



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

**COMMITTEES:**  
Transportation, *Chair*  
Community Affairs, *Vice Chair*  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Tourism, and Economic Development  
Criminal Justice  
Education Pre-K - 12  
Judiciary

**JOINT COMMITTEE:**  
Joint Committee on Public Counsel Oversight

### SENATOR JEFF BRANDES

22nd District

June 17, 2016

Dear Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some important updates impacting the Pinellas Bayway road network. A bill was approved in the 2016 Legislative Session which lays the groundwork for the much needed bridge improvements servicing the residents of Tierra Verde.

Many residents within the Bayway network, as well as residents of our beach communities, have relied on the availability of annual passes and resident passes to access the toll roads of the Bayway network in an affordable way. I want to be absolutely clear: **neither the annual pass nor the resident pass will see any changes as a result of this legislation.**

We have been in extensive conversation with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) since the 2016 Session ended in March. Before this legislation passed we secured a commitment from the FDOT that these passes will see no increase in their cost, and this commitment remains in place.

We are excited about the future improvement projects in the Bayway network. The residents of our South Pinellas beach communities deserve access to quality and affordable transportation networks. Should you have any questions on this issue, or any other legislative matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Kind regards,

Handwritten signature of Jeff Brandes in black ink.

Jeff Brandes  
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Kathleen Peters in blue ink.

Kathleen Peters  
State Representative

**NOT PAID FOR AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE**

REPLY TO:

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- 318 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5022

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**ANDY GARDINER**  
President of the Senate

**GARRETT RICHTER**  
President Pro Tempore



*Florida Department of Transportation*

**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

**JIM BOXOLD**  
SECRETARY

June 13, 2016

Chairman Jeff Brandes  
9800 4th Street North  
Suite 200  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Dear Chairman Brandes,

Per our conversation, the Florida Department of Transportation has no intention of transferring the Bayway facility to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise if that means changing the current toll structure, including the current resident and annual passes. The only change to the fee structure will be future CPI adjustments, which is standard for all tolled facilities. To clarify, this means that the \$50 annual pass rate will still be available for purchase.

Additionally, the Department is working to fund the replacement of the bridge facility in FY 2018, as per the intent of the Florida Legislature outlined in HB 7027.

Below is background information on the initial statement of the Department's intentions.

**Background:**

- April 4 Gary Fineout tweet: "Things I learned today: Bill signed by @FLGovScott will result in higher tolls for Pinellas County drivers who regularly visit Fort DeSoto"
- Follow-up tweet after talking to Department PIO: "well, this is interesting. FDOT spokesman now says secretary will not approve any transfer of Pinellas toll roads if it means higher tolls"

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Boxold".

for Jim Boxold  
Secretary