ACEC-FL / FES – 2021 Budget Report

After a regular 60-day session, the Florida Legislature officially adjourned the 2021 Legislative Session on Friday, April 30, 2021. Unlike the last two years, they passed the annual state budget on time. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis, Florida was looking at significant budget cuts. After a much rosier revenue estimating conference, the state had much more funding than anticipated and passed a budget to rival the previous years. The $101.5 billion budget includes several high-priority items, including a minimum wage increase for state employees and $1,000 bonuses for teachers and first responders. The 2021-2022 Fiscal Year budget has funding for a large number of reserves to account for further complications of the pandemic and funds several other pandemic-related projects. $1 billion was set aside for the Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund, and over $2 billion was set aside to tackle statewide infrastructure improvements.

**Six silos make up the budget:**

- COVID Recovery - $6.7 billion
- Education – $26.7 billion
- Health and Human Services – $44.6 billion
- Criminal and Civil Justice - $5.9 billion
- Transportation - $13.7 billion
- Agriculture, Environment and General Government - $6.7 billion

Of particular interest to the ACEC-FL and FES, the budget accounts for updates to the Department of Transportation, with funding available for the state’s transportation infrastructure by $325.8 million, and $2 billion approved for STTF. As well as $506 million for the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

**State Funding:**

**Department of Transportation:**
- Transportation Work Program - $9.2 billion TF
  - County Transportation Programs:
    - Small County Road Resurface Assistance Program (SCRAP) - $38.2 million
    - Small County Outreach Program (SCOP) - $88.8 million
- Local Transportation Initiatives (Road Fund) Projects - $89.5 million
- Transportation Disadvantaged Program - $65.9 million TF

**Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles:**

- Motorist Modernization Project - Phase II - $10.5 million TF
- Application Cloud Environment - $5.6 million TF
- Maintenance and Repair - Kirkman Building - $1.1 million TF
- Operational and Administrative Reductions - ($11) million; (5) vacant positions

**Federal Funding:**

**Economic Development and Workforce Support**

- Jobs Growth Grant Fund - $50 million
- Visit Florida - $25 million

**Infrastructure Improvements and enhancements**

- State Highway System and Florida Ports - $2 billion
  - State Highway System - $1.8 billion
  - Port Operations Grants - $250 million