1 A bill to be entitled 2 An act relating to transportation; amending s. 206.46, 3 F.S.; limiting the amount of certain revenues in the 4 State Transportation Trust Fund which the Department 5 of Transportation may annually commit to public 6 transit projects; providing exceptions; amending s. 7 334.30, F.S.; authorizing the department to enter into 8 comprehensive agreements with private entities for 9 certain purposes; revising provisions relating to a traffic and revenue study provided by a private 10 11 entity; revising the time period during which the department will accept additional proposals after 12 13 receiving an unsolicited proposal, based on project 14 complexity; authorizing the department to enter into an interim agreement with a private entity before or 15 16 in connection with negotiating a comprehensive 17 agreement; providing requirements; authorizing the 18 department secretary to authorize an agreement term of 19 up to 75 years for certain projects; amending s. 337.11, F.S.; requiring the department to pay interest 20 21 to a contractor under certain circumstances; requiring 22 a motor vehicle used for specified work on a 23 department project to be registered in compliance with 24 certain provisions; amending s. 337.18, F.S.; 25 authorizing the department to determine whether to

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reduce bonding requirements; revising the time periods within which certain actions must be instituted by a claimant; amending s. 337.195, F.S.; providing definitions; providing a presumption that if a death, injury, or damage results from a motor vehicle crash within a construction zone in which the driver of a vehicle was under the influence of certain marijuana, the driver's operation of such vehicle was the proximate cause of his or her own death, injury, or damage; revising conditions under which a contractor is immune from liability; conforming provisions to changes made by the act; creating s. 339.28201, F.S.; creating a Local Agency Program within the department for certain funding purposes; providing for prioritization and reimbursement; providing agency eligibility requirements; requiring oversight by the department; providing contract requirements; providing an effective date. Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida: Section 1. Subsection (6) is added to section 206.46, Florida Statutes, to read: 206.46 State Transportation Trust Fund. -The department may not annually commit to public

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transit projects under chapter 341 more than 20 percent of the revenues derived from state fuel taxes and motor vehicle license-related fees deposited into the State Transportation

Trust Fund, except:

(a) Funds used for federal matching.

(b) Projects included in an M.P.O.'s transportation improvement program adopted pursuant to s. 339.175(8) and approved by a supermajority vote of the board of county commissioners of the county in which the project is located.

Section 2. Subsections (8) through (13) of section 334.30, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (9) through (14), respectively, subsection (1), paragraphs (e) and (f) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (6), and present subsections (8), (10), and (11) are amended, and a new subsection (8) is added to that section, to read:

334.30 Public-private transportation facilities.—The Legislature finds and declares that there is a public need for the rapid construction of safe and efficient transportation facilities for the purpose of traveling within the state, and that it is in the public's interest to provide for the construction of additional safe, convenient, and economical transportation facilities.

(1) The department may receive or solicit proposals and, with legislative approval as evidenced by approval of the project in the department's work program, enter into

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comprehensive agreements with private entities, or consortia thereof, for the building, operation, ownership, or financing of transportation facilities. The department may advance projects programmed in the adopted 5-year work program or projects increasing transportation capacity and greater than \$500 million in the 10-year Strategic Intermodal Plan using funds provided by public-private partnerships or private entities to be reimbursed from department funds for the project as programmed in the adopted work program. The department shall by rule establish an application fee for the submission of unsolicited proposals under this section. The fee must be sufficient to pay the costs of evaluating the proposals. The department may engage the services of private consultants to assist in the evaluation. Before approval, the department must determine that the proposed project:

(a) Is in the public's best interest;

- (b) Would not require state funds to be used unless the project is on the State Highway System;
- (c) Would have adequate safeguards in place to ensure that no additional costs or service disruptions would be realized by the traveling public and residents of the state in the event of default or cancellation of the agreement by the department;
- (d) Would have adequate safeguards in place to ensure that the department or the private entity has the opportunity to add capacity to the proposed project and other transportation

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facilities serving similar origins and destinations; and

(e) Would be owned by the department upon completion or termination of the agreement.

