

**PRESS RELEASE**

Lake Jackson Ecopassage Alliance, Inc.  
Matthew J. Aresco  
(850) 562-3093  
aresco@bio.fsu.edu  
www.lakejacksonturtles.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 20, 2003

**FEASIBILITY STUDY APPROVED FOR WORLD'S DEADLIEST  
TURTLE-KILLING HIGHWAY**

**TALLAHASSEE, FL - MARCH 20, 2003.** A small stretch of U.S. Highway 27 at Lake Jackson near Tallahassee, Florida has the highest number of attempted road crossings by turtles ever documented in the world: over 8,600 turtles in 33 months. On Monday, the Tallahassee – Leon County Metropolitan Planning Organization unanimously approved a feasibility study to look at design considerations for an ecopassage along the deadly stretch of highway. An ecopassage is a series of guidewalls and under-highway culverts that will allow wildlife to pass safely under the roadway. The \$100,000 study, funded by the Florida Department of Transportation, is expected to take about a year.

The Lake Jackson Ecopassage Alliance is a group of concerned citizens and organizations, representing over 9.4 million members. The Alliance's mission is to develop broad-based public support, lobby public officials, and work with government agencies to design and secure funding for an ecopassage along the world's deadliest turtle-killing highway.

**###**