

Mica supports billion-dollar high-speed rail in Flor

Congressman appears satisfied with federal stimulus for project.

Posted: January 19, 2011 - 12:00am



John Mica is chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

By [Larry Hannan](#)

U.S. Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., supports constructing a Tampa.

Sort of.

On Tuesday morning Mica, chairman of the House Tr expressed support for the project to the Florida State holding a meeting at the Florida Department of Trans

But Mica tempered his support by saying no state mo Federal stimulus money is expected to pay for about

The rest of the money should come from the private s

"This project includes a link from Orlando Internationa a money maker for a private company."

Mica also reiterated support for [Amtrak service from](#) rail line, but stressed it had to make economic sense.

"Jacksonville to Miami is an important route," he said.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., also expressed support

Mica is a frequent critic of Amtrak, and on Tuesday re system.

Private support is also worth looking at on the Amtrak

The state estimates that 865,000 trips would occur in

Mica's views are significant because of his position as Rick Scott on Monday. Scott has not said if he plans t

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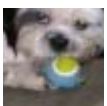
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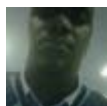
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"I think my views are in line with what Gov. Scott think

Kevin Thibault, executive director of Florida Rail Ente speed rail plans, and the state is moving forward with

Private companies have expressed an interest in a pæ

If Scott decides not to build it, the federal government another state. Ohio and Wisconsin refused money aft their money is now going to Florida.

Mica said he supports efforts to get people out of cars different transportation elements haven't come together.

"The people mover here in Jacksonville was built 30 years too soon," he said, referring to the Skyway. "It anything connecting to it."

A commuter rail system in Jacksonville would help the Skyway, and Mica urged officials to look at the ne International Airport that is designed to encompass rail, air travel, buses and future high-speed rail.

That would be a good long-term model for cities like Jacksonville, and hopefully high-speed rail would ev

The state plans to extend high-speed rail from Orlando to Miami. A Jacksonville connection would be nex

The two most likely routes would parallel the CSX tracks from Orlando or have the system run next to the Thibault said.

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No tax dollars should go to

By [palmreader](#) | [01/19/11 - 08:04 am](#)

No tax dollars should go to this train it will benefit only Disney and Busch Gardens. It would hurt all busi What waste of money.

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I say do it, and begin

By **kauphycup** | 01/19/11 - 09:33 am

I say do it, and begin construction the day Amtrak breaks even and the Skyway goes somewhere and b sustaining and there is a guarantee the system will not be subsidized by tax dollars Federal or local.

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By **Billy Jones** | 01/19/11 - 09:39 am

i don't have a problem with mica and his statements.....this is an interesting time.....

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They're ALL tax dollars!!!

By **John Galt** | 01/19/11 - 11:21 am

They're ALL tax dollars!!! What a moron. Mica needs to go home and the sooner the better.

"Shrug"

"Quemadmoeum gladis nemeinum occidit, occidentis telum est". ("A sword is never a killer, it's a tool in hands.") Lucius Annaeus Seneca "the younger" ca. 4 BC - 65 AD

"Si vis pacem, para bellum."

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