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The department shall ensure that all reasonable costs to the state, related to transportation facilities that are not part of the State Highway System, are borne by the private entity. The department shall also ensure that all reasonable costs to the state and substantially affected local governments and utilities, related to the private transportation facility, are borne by the private entity for transportation facilities that are owned by private entities. For projects on the State Highway System, the department may use state resources to participate in funding and financing the project as provided for under the department's enabling legislation. Because the Legislature recognizes that private entities or consortia thereof would perform a governmental or public purpose or function when they enter into agreements with the department to design, build, operate, own, or finance transportation facilities, the transportation facilities, including leasehold interests thereof, are exempt from ad valorem taxes as provided in chapter 196 to the extent property is owned by the state or other government entity, and from intangible taxes as provided in chapter 199 and special assessments of the state, any city, town, county, special district, political subdivision of the

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state, or any other governmental entity. The private entities or consortia thereof are exempt from tax imposed by chapter 201 on all documents or obligations to pay money which arise out of the agreements to design, build, operate, own, lease, or finance transportation facilities. Any private entities or consortia thereof must pay any applicable corporate taxes as provided in chapter 220, and reemployment assistance taxes as provided in chapter 443, and sales and use tax as provided in chapter 212 shall be applicable. The private entities or consortia thereof must also register and collect the tax imposed by chapter 212 on all their direct sales and leases that are subject to tax under chapter 212. The agreement between the private entity or consortia thereof and the department establishing a transportation facility under this chapter constitutes documentation sufficient to claim any exemption under this section.

- (2) Agreements entered into pursuant to this section may authorize the private entity to impose tolls or fares for the use of the facility. The following provisions shall apply to such agreements:
- (e) The department shall include provisions in the comprehensive public-private partnership agreement that ensure a negotiated portion of revenues from tolled or fare generating projects is are returned to the department over the life of the public-private partnership agreement. In the case of a lease of

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an existing toll facility, the department shall receive a portion of funds upon closing on the agreements and shall also include provisions in the agreement to receive payment of a portion of excess revenues over the life of the public-private partnership.

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- The private entity shall provide an independent (f) investment grade traffic and revenue study prepared by a an internationally recognized traffic and revenue expert as part of the private entity proposal. The private entity shall provide a traffic and revenue study that is accepted by the national bond rating agencies for the financing that supports the comprehensive agreement at financial close for the publicprivate partnership project. The private entity shall also provide a finance plan that identifies the project cost, revenues by source, financing, major assumptions, internal rate of return on private investments, and whether any government funds are assumed to deliver a cost-feasible project, and a total cash flow analysis beginning with implementation of the project and extending for the term of the comprehensive agreement.
- (6) The procurement of public-private partnerships by the department shall follow the provisions of this section. Sections 337.025, 337.11, 337.14, 337.141, 337.145, 337.175, 337.18, 337.185, 337.19, 337.221, and 337.251 shall not apply to procurements under this section unless a provision is included

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in the procurement documents. The department shall ensure that generally accepted business practices for exemptions provided by this subsection are part of the procurement process or are included in the public-private partnership agreement.

- (a) The department may request proposals from private entities for public-private transportation projects or, if the department receives an unsolicited proposal, the department shall publish a notice in the Florida Administrative Register and a newspaper of general circulation at least once a week for 2 weeks stating that the department has received the proposal and will accept, between 30 and for 120 days after the initial date of publication as determined by the department based on the complexity of the project, other proposals for the same project purpose. A copy of the notice must be mailed to each local government in the affected area.
- (8) Before or in connection with the negotiation of a comprehensive agreement, the department may enter into an interim agreement with the private entity proposing the development or operation of the qualifying project. An interim agreement does not obligate the department to enter into a comprehensive agreement. The interim agreement is discretionary with the parties and is not required on a qualifying project for which the parties may proceed directly to a comprehensive agreement without the need for an interim agreement. An interim agreement must be limited to provisions that:

(a) Authorize the private entity to commence activities
for which it may be compensated related to the proposed
qualifying project, including, but not limited to, project
planning and development, design, environmental analysis and
mitigation, survey, other activities concerning any part of the
proposed qualifying project, and ascertaining the availability
of financing for the proposed facility or facilities.

