By Senator Wise

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to transportation projects; amending s. 339.12, F.S.; revising provisions authorizing the Department of Transportation to enter into an agreement with another governmental entity to complete a project or project phase that is not in the department's adopted work program; specifying that the agreement may be long term; removing certain limitations and requirements; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

- Section 1. Subsection (4) of section 339.12, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:
- 339.12 Aid and contributions by governmental entities for department projects; federal aid.--
- (4) (a) Prior to accepting the contribution of road bond proceeds, time warrants, or cash for which reimbursement is sought, the department shall enter into agreements with the governing body of the governmental entity for the project or project phases in accordance with specifications agreed upon between the department and the governing body of the governmental entity. The department in no instance is to receive from such governmental entity an amount in excess of the actual cost of the project or project phase. By specific provision in the written agreement between the department and the governing body of the governmental entity, the department may agree to reimburse the governmental entity for the actual amount of the bond proceeds, time warrants, or cash used on a highway project or project

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phases that are not revenue producing and are contained in the department's adopted work program, or any public transportation project contained in the adopted work program. Subject to appropriation of funds by the Legislature, the department may commit state funds for reimbursement of such projects or project phases. Reimbursement to the governmental entity for such a project or project phase must be made from funds appropriated by the Legislature, and reimbursement for the cost of the project or project phase is to begin in the year the project or project phase is scheduled in the work program as of the date of the agreement. Funds advanced pursuant to this section, which were originally designated for transportation purposes and so reimbursed to a county or municipality, shall be used by the county or municipality for any transportation expenditure authorized under s. 336.025(7). Also, cities and counties may receive funds from persons, and reimburse those persons, for the purposes of this section. Such persons may include, but are not limited to, those persons defined in s. 607.01401(19).

(b) Prior to entering an agreement to advance a project or project phase pursuant to this subsection and subsection (5), the department shall first update the estimated cost of the project or project phase and certify that the estimate is accurate and consistent with the amount estimated in the adopted work program. If the original estimate and the updated estimate vary, the department shall amend the adopted work program according to the amendatory procedures for the work program set forth in s. 339.135(7). The amendment shall reflect all corresponding increases and decreases to the affected projects within the adopted work program.

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The department may enter into agreements under this subsection for a project or project phase not included in the adopted work program. As used in this paragraph, the term "project phase" means acquisition of rights-of-way, construction, construction inspection, and related support phases. The project or project phase must be a high priority of the governmental entity. The authority contained in this paragraph is intended to permit the department to enter into long-term repayment agreements of up to 30 years with no requirement that the project or project phase be contained in the adopted work program Reimbursement for a project or project phase must be made from funds appropriated by the Legislature pursuant to s. 339.135(5). All other provisions of this subsection apply to agreements entered into under this paragraph. The total amount of project agreements for projects or project phases not included in the adopted work program may not at any time exceed \$100 million. However, notwithstanding such \$100 million limit and any similar limit in s. 334.30, project advances for any inland county with a population greater than 500,000 dedicating amounts equal to \$500 million or more of its Local Government Infrastructure Surtax pursuant to s. 212.055(2) for improvements to the State Highway System which are included in the local metropolitan planning organization's or the department's long-range transportation plans shall be excluded from the calculation of the statewide limit of project advances.

Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008.