

# LONG TERM FISCAL CHALLENGES

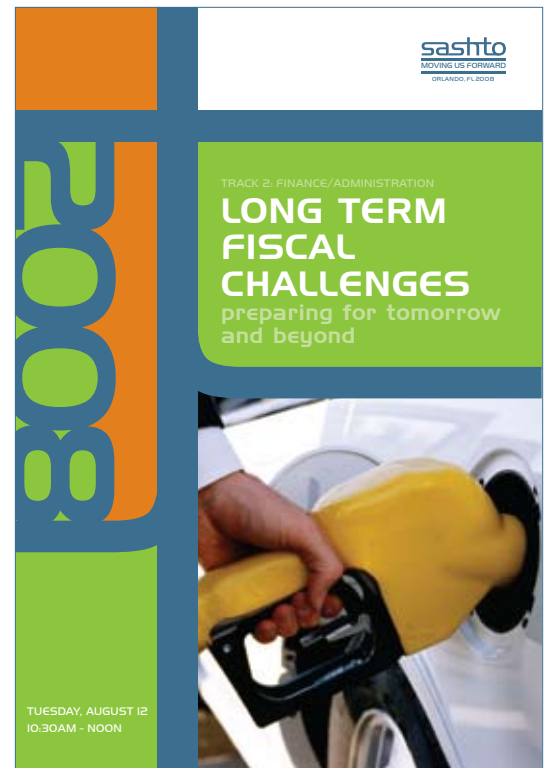
## preparing for tomorrow and beyond

**Moderator: William Thorp**  
Florida Department of Transportation

**Panel:**  
**Jim Tymon**  
United States House of Representatives  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

**Marsha Johnson**  
Florida Department of Transportation

**James E. Harrison**  
Orange County Government



The health of our finances is at the lowest point since the 1930s due to challenges from construction cost increases, decreasing revenues and growth demands. Three panelists discussed the challenges on the federal, state and local levels.

### Federal Perspective

In the next reauthorization bill, Congress will encourage the private sector to be more involved in transportation funding but will want to protect the public interest as well, said Jim Tymon, staff director for the U.S. House of Representatives Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. They will be looking more at taxing vehicle miles traveled rather than a gas tax. The gas tax will become more obsolete in the next 20 years and more research will need to be done in protecting privacy rights when determining the vehicle miles traveled proposal.

### State Perspective

There is a 'perfect storm' looming with state transportation funding caused by the increasing demand on the transportation

system, declining revenues from traditional sources and increasing costs for materials and labor, said Marsha Johnson, director of Florida DOT's Financial Development Office. New financing strategies are divided into short term such as tolling new expressways or leasing existing toll facilities. Long-term options are open road tolling, a system of toll express and HOT lanes on the existing interstate and changing the revenue collection system to vehicle miles traveled.

### Local Perspective

Tremendous growth demands and constrained revenues require a need to look at growth management strategies for the longer term. Orange County, Florida is moving toward more creative funding mechanisms. Among them are Community Redevelopment Areas and Community Development Districts, reliance on toll roads and public private partnerships.

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