

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Transportation

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BILL: SB 1160

INTRODUCER: Senator Perry

SUBJECT: Transportation Research

DATE: January 18, 2022

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Price	Vickers	TR	<b>Favorable</b>
2.			ED	
3.			RC	

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**I. Summary:**

SB 1160 establishes the Implementing Solutions from Transportation Research and Evaluating Emerging Technologies Living Lab (I-STREET) within the University of Florida (UF) and provides for its duties relating to transportation research, education, workforce development, and related issues. The bill requires I-STREET, by July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, to provide to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a report outlining its goals, as well as its efforts and progress on reaching those goals.

The bill also creates an advisory board to periodically review and advise I-STREET concerning its research program. The board consists of nine members in transportation-related areas, as follows:

- Two members, one each appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- Two members, who are the Secretaries of Transportation and of Economic Opportunity, or their designees.
- One member from the Florida Transportation Commission.
- Four members nominated by UF's College of Engineering and approved by UF's president, which nominees may include representatives of UF, other academic and research institutions, or private entities.

The cost associated with the I-STREET's duties is unknown but is expected to be absorbed within the existing resources of the UF, the Florida Department of Transportation, and other participants. Transportation-related research with a focus on emerging technologies would be expected to facilitate planning, development, and implementation of transportation systems and facilities.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.

## II. Present Situation:

### *The I-STREET Living Lab*

UF's College of Engineering Transportation Institute describes an existing partnership between I-STREET, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), and the City of Gainesville creating the I-STREET Living Lab on the UF campus and surrounding highway network. "The testbed deploys and evaluates numerous advanced technologies including connected and autonomous vehicles, smart devices, and sensors. It also develops and applies novel applications to enhance mobility and safety."<sup>1</sup>

Based on a review of the website, the initial partnership appears to have contemplated a five-year project from 2017 to 2021.<sup>2</sup> However, the website lists a number of "active" projects.<sup>3</sup> In addition, according to the website, "It is anticipated that the testbed will become a permanent fixture at the University of Florida and testing will go on indefinitely."<sup>4</sup>

### *FDOT "UF I-STREET" Invitation*

The FDOT has issued an invitation to transportation industry leaders for participation in the "UF I-STREET program." According to the FDOT:

I-STREET is designed to assist in implementing emerging technologies aimed at safety and mobility improvements. The FDOT will develop requests for proposals (RFPs) utilizing the emerging technologies and will select vendors through a competitive bidding process. The selected vendor for each project will deploy technology solutions. The University of Florida will conduct before-and-after evaluations of implemented projects. After evaluation, the FDOT will consider whether to expand the successful I-STREET projects elsewhere in the state.

The FDOT has allocated funding for these innovative projects per fiscal year (FY) from FY 21 until FY 25. Each FY, the FDOT will fund multiple projects based on the projects' merits and safety and mobility improvement potential. The number of awards will vary depending on the project type and scope.<sup>5</sup>

## III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SB 1160 codifies the I-STREET Living Lab within the UF and requires it, at a minimum, to:

- Conduct and facilitate research on issues related to innovative transportation mobility and safety technology development and deployment in this state and serve as an information

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<sup>1</sup> University of Florida Transportation Institute (UFTI), *I-STREET Living Lab*, available at [I-STREET Living Lab - University of Florida Transportation Institute \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.transportation.institute.ufl.edu/i-street-living-lab/) (last visited January 14, 2020). See UFTI, available at <https://www.transportation.institute.ufl.edu/i-street-living-lab/faq/> (last visited January 14, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> UFTI, available at [Projects - University of Florida Transportation Institute \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.transportation.institute.ufl.edu/projects/) (last visited January 14, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> UFTI, FAQ, *When will the testing begin and end?*, available at [FAQ - University of Florida Transportation Institute \(ufl.edu\)](https://www.transportation.institute.ufl.edu/faq/) (last visited January 14, 2020).

<sup>5</sup> FDOT, *UF I-Street*, available at [UF I-STREET \(fdot.gov\)](https://www.fdot.gov/i-street/) (last visited January 14, 2020).

exchange and depository for the most current information pertaining to transportation research, education, workforce development, and related issues.

- Be a continuing resource for the Legislature, the Florida Senate, the FDOT, local governments, the nation's metropolitan regions, and the private sector in the area of transportation and related research.
- Promote intercampus transportation and related research activities among Florida universities to enhance the ability of these universities to attract federal and private sector funding for transportation and related research.
- Provide by July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives a comprehensive report that outlines its clearly defined goals and its efforts and progress on reaching those goals.

The bill also creates an advisory board to periodically review and advise I-STREET concerning its research program. The board consists of nine members in transportation-related areas, as follows:

- Two members, one each appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
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#### **IV. Constitutional Issues:**

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None identified.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:****A. Tax/Fee Issues:**

None.

**B. Private Sector Impact:**

To the extent that a private sector entity participates in I-STREET activities, that entity may incur costs in an indeterminate amount. The bill does not provide funding for any costs associated with participation.

Transportation-related research with a focus on emerging technologies would be expected to facilitate planning, development, and implementation of transportation systems and facilities.

**C. Government Sector Impact:**

The costs associated with the I-STREET's duties is unknown but is expected to be absorbed within the existing resources of the UF, the FDOT, and other potential government sector participants. The bill does not provide funding for any costs associated with participation.

Transportation-related research with a focus on emerging technologies would be expected to facilitate planning, development, and implementation of transportation systems and facilities.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill creates the following sections of the Florida Statutes: 334.066.

**IX. Additional Information:****A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

B. Amendments:

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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