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- (b) Establish the process and timing of the negotiation of the comprehensive agreement.
- (c) Contain such other provisions that the department and the private entity deem appropriate related to an aspect of the development or operation of a qualifying project.
- <u>(9) (8)</u> The department may enter into <u>a comprehensive</u> <u>agreement public-private partnership agreements</u> that <u>includes</u> <u>include</u> extended terms providing annual payments for performance based on the availability of service or the facility being open to traffic or based on the level of traffic using the facility. In addition to other provisions in this section, the following provisions shall apply:
- (a) The annual payments under such <u>comprehensive</u> agreement shall be included in the department's tentative work program developed under s. 339.135 and the long-range transportation plan for the applicable metropolitan planning organization developed under s. 339.175. The department shall ensure that annual payments on multiyear <u>comprehensive</u> public-private

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partnership agreements are prioritized ahead of new capacity
projects in the development and updating of the tentative work
program.

- (b) The annual payments are subject to annual appropriation by the Legislature as provided in the General Appropriations Act in support of the first year of the tentative work program.
- (11) (10) Before Prior to entering into such comprehensive agreement where funds are committed from the State

 Transportation Trust Fund, the project must be prioritized as follows:
- (a) The department, in coordination with the local metropolitan planning organization, shall prioritize projects included in the Strategic Intermodal System 10-year and long-range cost-feasible plans.
- (b) The department, in coordination with the local metropolitan planning organization or local government where there is no metropolitan planning organization, shall prioritize projects, for facilities not on the Strategic Intermodal System, included in the metropolitan planning organization cost-feasible transportation improvement plan and long-range transportation plan.
- (12) (11) Comprehensive Public-private partnership agreements under this section shall be limited to a term not exceeding 50 years. Upon making written findings that \underline{a}

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comprehensive an agreement under this section requires a term in excess of 50 years, the secretary of the department may authorize a term of up to 75 years for projects that are partially or completely funded from project user fees.

Comprehensive agreements under this section shall not have a term in excess of 75 years unless specifically approved by the Legislature. The department shall identify each new project under this section with a term exceeding 75 years in the transmittal letter that accompanies the submittal of the tentative work program to the Governor and the Legislature in accordance with s. 339.135.

Section 3. Subsections (12) and (13) of section 337.11, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

- 337.11 Contracting authority of department; bids; emergency repairs, supplemental agreements, and change orders; combined design and construction contracts; progress payments; records; requirements of vehicle registration.—
- (12) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the department has unilateral authority to pay the contractor the sums the department determines to be due to the contractor for work performed on a project. This unilateral authority to pay by the department does not preclude or limit the rights of the department and the contractor to negotiate and agree to the amounts to be paid to the contractor. By acceptance of any such unilateral payment, the contractor does not waive

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any rights the contractor may have against the department for payment of any additional sums the contractor claims are due for the work.

- (b) If it is determined that added work on the project is necessary, or if work on the project is delayed, the department shall pay to the contractor interest at the rate set forth in s.

 55.03 on any unpaid amounts that remain 75 days after the completion of the added work or the elimination of the delay.
- (13) A motor vehicle used Each contract let by the department for the performance of road or bridge construction or maintenance work on a department project must shall require all motor vehicles that the contractor operates or causes to be operated in this state to be registered in compliance with chapter 320.
- Section 4. Paragraphs (a) and (d) of subsection (1) of section 337.18, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 337.18 Surety bonds for construction or maintenance contracts; requirement with respect to contract award; bond requirements; defaults; damage assessments.—
- (1)(a) A surety bond shall be required of the successful bidder in an amount equal to the awarded contract price. However, the department may choose, in its discretion and applicable only to multiyear maintenance contracts, to allow for incremental annual contract bonds that cumulatively total the full, awarded, multiyear contract price.

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1. The department may waive the requirement for all or a portion of a surety bond if:

- a. The contract price is \$250,000 or less and the department determines that the project is of a noncritical nature and that nonperformance will not endanger public health, safety, or property;
- b. The prime contractor is a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or for the other severely handicapped under s. 413.036(2); or
- c. The prime contractor is using a subcontractor that is a qualified nonprofit agency for the blind or for the other severely handicapped under s. 413.036(2). However, the department may not waive more than the amount of the subcontract.
- 2. If the <u>department Secretary of Transportation or the secretary's designee</u> determines that it is in the best interests of the department to reduce the bonding requirement for a project and that to do so will not endanger public health, safety, or property, the department may waive the requirement of a surety bond in an amount equal to the awarded contract price for a project having a contract price of \$250 million or more and, in its place, may set a surety bond amount that is a portion of the total contract price and provide an alternate means of security for the balance of the contract amount that is not covered by the surety bond or provide for incremental surety

