

Amtrak run stops in Central Florida

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FOX 35 News

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (WOFL FOX 35) - Amtrak takes a test run with its train, making a stop in Daytona Beach. Eddra Martin lives across the way from the proposed depot. "I think it would benefit people because right now if you need to take the train you have to go over to Deland, so someone would have to take you over or take a cab or use some other transportation."

The Amtrak train would run from Miami to Jacksonville which is a hub to the rest of the country. Locally the train would make stops in Daytona Beach, Titusville, Cocoa and Melbourne.

Rep Suzanne Kosmas took part in the test ride and got off the train to talk to us briefly. "Just a wonderful opportunity to take advantage of the infrastructure already here, creating new jobs and create a transportation system that's a state of the art of our visitors," Kosmas said.

The train could also provide a way for passengers to get to airports in Miami and Jacksonville. "I believe it would benefit a lot of people that are coming to visit from New York to visit in Daytona," said Kosmas.

If Amtrak gets 260-million dollars in stimulus money, all they would need to do is buy two trains since the tracks already exist. FEC created them back in the 1800's, but stopped using the rail in 1968.

Amtrak is also working with lawmakers to determine liability insurance, which was a big debate when legislators were approving Sunrail, "I don't think it will compete with them at all obviously this is a rail that goes from Miami to Jacksonville," Kosmas said.

And even though Eddra realizes it could get even busier in her neighborhood, she says it won't derail her from supporting an Amtrak stop here. "It would be busy, but I don't have a problem with it," Eddra said.

If the funding and liability insurance is approved rides could take place in 2012.

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