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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON \$76.8 MILLION STATE ROAD 9B PROJECT

JACKSONVILLE – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Stephanie C. Kopelousos was joined this morning by Federal Highway Administrator Victor Mendez and FDOT District Two Secretary Alan Mosley in turning the first shovels of dirt on the State Road 9B highway project in south Jacksonville.

“Construction of State Road 9B will help drive Florida’s economic recovery by creating or maintaining more than 200 jobs and relieving congestion,” said Governor Charlie Crist. “Putting Floridians back to work is my top priority.”

Kopelousos praised the Governor for challenging FDOT to find creative ways to keep projects moving forward. The first phase of the State Road 9B construction will connect State Road 9A to U.S. 1 (Phillips Highway.) This portion of State Road 9B extends nearly five miles and is expected to be completed by the summer 2012. Funded almost entirely by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, the project will relieve traffic congestion on State Road 9A, U.S. 1 and Old St. Augustine Road.

“It’s a great day for North Florida as we gather here to celebrate the beginning of construction on State Road 9B, which will provide a much-needed transportation improvement for the people who live and work in the region,” Kopelousos said. “State Road 9B will give drivers more efficient driving options and improve access to the Port of Jacksonville and the beaches.”

“Recovery Act dollars are helping projects like this get back on track and putting people to work,” added Administrator Mendez. “On top of that, this will reduce congestion so people in Jacksonville will have more time to spend doing other things.”

State Road 9B will initially be constructed as a four-lane concrete divided highway, expandable to eight lanes, with overpasses at Rudin Street, an unnamed cross road and State Road 9A. Bridges will be constructed over Powers Bay, Powers Bay Relief, Big Davis Creek and Big Davis Creek Relief. A wildlife crossing will be included under the Powers Bay Relief Bridge with wildlife fencing to keep animals off the roadway and guide them to the crossing

Information about the construction of State Road 9B, including maps, photos and traffic impacts can be found online at www.sr9b.com.

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