

**RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE PORTIONS OF THE I-75 “HIGHWAY  
BEAUTIFICATION AND TOURISM PILOT PROJECT” SUBMITTED BY  
THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTION TO THE  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION - DECEMBER 7, 2009**

**WHEREAS**, The Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. (FFGC) since organizing in 1924 has included roadside beautification and billboard control within its objectives;

**WHEREAS**, The Federation has consistently supported the Florida Constitution which reads in Article II, Section 7(a) “It shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty”;

**WHEREAS**, The FFGC has strongly supported the purposes in the 1965 Highway Beautification Act (HBA);

**WHEREAS**, The Federation has been represented on the numerous Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Pilot Projects for Interstate 75 from the Florida/Georgia State Line southward to the intersection with Florida’s Turnpike at Wildwood including the recent Pilot Project submitted to the Federal Highway Administration on December 7, 2009;

**WHEREAS**, The stated \$3 Million Dollars committed by the FDOT, per year for each of the next five (5) years beginning with the Fiscal Year 2008/2009, to purchase non-conforming signs on the corridor was part of the agreed actions resulting from the Departments’ improper handling of nonconforming signs destroyed by the hurricanes of 2004 and not a new action by the FDOT which could be construed as part of the pilot;

**WHEREAS**, The Pilot Project submitted to FHWA on December 7, 2009 will be to test a potential change in Federal regulations that, if approved, would modify maintenance and continuance of non-conforming sign regulations;

**WHEREAS**, The proposed Pilot contained incentives that would allow, added lighting in otherwise unlighted areas along the interstate, permit upgrading of existing structures through an exchange of aging wooden structure supports to monopole steel supports, allow new billboards and the enhancement of existing billboards in now non-conforming locations, allow new signs to exceed the size of those removed, permit tri-vision technology on new billboards; and

**WHEREAS**, The Pilot’s proposed enhancement of existing nonconforming billboards and allowing construction of new billboards in nonconforming locations is in direct violation of the federal Highway Beautification Act and Roadside Beautification Program and Objectives of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Board of Directors of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. meeting in regular session January 13-14, 2010, in Winter Park, Florida, representing more than 15,000 members geographically located across the entire State, strongly urges the Federal Highway Administration to suspend approval of the proposed I-75 Pilot Project, as submitted, unless substantial changes are made in the troubling concerns as noted;

**RESOLVED**, That this Resolution be sent to Governor Charlie Crist; Martin C. Knopp, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration; Brian Telfair, Division Realty Officer, Federal Highway Administration; Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos, Florida Department of Transportation and John L. Garner, Director, Office of Right of Way, Florida Department of Transportation.

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Carol L. Hall  
FFGC President

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Jo Ann T. Guise  
FFGC Resolutions Chairman

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Marion Hilliard  
FFGC Government Agency Liaison

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Judy Greenberg  
FFGC Recording Secretary

January 14, 2010

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Date Signed