The Case for Freight

Increasing capacity on our nation’s transportation system will:

• Unlock Gridlock,
• Generate Jobs,
• Deliver Freight,
• Access Energy,
• Connect Communities

Did you know?

• The amount of freight moved in this country—from milk, toothpaste and toilet paper to sparkplugs, wheat and wind turbines—is expected to double in the next 40 years?
• The Interstate Highway System represents only 4 percent of total miles but carries 70 percent of commercial truck traffic?
• Each of the top ten worst freight-truck bottlenecks cause over one million hours of delay a year?

“The Eller Drive project is an excellent example of the department’s coordination with our intermodal partners to fund creative and innovative improvements to address congestion in our urbanized areas. The overpass would not only ease congestion in South Florida by moving truck traffic to rail but would further the global status of our seaport system.”

–Stephanie Kopelousos, Florida Department of Transportation Secretary

Freight Capacity Needs
Eller Drive Overpass at Port Everglades, FL

The proposed Eller Drive grade separation at the main entrance to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale is instrumental in a larger plan to develop a highly efficient on-port freight operation by extending rail lines onto the port and constructing an intermodal transfer facility. Broward County’s Port Everglades is currently the largest container port in Florida (11th largest nationally). The envisioned series of improvements would further advance its stature as an attractive freight mover in the global marketplace.

For more information: http://expandingcapacity.transportation.org/
Eller Drive connects the port directly to Interstate 595, which provides quick access to the region, state, and nation using Interstate 95, Interstate 75, Florida’s Turnpike, and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. The Eller Drive overpass and ramping system would provide enhanced connectivity to the highway network. It would also allow for the construction of at-grade rail spurs underneath the grade separation and rail storage tracks for an on-port Intermodal Container Transfer Facility terminal.

The Eller Drive overpass, on-port rail, and container terminal would have an immediate economic impact, creating more than 2,100 new construction jobs and generating new labor income of $89 million and $25 million in new tax revenue. The increased intermodal efficiency and access to the regional and national highway network is projected to serve as the catalyst for the creation of new intermodal business development at the port and at adjacent development sites. The completed overpass, rail spur, and transfer facility would create more than 32,000 new jobs, generating substantial long-term economic impacts for the Fort Lauderdale region and the state.