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Abreu to Lead Floridians for Better Transportation

José Abreu has been at the forefront of transportation leadership in Florida the majority of his career. He has headed one of the most innovative transportation agencies in America--the Florida Department of Transportation—and one of the busiest airports in the world--the Miami International Airport—with equal success and notable accomplishments. He has shared his engineering skills and philanthropic passion with numerous entities for over 3 decades. That is why his selection as 2018-19 Chair of Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT), the state's 30-year-old transportation advocacy group, was the perfect choice and a unanimous decision! He takes the reigns from Denver Stutler, who has served as Chair since 2015.

In 2018 FBT celebrates 30 years of moving Florida forward through advocacy, information and collaboration. It brings leaders together to develop ways of ensuring a strong economy and high quality of life supported by an efficient, well connected and sufficiently funded transportation system for today and for future generations.

José Abreu, P.E., FASCE, is currently a senior vice president of Gannett Fleming and a member of its executive leadership team. Based in the Miami, FL office, Abreu is responsible for guiding the firm's strategic growth and business development initiatives related to transportation and other infrastructure in Florida, as well as in national and international markets to identify key business opportunities.

Prior to joining Gannett Fleming in 2013, Abreu served as director of the Miami-Dade Aviation Department, where he oversaw the operations of Miami International Airport (MIA), one of the nation's busiest international passenger and cargo airports, as well as four general aviation airports in the area. Under his leadership, MIA served more than 39 million passengers and handled 2 million tons of cargo annually. During his tenure, Abreu was responsible for one of the largest airport expansion programs in the U.S., a \$6.5 billion capital improvement program that added new terminals, roadways, and other infrastructure to MIA and the county's general aviation airports.

Abreu was appointed Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by Gov. Jeb Bush in 2003. In this role, he oversaw FDOT's operations, which included seven districts and Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, and encompassed 7,500 employees and a \$9 billion annual

budget. This was the culmination of 18 years in progressively senior positions at FDOT, eight of which were spent as the secretary of FDOT District Six, which included Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties.

Abreu earned a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from the University of Miami. Active in professional associations and community organizations, he is serving or has served on: the board of directors for the Cuban-American Association of Civil Engineers; the United Way of Miami-Dade board of directors; the University of Miami's Industrial Advisory Board for the Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering; and the university's College of Engineering Dean's Visiting Committee. In 2008, he was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve on the Travel and Tourism Advisory Board.

He is a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and has received numerous awards and accolades in a distinguished career. Among the most notable are: the "Chairman's Award" from The Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County's official economic development partnership; named the University of Miami's Alumni Association Banner Marshall for the school's winter commencement ceremony; the "Transportation Achievement Award" from the Center for Urban Transportation Research; the "Excellence in Tourism Award" from the Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce; named "Visionary Leader of the Year" by the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce; named "Person of the Year" by the Florida Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association; the "Bob Graham Architectural Awareness Award" from the American Institute of Architects; named one of "Miami's 75 Most Influential People in Politics, Business, Sports, and Arts" by Poder magazine; the "International Achievements Award," presented by World Trade Center Miami; the "Wright Brothers Award" by the Greater Miami Aviation Association; named one of the Top 25 Newsmakers of 2007 by Engineering News-Record; the ASCE "Civil Government Award,"; and the "Florida Engineering Society Award" for outstanding service to the profession. *Hispanic Business* magazine named Abreu among the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in 2003. The University of Miami recognized him with the "Distinguished Alumni Award" in 1996, once again recognizing his professional accomplishments and dedication to the engineering industry.

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