

1 A bill to be entitled
 2 An act relating to transportation; amending s. 311.22,
 3 F.S.; authorizing a 25-percent match of funds for certain
 4 dredging projects; amending s. 334.351, F.S., relating to
 5 youth work experience programs in the Department of
 6 Transportation; providing criteria for participation in
 7 the program; amending s. 339.08, F.S.; allowing moneys in
 8 the State Transportation Trust Fund to be used to pay the
 9 cost of the Enhanced Bridge Program; creating s. 339.282,
 10 F.S.; creating the Enhanced Bridge Program for Sustainable
 11 Transportation within the Department of Transportation;
 12 providing for the use of funds in the program; providing
 13 project guidelines for program funding; providing an
 14 effective date.

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

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 18 Section 1. Section 311.22, Florida Statutes, is amended to
 19 read:

20 311.22 Additional authorization for funding certain
 21 dredging projects.--

22 (1) The Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic
 23 Development Council shall establish a program to fund dredging
 24 projects in counties having a population of fewer than 300,000
 25 according to the last official census. Funds made available
 26 under this program may be used to fund approved projects for the
 27 dredging or deepening of channels, turning basins, or harbors on
 28 a 25-percent local ~~50-50~~ matching basis with any port authority,

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29 as such term is defined in s. 315.02(2), which complies with the
30 permitting requirements in part IV of chapter 373 and the local
31 financial management and reporting provisions of part III of
32 chapter 218.

33 (2) The council shall adopt rules for evaluating the
34 projects that may be funded pursuant to this section. The rules
35 must provide criteria for evaluating the economic benefit of the
36 project. The rules must include the creation of an
37 administrative review process by the council which is similar to
38 the process described in s. 311.09(5)-(12), and provide for a
39 review by the Department of Community Affairs, the Department of
40 Transportation, and the Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic
41 Development of all projects submitted for funding under this
42 section.

43 ~~(3) For the 2006-2007 fiscal year only and notwithstanding~~
44 ~~the matching basis specified in subsection (1), funding for~~
45 ~~projects in subsection (1) shall require a minimum 25 percent~~
46 ~~match of funds received pursuant to this section. This~~
47 ~~subsection expires July 1, 2007.~~

48 Section 2. Section 334.351, Florida Statutes, is amended
49 to read:

50 334.351 Youth work experience program; findings and
51 intent; authority to contract; limitation.--

52 (1) The Legislature finds and declares that young men and
53 women of the state should be given an opportunity to obtain
54 public service work and training experience that protects and
55 conserves the valuable resources of the state and promotes
56 participation in other community enhancement projects.

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57 Notwithstanding the requirements of chapters 287 and 337, the
58 Department of Transportation is authorized to contract with
59 public agencies and nonprofit organizations for the performance
60 of work related to the construction and maintenance of
61 transportation-related facilities by youths enrolled in youth
62 work experience programs. The total amount of contracts entered
63 into by the department under this section in any fiscal year may
64 not exceed the amount specifically appropriated by the
65 Legislature for this program.

66 (2) Any youth who is participating in a nonprofit youth
67 organization that provides services under contract to the
68 department must be certified by the youth organization as a
69 resident of this state and must possess a valid Florida driver's
70 license or identification card.

71 (3) Before awarding a contract under this section, the
72 department shall consider the following criteria when selecting
73 a nonprofit youth organization to perform work on
74 transportation-related facilities:

75 (a) The number of participants receiving life-management
76 skills training;

77 (b) The number of participants receiving a high school
78 diploma or GED;

79 (c) The number of participants receiving scholarships;

80 (d) The number of participants receiving bonuses;

81 (e) The number of participants who have secured full-time
82 jobs; and

83 (f) The other programs or services that support the
84 development of disadvantaged youths.

85 (4) Each nonprofit youth organization under contract with
 86 the department shall:

87 (a) Submit an annual report to the department by January 1
 88 of each year. The report must include, but need not be limited
 89 to, the applicable performance of the organization when measured
 90 by the criteria in subsection (3) for the organization's most
 91 recently completed fiscal year.

92 (b) Submit an independent audit of the organization's
 93 financial records to the department each year. The
 94 organization's contract with the department must allow the
 95 department the right to inspect the organization's financial and
 96 program records.

97 (c) Demonstrate participation in a peer assessment or
 98 review process, such as the National Association of Service and
 99 Conservation Corps Excellence in Corps Operations.

100 Section 3. Paragraph (j) of subsection (1) of section
 101 339.08, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

102 339.08 Use of moneys in State Transportation Trust Fund.--

103 (1) The department shall expend moneys in the State
 104 Transportation Trust Fund accruing to the department, in
 105 accordance with its annual budget. The use of such moneys shall
 106 be restricted to the following purposes:

107 (j) To pay the cost of county or municipal road projects
 108 selected in accordance with the County Incentive Grant Program
 109 created in s. 339.2817, ~~and~~ the Small County Outreach Program
 110 created in s. 339.2818, and the Enhanced Bridge Program created
 111 in s. 339.282.

112 Section 4. Section 339.282, Florida Statutes, is created

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113 to read:

114 339.282 Enhanced Bridge Program for Sustainable
115 Transportation.--

116 (1) There is created within the Department of
117 Transportation the Enhanced Bridge Program for Sustainable
118 Transportation for the purpose of providing funds to improve the
119 sufficiency rating of local bridges and to improve congested
120 roads on the State Highway System or local corridors on which
121 high-cost bridges are located in order to improve a corridor or
122 provide an alternative corridor.

123 (2) Matching funds provided from the program may fund up
124 to 50 percent of project costs.

125 (3) The department shall allocate a minimum of 25 percent
126 of funding available for the program for local bridge projects
127 to replace, rehabilitate, paint, or install scour
128 countermeasures to highway bridges located on public roads,
129 other than those on the State Highway System. A project to be
130 funded must, at a minimum:

131 (a) Be classified as a structurally deficient bridge
132 having a poor condition rating for the deck, superstructure,
133 substructure component, or culvert;

134 (b) Have a sufficiency rating of 35 or below; and

135 (c) Have average daily traffic of at least 500 vehicles.

136 (4) Special consideration shall be given to bridges that
137 are closed to all traffic or that have a load restriction of
138 less than 10 tons.

139 (5) The department shall allocate remaining funding
140 available for the program to improve highly congested roads on

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141 the State Highway System or local corridors on which high-cost
142 bridges are located in order to improve the corridor or provide
143 an alternative corridor. A project to be funded must, at a
144 minimum:

145 (a) Be on or provide direct relief to an existing corridor
146 that is backlogged or constrained; and

147 (b) Be a major bridge having an estimated cost greater
148 than \$25 million.

149 (6) Preference shall be given to bridge projects located
150 on corridors that connect to the Strategic Intermodal System
151 created under s. 339.64 and that have been identified as
152 regionally significant in accordance with s. 339.155(5)(c), (d),
153 and (e).

154 Section 5. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007.