

PRESS RELEASE

Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged • 605 Suwannee Street, MS-49 •
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For Immediate Release

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Re: Transportation Disadvantaged – One of the State’s Best Investments

Tallahassee, Florida – In March 2008, the Marketing Institute - Florida State University College of Business, released a study documenting the return on investment of Florida’s Transportation Disadvantaged Program. The “transportation disadvantaged” in the state of Florida are defined as those individuals who because of age, disability, or income restraints, do not have access to conventional public transportation options. The study was conducted to assess what state or local governments receive for their investment in transportation disadvantaged programs. There are five common types of transportation disadvantaged trips which are provided through the program: Medical, Employment, Education, Nutrition, and Life Sustaining/Other. These trips provide state government with both direct and indirect benefits. Overall, the State of Florida invested \$372,264,302 in these transportation disadvantaged programs providing over 51,532,055 trips in 2007. These funds generated benefits of \$3,172,813,246.31, which is a payback of 835%, or \$8.35 per every \$1 dollar invested in these programs. The figures were generated using extremely conservative estimates; therefore, the return on investment could be substantially higher, especially medical trips since they potentially represent the most cost-efficient method for diverting more expensive hospital stays. Employment trips reduce welfare costs and provide income that is spent within the state. All of the trips provided enable citizens to remain independent and rely less on government subsidies. Dr. J.R. Harding, the Commission’s Chairman, stated, “I anticipated that the potential return on investment of the Transportation Disadvantaged Program would be quite substantial, but the actual results of this study far exceeded even the projections of the Commission! All parties involved with the coordinated transportation system in Florida should be very proud of their accomplishments.” This study has shown the Transportation Disadvantaged Program is an excellent investment and worthy of continued study and funding. For a complete copy of the study, please refer the Commission’s website: (<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/ctd/>) or call 800-983-2435.