April 23, 2020

The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of the State of Florida

Re: Accelerating Infrastructure Projects to Jump Start Florida’s Economic Recovery

Dear Governor DeSantis,

On behalf of the 350 member firms of American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida, their 20,000 employees, and nearly 3,000 members of the Florida Engineering Society, we applaud your early efforts to accelerate state infrastructure projects. Your quick and decisive action is the kind of leadership that Florida needs in this time of crisis.

As evidenced by guidance from the Department of Homeland Security exempting “Critical Infrastructure Workers” from business closures and limitations on movement outside our homes, the importance of engineering for our state’s transportation, energy, environmental, water and wastewater utility, healthcare, communications, manufacturing and distribution infrastructure cannot be overstated as a catalyst to recovery. Keeping Florida’s engineers actively engaged in both the design and construction of this crucial infrastructure will be essential to the state’s economic recovery in the months and years ahead.

We urge you to continue to prioritize and accelerate infrastructure projects during this economic crisis and in your recovery plans. With significant funding assistance from the federal government, we believe that large and immediate increases in infrastructure spending will stimulate our economy, employ thousands of workers, and improve the condition and resiliency of our aging roads and bridges, water and sewer lines, schools, prisons and other public infrastructure for the citizens and visitors to our state. In addition, reducing or removing administrative barriers to expedite funding, permitting, and procurement processes will significantly improve the efficiency of the recovery process.

Once again, we thank you for your hard work and leadership during this critical time. We are confident that, with an appropriate focus on funding the design and construction of infrastructure projects, we can emerge from this crisis as a more efficient, resilient, and secure Florida. Florida’s engineers and engineering companies stand with you as we work together to reopen our economy.

Sincerely,

Allen Douglas
Executive Director