



**KEEP THE PRIDE ALIVE**  
**RESERVE YOUR 2011 TICKETS TODAY! 633-2000**

## Jax-Miami passenger train on track

[Click to Print Now](#)

Jacksonville Business Journal - by Mark Szakonyi , Staff writer

Date: Thursday, January 6, 2011, 3:37pm EST

The State of Florida's willingness to spend \$118 million to bring back passenger rail service from Jacksonville to Miami if it gets \$150 million in federal help bodes well for the project's future, project supporters said.

The proposed project would allow 90 mph Amtrak passenger trains to use the **Florida East Coast Railway** line to link to Tri-Rail, a South Florida commuter rail, said **Kim Delaney**, who is promoting the project for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. The 15-stop line would connect to local rail and bus systems and add about \$2 billion in value to areas surrounding the stops by 2021, according to the state's stimulus application.

Delaney said although Federal Railroad Administration grants were awarded to other projects, the U.S. Congress may fund a third wave of grants this summer. The project didn't receive funding through the \$8 billion wave of federal funding, nor through the \$2.5 billion awarded in the second round.

Rep. **John Mica**, R-Fla., who was recently appointed to chairman of the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, strongly supports the project and previously criticized the federal government for not funding more Florida infrastructure projects.

Delaney said the project wasn't eligible for the last round of grants because the State of Florida hadn't offered to match funding. The **Florida Department of Transportation** has since proposed to kick in \$118 million for the project if the federal government supplies the remaining \$150 million, said **Dick Kane**, the agency's spokesman. The funding through the fiscal 2013-2014 budget would require state legislative approval.

Delaney said the project has also advanced through the signing of an agreement last December that spurs the Florida Legislature to address liability issues relating to the proposed line and SunRail's \$1.2 billion commuter project in Orlando.

**RESERVE YOUR  
2011 TICKETS!**



**CLICK HERE**



<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2011/01/06/jax-miami-passenger-train-on-track.html?s=print>