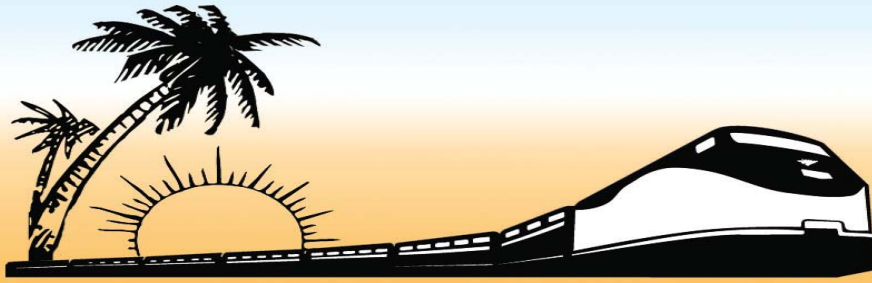


AMTRAK®/FEC CORRIDOR COALITION

Seeking to restore passenger service, in the form of Amtrak®, on the Florida East Coast rail corridor from Jacksonville to West Palm Beach, and south to Miami



MAY 7, 2010
UPDATE

AMTRAK
INSPECTION
TRAIN

5/1/2010

MIAMI TO
JACKSONVILLE

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, the State of Florida celebrated an historic event ~ the running of a passenger train on the FEC corridor from Miami to Jacksonville. Passenger train service was terminated in 1968, three years before Amtrak was formed, but the idea of returning passenger service has remained a strong goal for east coast communities for decades.

In coordination with the FEC, Amtrak ran an "Inspection Train" on the FEC Corridor from Miami to Jacksonville, with stops in West Palm Beach and each of the eight future station cities (Stuart, Fort Pierce, Vero Beach, Melbourne, Cocoa, Titusville, Daytona Beach, and St Augustine), with the train finalizing its run in Jacksonville.



Above - Saturday's Amtrak Inspection Train arrives in Historic Downtown Stuart to cheering crowds and a brass band. Below - hundreds gather to welcome the Amtrak train into downtown Fort Pierce, with banners, signs, and cowboys mounted on horseback.



NOTE: This update was prepared by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

For more information, please contact Kim DeLaney, Growth Management Coordinator, at kdelaney@tcrpc.org or (772) 221-4060.

Hundreds of people met the train in the coastal city rallies and greeted it along the route, waving banners and American flags to encourage the restoration of passenger service on the FEC railway. The train ran smoothly at speeds up to 79 MPH along the 351-mile rail corridor, which showcased “old Florida” historic towns and communities, vintage buildings, and natural landscapes.

There were more than 150 passengers on Saturday’s Amtrak Inspection Train, with representatives from every community along the east coast as well as a variety of state-wide leaders and groups.



Top left - Amtrak train enters West Palm Beach. Bottom left - cowboys on horseback mix with large crowds greet Amtrak in Fort Pierce. Top right - enthusiasm abounds in Vero Beach. Bottom right - US Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas boarding the train in Titusville along with local city officials.

On the Road: Gov. Crist Kicks off Amtrak Train on FEC Rail Line

Declaring that “it just makes sense,” Gov. Charlie Crist endorsed efforts to bring Amtrak passenger rail service to the Florida East Coast rail line Saturday morning. (Jacksonville.com, 5/1/2010)



Governor Charlie Crist greets Thomas Carper, Amtrak board chairman. A special train ran from Miami to Jacksonville along the east coast to check the feasibility of resuming passenger service between the two cities. “We see tremendous growth opportunities here,” said Carper. ROBERTO KOLTUN / EL NUEVO HERALD STAFF





Titus Spoke Bunnell. (© Flagrative)

Above left and above right - grand rally in the City of Bunnell with a hundred-plus American flags and banners welcoming the Inspection Train with a specific request: "Amtrak - Please Stop Here!"

Floridians of all walks of life greeted the train along the route, with hundreds presents in rallies in station cities as well as other cities seeking stations along the corridor. Stuart's rally included a brass band while Fort Pierce's rally included cowboys mounted on horseback amidst the large crowd.

People all along the corridor were overwhelmingly positive, waving hand-drawn signs and printed banners, and cheering the train at every stop from Miami to Jacksonville, but especially near the new station locations. Other supporters waved, honked horns, and gave thumbs-up from intersections, backyards, and other spots along the corridor.



Above - Cocoa Vice Mayor Jim McCarthy and Mayor Michael Blake enjoy the observation car, the last of its kind among the Amtrak fleet. Below - City of Melbourne Council members Mike Nowlin and Kathy Meehan (and husband Dennis) on board.



Titusville Councilman Paul Secor with family and guest meet Amtrak representatives in Titusville, bringing the two youngest guests aboard the Amtrak Train.



In addition to elected officials from cities and counties and representatives from MPO/TPOs, regional planning councils, and other agencies, there were several key participants included in the Inspection Train event. Governor Charlie Crist met the train in Miami, where he spent a half-hour touring the train and discussing the project with Amtrak Chairman Tom Carper. Both Congresswoman Suzanne Kosmas and Congresswoman Corrine Brown rode the train along portions of the route as did FDOT Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, and Stephen Leighton from Congressman Tom Rooney's office.



