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## Mica Addresses I-4 Industry Conference

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***“The largest infrastructure project in the history of Central Florida.”***



On Monday Congressman John L. Mica (Winter Park, FL) addressed more than 1,000 transportation leaders at an I-4 expansion industry meeting in Orlando.

“This 21-mile expansion of Interstate 4 is the largest infrastructure project in the history of Central Florida and will employ thousands of workers over the next seven years,” Mica pointed out.

As a result of Mica’s legislation, Map-21, the major transportation bill authored by Rep. Mica and enacted by Congress last year, and its reforms in national transportation policy, half of the project cost will be funded from private capital through a public/private partnership. The \$2.1 billion project will expand capacity on I-4, adding four additional lanes. Toll revenues from these new lanes will finance the additional capacity and eventually pay down the bonds on the new lanes. Under Mica’s bill, all interstate highway lanes that are free will remain free and cannot be tolled in Central Florida or on any federal highway. Reforms also require that in the next few years, all electronic transponders, such as SunPass and E-Pass, must be interchangeable.

Today's forum outlined opportunities for the private sector to help finance, construct, operate and maintain the new lanes which will initially run from Kirkman Road to East of SR 434. Mica said he is working to move additional extensions from Kirkman Road to US Route 192 in the south and to Volusia County in the north.

The House Transportation Committee member also pointed to billions of dollars in new Florida projects on tap. He outlined his efforts to fast track the private sector high speed passenger rail system that FEC is building and his work to expedite track permitting. The system, he said, will connect into Orlando International Airport's new intermodal station which will link the existing North Terminal with a new multibillion dollar South Terminal. He also updated the group on the extension of SunRail in the Orange Blossom Express line which will provide commuter rail service to the northwest, initially up to Lake County.

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