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Florida offers \$118M for Jax-Miami passenger rail

South Florida Business Journal - by Mark Szakonyi , Jacksonville Business Journal

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The **Florida Department of Transportation** is proposing to put up \$118 million to bring back passenger rail service to the Jacksonville-Miami line if the federal government kicks in the remaining \$150 million.

Federal Railroad Administration spokesman **Warren Flatau** said it is no known when the agency would release a third wave of grant opportunities, according to TCPalm.com, a Treasure Coast and Palm Beaches newspaper.

About \$268 million is needed to allow 90 mph Amtrak passenger trains to use the **Florida East Coast Railway** line, connecting Florida east coast cities that do not receive Amtrak service through the current Miami-Tampa-Orlando-Jacksonville line.

The 351-mile railway line, built by 19th-century tycoon **Henry Flagler**, ended passenger service in the mid-1960s.