



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Release on: January 14, 2004

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Traffic Congestion Relief

WHO: METROPLAN ORLANDO, the region's transportation partnership; the Florida Department of Transportation, District 5; and the Florida Highway Patrol

WHAT: Announcement of 2 initiatives to reduce traffic congestion & improve mobility in Central Florida; followed by a Traffic Incident Management Executive Forum.

- (1) The **Tri County Area Open Roads Policy** - a landmark commitment of police and fire/rescue officials in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties and all 19 municipalities within for the quick clearance of incidents.
- (2) **MOVE IT...Yes You Can!** - a campaign to inform the public that they can, and **MUST** by Florida law, make every reasonable effort to move their damaged vehicle off the roadway if they are involved in a minor traffic accident.

WHEN: **Friday, January 16, 2004**

10:30 a.m. – Announcements (15 - 20 minutes) & **11:00 a.m.** – Executive Forum (one hour)

WHERE: Florida Dept. of Transportation (FDOT), District 5 Office (*133 South Semoran Blvd., Orlando*)

WHY: Traffic incidents & accidents account for more than half of the region's traffic congestion. Clearing accidents quickly can help reduce congestion and improve safety conditions for responders. Regional agencies and the driving public can both be part of the solution.

INTERVIEW OPTIONS:

Orange County Commissioner & METROPLAN ORLANDO Board Chairman, Ted Edwards; FDOT Secretary Jose Abreu & District 5 Operations Director, George Gilhooley; FHP Troop Commander, Major Cyrus Brown; fire/rescue and police personnel from throughout Central Florida; private tow truck operators and other partners.

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