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bonding and provide an alternate means of security for the balance of the contract amount that is not covered by the surety bond. Such alternative means of security may include letters of credit, United States bonds and notes, parent company quarantees, and cash collateral. The department may require alternate means of security if a surety bond is waived. The surety on such bond shall be a surety company authorized to do business in the state. All bonds shall be payable to the department and conditioned for the prompt, faithful, and efficient performance of the contract according to plans and specifications and within the time period specified, and for the prompt payment of all persons defined in s. 713.01 furnishing labor, material, equipment, and supplies for work provided in the contract; however, whenever an improvement, demolition, or removal contract price is \$25,000 or less, the security may, in the discretion of the bidder, be in the form of a cashier's check, bank money order of any state or national bank, certified check, or postal money order. The department shall adopt rules to implement this subsection. Such rules shall include provisions under which the department shall refuse to accept bonds on contracts when a surety wrongfully fails or refuses to settle or provide a defense for claims or actions arising under a contract for which the surety previously furnished a bond. An action, except an action for recovery of retainage,

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must be instituted by a claimant, regardless of whether in

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privity with the contractor or not, against the contractor or the surety on the payment bond or the payment provisions of a combined payment and performance bond within 365 days after the performance of the labor or completion of delivery of the materials or supplies. An action for recovery of retainage must be instituted against the contractor or the surety within 365 days after final acceptance of the contract work by the department. A claimant may not waive in advance his or her right to bring an action under the bond against the surety. In any action brought to enforce a claim against a payment bond under this section, the prevailing party is entitled to recover a reasonable fee for the services of his or her attorney for trial and appeal or for arbitration, in an amount to be determined by the court, which fee must be taxed as part of the prevailing party's costs, as allowed in equitable actions. Section 5. Section 337.195, Florida Statutes, is amended

to read:

337.195 Limits on liability.—

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- (1) As used in this section, the term:
- "Contract documents" means those contract documents defined in Section 1-3 of the department's Standard Specifications for Road and Bridge Construction which are applicable under the contract between the department and the contractor.
 - (b) "Contractor" means a person at any contractual tier,

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including any member of a design-build team, who, pursuant to s. 337.11, constructs, maintains, or repairs a highway, road, street, bridge, or other transportation facility for the department or in connection with a department project.

- (c) "Design engineer" means a person, including the design consultant of a design-build team, who contracts at any tier to prepare or provide engineering plans, including traffic control plans, for the construction or repair of a highway, road, street, bridge, or other department transportation facility.
- (d) "Traffic control plans" means maintenance of traffic plans designed by a professional engineer, or otherwise in accordance with the department's maintenance of traffic standards, and approved by the department.
- (2)-(1) In a civil action for the death of or injury to a person, or for damage to property, against the department of Transportation or its agents, consultants, or contractors for work performed on a highway, road, street, bridge, or other transportation facility when the death, injury, or damage resulted from a motor vehicle crash within a construction zone in which the driver of one of the vehicles was under the influence of alcoholic beverages as set forth in s. 316.193, under the influence of any chemical substance as set forth in s. 877.111, under the influence of marijuana authorized by s. 381.986, excluding low-THC cannabis, or illegally under the influence of any substance controlled under chapter 893 to the

extent that her or his normal faculties were impaired or that she or he operated a vehicle recklessly as defined in s. 316.192, it is presumed that the driver's operation of the vehicle was the sole proximate cause of her or his own death, injury, or damage. This presumption can be overcome if the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the department of Transportation, or of its agents, consultants, or contractors, was a proximate cause of the driver's death, injury, or damage.

- (3) (a) (2) A contractor is immune from liability for who constructs, maintains, or repairs a highway, road, street, bridge, or other transportation facility for the Department of Transportation is not liable to a claimant for personal injury, property damage, or death arising from the performance of the construction, maintenance, or repair if, at the time of the personal injury, property damage, or death, the contractor was in compliance with contract documents material to the condition that was the proximate cause of the personal injury, property damage, or death arising from:
- 1. The performance of the construction, maintenance, or repair of the transportation facility if, at the time the personal injury, property damage, or death occurred, the contractor was in compliance with the traffic control plan material to the personal injury, property damage, or death.
- 2. Acts or omissions of a third party who furnishes, or contracts at any contractual tier to furnish, services or

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materials to the transportation facility, including a subcontractor; sub-subcontractor; laborer; materialman; owner, lessor, or operator of a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, truck, heavy truck, truck tractor, or commercial motor vehicle as those terms are defined in s. 320.01; or person who performs services as an architect, a landscape architect, an interior designer, an engineer, or a surveyor and mapper.

