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## Amtrak Service Returning To State's East Coast?

Friday, April 30, 2010 12:41:36 AM

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Reported by [Jason Wheeler](#)

**DAYTONA BEACH** -- It's been 42 years since passenger rail service was offered up and down the entire east coast of the state.

Therefore, the sight of an Amtrak train rolling through Daytona Beach Thursday was a little odd.



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**Video**  
[East Coast Rail](#)

On board were officials with Amtrak and Florida East Coast Railroad, the owner of the tracks.

The talks of re-establishing this passenger service appears to be on again.

The Amtrak/FEC Corridor lost out in the first round of stimulus funding, which went to High Speed Rail.

However, supporters are confident another round of federal funding will come their way.

"Compared to the billions of dollars for SunRail and High Speed Rail, this is a project that you can secure a relatively small amount of money and get the trains running in a very short amount of time," said Tim Stockman from the Daytona Beach Amtrak/FEC Coalition.

For London Willis, as a business owner near the proposed Daytona Beach station, they can't build it fast enough.

"I think it would be good for community," Willis said. "It would bring people in and out. It would increase my business as well as the local businesses in the area."

"We do expect some job growth out of it over the long term," said Emory Counts from Daytona Beach Economic Development. "Over the short term, we don't expect there'll be too much."

However, it's enough for cities up and down the coast to support and vie for one of these proposed stations.

Of the 11 counties between Jacksonville and Miami, this proposed Amtrak route will stop in every county except two: Broward and Flagler, which is named for Henry Flagler, the man responsible for building the very first Florida East Coast Railway.

City leaders in Bunnell are asking residents to turn out on Saturday afternoon to support that city's bid for a stop on the line.

They want people to show up with signs to wave as the train heads north towards Jacksonville.

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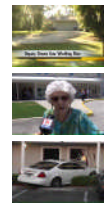


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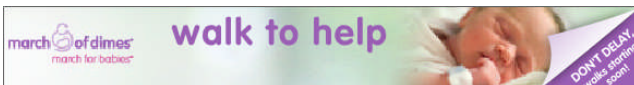


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