



September 14, 2016

Ms. Debbie Hunt, Director of Transportation Development  
Florida Department of Transportation, District 7, M.S. 7-400  
11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612-6403

RE: Tampa Bay Express Lanes Project PD&E Study

Dear Ms. Hunt:

This is a letter that seeks to provide input from the New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA) to the community engagement process undertaken by FDOT, District 7, during the conduct of the PD&E Study for the development of the Tampa Bay Express Lanes project.

The New North Transportation Alliance (NNTA) is a public private partnership that was formed in 1994, to promote alternative transportation options in the activity center in the university/New Tampa/Temple Terrace area including USF, James A. Haley VA, Florida Hospital, University Mall, and Busch Gardens.

At the NNTA July meeting, Ms. Menna Yassin, Mr. Edward McKinney, and Ms. Robin Rhinesmith provided a very informative presentation about the progress of the PD&E Study for the Tampa Bay Express Lanes Project. We appreciate the time that FDOT staff has taken to meet with us and answer our questions.

It is our understanding that traffic using the express lanes will be controlled by dynamic tolling, and that in addition to automobiles, the express lanes will be available for use by school buses and premium express bus service during the peak periods.

We request that FDOT also allow free or discounted access for the nearly 100 vanpools and 110,000 regular carpoolers in the Tampa Bay MSA in the express lane. Doing so would be in alignment with the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan's goals, objectives, and implementation strategies. This occupancy-based pricing policy would improve mobility and connectivity of more **people** served by the express lane, especially among those who are not currently served by fixed route transit.

Sincerely,

Raymond Mensah  
Chair, on behalf of the  
New North Transportation Alliance

Cc: Menna Yassin, PD&E Project Manager  
Edward McKinney  
Robin Rhinesmith