- 3. Acts or omissions of a third party who trespasses within the limits of the transportation facility or otherwise is not authorized to enter the area of the transportation facility in which the personal injury, property damage, or death was caused.
- 4. Acts or omissions of a third party who damages, modifies, moves, or removes a traffic control device, warning device, barrier, or any other facility or device used for the public's safety and convenience.
- (b) (a) The <u>limitations</u> <u>limitation</u> on liability contained in this subsection <u>do</u> <u>does</u> not apply when the proximate cause of the personal injury, property damage, or death is a latent condition, defect, error, or omission that was created by the contractor and not a defect, error, or omission in the <u>traffic</u> <u>control plans</u> <u>contract documents</u>; or when the proximate cause of the personal injury, property damage, or death was the contractor's failure to <u>perform</u>, <u>update</u>, or comply with the <u>maintenance of the</u> traffic <u>control plans</u> <u>safety plan</u> as required

by the contract documents.

(c) (b) Nothing in This subsection does not relieve shall be interpreted or construed as relieving the contractor of any obligation to provide the department of Transportation with written notice of any apparent error or omission in the contract documents.

(d) (c) Nothing in This subsection does not shall be interpreted or construed to alter or affect any claim of the department of Transportation against such contractor.

<u>(e) (d)</u> This subsection does not affect any claim of any entity against such contractor, which claim is associated with such entity's facilities on or in department of Transportation roads or other transportation facilities.

(4)(3) In all cases involving personal injury, property damage, or death, a design engineer person or entity who contracts to prepare or provide engineering plans for the construction or repair of a highway, road, street, bridge, or other transportation facility for the Department of Transportation shall be presumed to have prepared such engineering plans using the degree of care and skill ordinarily exercised by other engineers in the field under similar conditions and in similar localities and with due regard for acceptable engineering standards and principles if the engineering plans conformed to the department's Department of Transportation's design standards material to the condition or

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defect that was the proximate cause of the personal injury, property damage, or death. This presumption can be overcome only upon a showing of the design engineer's person's or entity's gross negligence in the preparation of the engineering plans and does shall not be interpreted or construed to alter or affect any claim of the department of Transportation against such design engineer person or entity. The limitation on liability contained in this subsection does shall not apply to any hidden or undiscoverable condition created by the design engineer. This subsection does not affect any claim of any entity against such design engineer or engineering firm, which claim is associated with such entity's facilities on or in department of Transportation roads or other transportation facilities. (4) In any civil action for death, injury, or damages against the Department of Transportation or its agents, consultants, engineers, or contractors for work performed on a highway, road, street, bridge, or other transportation facility, if the department, its agents, consultants, engineers, or immune from liability pursuant or are not parties to the litigation, they may not be named on the jury verdict form or be found to be at fault or responsible for the injury, death, or damage that gave rise to the damages. Section 6. Section 339.28201, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 339.28201 Local Agency Program. -

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-	(1) There is created within the Department of									
Trans	porta	ation a L	ocal .	Agency	Program	for	the pur	pose	of	
provi	ding	funds to	subr	ecipie	nt count	ies,	cities,	and	towns	for
developing, designing, and constructing transportation										
facil	ities	5 .								

- (2) Local Agency Program agencies shall prioritize and fund local projects in accordance with subsection (1). Such agencies shall then be eligible for reimbursement by the Federal-Aid Highway Program for the services provided to the traveling public through compliance with applicable federal statutes, rules, and regulations.
- (3) Federal-Aid Highway Program funds are only available to local agencies that are certified by the department on their qualifications, ability to comply with federal requirements, and ability to undertake and satisfactorily complete the work.
- (4) The department is responsible for oversight of funded projects on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration.
- (5) At a minimum, such local agencies shall include the department's Division I General Requirements and Covenants for local agencies in their contracts and include a contingency amount in the project cost to account for unforeseen conditions.
 - Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.