



March 12, 2009

Mr. Thomas R. Bane, P.E.
State Utilities Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation - Central Office
605 Suwannee Street, MS-32
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Dear Mr. Bane:

Since its inception, the Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee (FUCC) has demonstrated coordination through cooperation and an understanding with the Florida Department of Transportation. The FUCC membership is comprised of Utility owners, Consultants, Local Governments, Railroad representatives and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) personnel from the State of Florida. This organization meets on a quarterly basis with this main objective: to accomplish the construction and reconstruction of roadways in Florida with the least amount of problems and set backs. The FUCC organization is over 77 years old and has satisfied our predecessors of roadway design and construction in this Great State of Florida since 1932.

Recently, it has come to our attention that the FDOT cancelled several of their personnel reservations and registrations at our last FUCC meeting in Ocala (February 4-6, 2009). Although one may first conclude that present economic issues initiated this situation, it goes without saying the timing was never worse. The need to discuss and plan the upcoming Stimulus package requires the most ever needed cooperation between our organizations since the inception of this Committee. The Stimulus package was on every agenda of this meeting. One may be confused as to the intent of the Department to cancel their District DUE's and DUA's attendance from this conference in the wake of the Stimulus package as a message to the FUCC for the need of cooperation and coordination in the future. Despite the current economic conditions, this FUCC meeting attendance by Utility owners and Local Governments was one of the highest in years. They see the need, more than ever, to resolve potential roadway utility issues; we now request that the FDOT see this need as well.

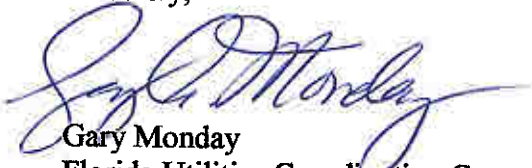
Although this is all puzzling to us, what is crystal clear is the need for all the FDOT District DUA's and DUE's to be present at our future FUCC meetings. It is imperative as well as critical

to the mission of the FDOT to provide a safe transportation system by giving the motoring public, a safe, efficient and effective means of road re-construction. We have gathered all of the major Statewide Utility Industry personnel, the FDOT District Utility staff, along with their respective consultant engineering firms to ensure the objectives of all parties are met. This spirit of cooperation and coordination has served this great State of Florida through many lean years and is imperative for the continued success of delivering a safe and efficient transportation project on time and under budget. It is a simple equation, without one group it all goes for naught and we are back in 1932, with arguments, questions and no cooperation.

If it was so simple that, one person could represent the entire State of Florida for all the Utilities, and one person represent the FDOT for all concerns in each District, it would be an ideal world. But we all realize different Utilities do things different in each part of the State and the Florida Department of Transportation has different District objectives and programs throughout the state. The FUCC has tried through the years to build a fair and equal playing field in the State concerning roadway work. By bringing the principals of roadway work together quarterly we discuss issues, as well as, programs and concerns that will affect roadway work in all the FDOT Districts. By allowing this to happen without the DUE and DUA participation at the FUCC meetings is purely a step backwards in the sense of working together for a common cause.

We ask you to request from Secretary Kopelousos a written statement that indicates the "mission critical" nature of these FUCC meetings which can be used by each District to send their appropriate utility personnel to ensure the most efficient transportation projects continue to be delivered to the citizens of this great State of Florida. **Our partnership with the Florida Department of Transportation is crucial in roadway construction and growth. Let us continue to work together in the future and not apart.**

Sincerely,



Gary Monday
Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee, Chairman
Visit us at www.fucc.org

cc: Florida Utilities Coordinating Committee Officers