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San Marco Amtrak stop favored

Will federal funds be available?

Posted: June 17, 2010 - 12:05am

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By [TRACEY McMANUS](#)

The best spot for an Amtrak station would be between San Marco and U.S. 1, just south of the Winn-Dixie, according to a study by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council.

The big remaining question is whether the East Coast railway project can get federal funds to put Amtrak service from Jacksonville to Miami with St. Augustine as one of eight new stops.

U.S. Rep. John Mica, who represents St. Augustine, said there are many projects across the country competing for the money, and there is a 50-50 chance the \$268 million, 326-mile project will be funded.

Before Florida Department of Transportation can apply for federal funding, the planning council had to conduct location reviews and public workshops. In selecting the San Marco location, the planning council heard from Amtrak and FDOT.

The council eliminated the St. Augustine Airport as a candidate because it is too far to walk to commercial districts, and the Carrera Street station because it would require expensive infrastructure needs.

"It's fairly easy to make a (San Marco) station work because there's a station there today," said Kim DeLaney, growth management coordinator with the planning council. "It's in the best shape of the three existing stations."

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San Marco Amtrak stop would be great

By [davidpaul](#) | 06/17/10 - 07:36



The San Marco location for a passenger rail depot was good 100 years ago and still makes sense today. What a shock it must be to the St. George Street/ City Hall boys to hear that St. Augustine has a vibrant, real world of possibilities north of the Old City Gates and dress-up land.

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