

from people in favor of building the three roads. Of those, nearly all came from road builders, contractors and engineers who sent their endorsements via personal email addresses without disclosing their employers."

- A "Heartland Parkway" which would have connected Polk and Lee counties was rejected in 2007 due to financial infeasibility and the fact that the proposed route would have environmental impacts on a grander scale ever encountered in a toll road project. This M-CORES route is even longer and includes more panther habitat than the 2007 proposal!
- In 2016, the I-75 Relief Task Force removed plans to build a new road because the task force could not reach consensus. The resulting recommendation was to enhance the existing road network.
- These "roads to ruin" represent the worst type of policy-making. It's a massively expensive pet project pushed by one powerful legislative leader, the senate president, and powerful special interests that write big campaign checks.
- Road builders, the trucking industry and big developers decided we needed 300 plus miles of new rural toll roads, not the engineers, planners and other experts at FDOT. This plan was not in the FDOT 5-year plan until Governor DeSantis signed the bill.

5. We have a lot of questions. And task force members should be able to answer all of them. We encourage you to include one or more in your public comments:

- Is a "no build" recommendation a possible conclusion of the Task Force's deliberations?
- Is consensus required for a recommendation to be made by the task force?
- What happens if consensus on an issue or proposal is not achieved?
- If consensus is required, does that mean that one task force member can stop any particular recommendation?
- If consensus is *not required*, then what will "oppose" votes mean and how will they be represented in the official record?

If the task forces have no authority, are discouraged from voting "no" on proposed recommendations, and have no ability to stop the plans, then the process not only looks like a card trick but *is* a big, fat tax-payer funded card trick. A sham. Nothing but a rubber stamp.

Terrible Trend

The "roads to ruin" toll road plan is the worst Florida infrastructure idea since the Everglades Jetport scheme and the Cross-Florida Barge Canal fiasco.

These unwanted, unneeded, outrageously expensive toll roads and the failure to provide funding for the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (by completely ignoring the 2014 constitutional amendment) are part of a trend on the part of the Florida Legislature and Governor DeSantis to use Floridians' tax dollars and land for their own and special interest purposes, rather than for what the state's voters want and need. **It is maddening, should be criminal, and requires forceful action by people like us to STOP IT.**