The May 1st Amtrak Inspection Train illustrated "the art of the possible" for advocates of the project, many of whom have been working on the project for more than a decade. All of the communities are engaged side-by-side with FDOT and Amtrak as a revised application for project funding is prepared to submit this summer for the next round of High Speed/Intercity Passenger Rail program (deadline anticipated July 2010). More photos from the Inspection Train as well as information on workshops in local communities, press related to the Inspection Train, and other project components are available at www.tcrpc.org.

Above - a long-time project advocate welcomes Amtrak to Vero Beach. Below - crowds gathered north of Fort Pierce at the Fort Pierce railway.



Left - Indian River County Commissioner Peter O'Bryan and his wife Susan. Right - St. Lucie County Commissioner Charles Grande shakes hands with Amtrak Chairman Tom Carper in Fort Pierce.



Left - Amtrak Chairman Carper with Stuart's brass band. Right - Jupiter Town Councilman Bob Friedman and wife Rene with Amtrak staff in Stuart.





Clockwise from top left: Martin County Commission Chair Doug Smith with Kim DeLaney (TCRPC) and Amtrak Chairman Carper. TCRPC Executive Director Michael Busha high-fiving "Henry Flagler" in St. Augustine. Cowboys on horseback in Fort Pierce. Martin County Commissioner Ed Ciampi with son Nicholas. St. Augustine Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline with "Henry Flagler" in St. Augustine. Amtrak conductor waving to the crowd in Fort Pierce. US Congresswoman Corrine Brown at the train in St. Augustine. Palm Beach County Commissioner Jeff Koons and Regional Business Alliance Chairman Ralph Marrinson with Amtrak staff in Stuart. FDOT Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos and Gregor Senger, FDOT Amtrak/FEC Project Manager in St. Augustine.



Amtrak "Inspection Train" ~ Saturday, May 1, 2010 ~ Recent Press
(more listed and all available in PDF format at www.tcrpc.org)

Florida Today (5/5/2010): **Editorial – All Aboard**

[http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20100505/OPINION/100504020/Our+views+++All+aboard+\(May+5\)](http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20100505/OPINION/100504020/Our+views+++All+aboard+(May+5))

Historic City News (5/5/2010): **Editorial – Local Officials Need to Better Educate Themselves**

<http://www.historicity.com/2010/staugustine/news/florida/local-officials-need-to-better-educate-themselves-3123>

Stuart News (5/5/2010): **Editorial – Hopes Restored for a Return of Railway**

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/may/05/editorial-hopes-restored-for-a-return-of-railway/>

TC Palm.com (5/4/2010): **Amtrak Trek Could Pave the Way for Jupiter**

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/may/04/amtrak-trek-could-pave-the-way-for-jupiter/>

Miami Herald (5/4/2010): **Florida Pledges to Seek Funds**

<http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/05/04/1611582/florida-pledges-to-seek-funds.html>

Florida Today (5/4/2010): **Amtrak Plan for Brevard Chugs Along**

<http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=20105040312>

Sunshine State News (5/4/2010): **Florida-Amtrak Needs Push from the Legislature**

<http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/florida-amtrak-needs-push-legislature>

Government Monitor (5/3/2010): **Florida to Revive Amtrak /Florida East Coast Passenger Rail**

http://www.thegovmonitor.com/world_news/united_states/florida-to-revive-amtrak-florida-east-coast-passenger-rail-29655.html

New Smyrna Beach News (5/2/2010): **NSB Rally – Amtrak Passenger Service Here Would be Economic Engine**

<http://nsbnews.net/content/265062-nsb-rally-saturday-amtrak-passenger-service-here-would-be-economic-engine>

Jacksonville Transportation Examiner (5/3/2010): **Smooth Track is Highlight of Amtrak Ride over FEC**

Scheduled Service in a Few Years - <http://www.examiner.com/x-10977-Jacksonville-Transportation-Examiner~y2010m5d3-Smooth-track-is-highlight-of-Amtrak-ride-over-FEC-scheduled-service-in-a-few-years>

Daytona Beach Press Journal (5/2/2010): **Railroad-side Rally Signals Support for Flagler Station**

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/local/flagler/2010/05/02/railroad-side-rally-signals-support-for-flagler-station.html>

Miami Herald (5/2/2010): **Special Amtrak Train Rolls from Miami to Jacksonville on FEC Corridor**

http://www.miamiherald.com/2010/05/02/1608679_p2/special-amtrak-train-rolls-from.html

Historic City News (5/2/2010): **Editorial: All Aboard**

<http://www.historicity.com/2010/staugustine/news/florida/all-aboard-3111#more-3111>

Stuart News (5/1/2010): **Residents on Board for Amtrak Service**

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2010/may/01/res>

Vero Beach News (5/1/2010): **Amtrak Arrives in Vero Beach to Supportive Residents**

http://www.veronews.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8288:amtrak-train-arrives-in-vero-beach-to-supportive-residents-signs&catid=192:lead-stories

Office of the Governor (5/1/2010): **Press Release - Amtrak Inspection Train**

<http://www.flgov.com/release/11562>

Palm Beach Post (4/30/2010): **Officials Investigating Amtrak Switching Tracks to FEC Corridor to Stop in West Palm Beach**

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/officials-investigating-amtrak-switching-tracks-to-fec-corridor-654413.html>