail safety campaign. The campaign is focused on 18 to 34-year-olds, who make up more than one-third of all railroad-related pedestrian casualties. California leads the nation in pedestrian-train fatalities.

CSX recently launched [CSXSAFE](#), a free online training course to help local emergency responders manage incidents involving rail property and equipment.

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The [nation's first truck-only toll \(TOT\) lanes](#) are part of a \$650 M project to link the parallel east-west I-4 freeway and Selmon Crosstown Expressway (a toll road) in the Ybor City area of Tampa. The problem to be solved is heavy traffic congesting surface streets through this historic neighborhood, 20 percent of which is truck traffic.

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Don't miss our fourth annual Global Update Breakfast in partnership with the Jacksonville Business Journal. This year we'll discuss supply chain management with a focus on rail, trucking and shipping. Visit the [Jacksonville Business Journal](#) to learn more and purchase tickets or contact [Marci Larson](#) at 306-7513 for more information.