



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

THE CAPITOL
May 25, 2018

Mike Dew, Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

and

Rebecca Bolan, P.E. PMP, Project Manager
Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Post Office Box 613069
Ocoee, FL34761

Dear Secretary Dew and Ms. Bolan:

As I travel the state, I see firsthand the congestion on our roadways, and I appreciate your efforts to address our transportation needs and public safety. The Florida Department of Transportation has been diligent in its consideration of the proposed Coastal Connector, seeking early public input.

While this proposal may help alleviate congestion, the route would have a devastating impact on Florida's \$120 billion agriculture industry and Marion County's local economy. Ocala is the Horse Capital of the World, and the equine industry is a vital part of our state's economy. It is imperative that we find another path.

I ask that the Florida Department of Transportation and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise reconsider the path in the current Coastal Connector proposal, working closely with state and local officials to find the best way forward. I offer the assistance of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to explore other options that meet the Florida's transportation needs while protecting our agriculture industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam H. Putnam".

Adam H. Putnam
Commissioner of Agriculture



Secretary Dew and Ms. Bolan

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cc: Ocala Mayor Kent Guinn, City of Ocala
Marion County Board of County Commissioners
David Moore, District 1
Kathy Bryant, Chair, District 2
Jeff Gold, District 3
Carl Zalak, III, District 4
Michelle Stone, District 5
Marion County Legislative Delegation Members
Senator Rob Bradley, District 5
Senator Keith Perry, District 8
Representative Clovis Watson, Jr. District 20
Representative Charlie Stone, District 22
Representative Stan McLain, District 23
Lonny Taylor Powell, CEO/Exec. VP, FTBOA