



Office of the President

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SEP 22 2009

TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

September 16, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
400 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

The reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the corridor along Florida's east coast from Jacksonville to Miami has my strong endorsement. I hope you and Secretary Kopelouses are able to win funding for this project from the federal economic stimulus package.

For Central Floridians, the need to improve the mobility of people and commerce across our region is only too well known. Rail transportation must be a part of that improvement.

As a member of the board of the Central Florida Partnership, I know that reinstating rail service on the east coast is an important regional goal. The proposed passenger rail line will support the area's economic development, it will help us expand our tourism industry, and it will enhance the daily lives of millions of our fellow Floridians.

For the University of Central Florida—with campuses along the east coast in Daytona Beach, Cocoa, and Palm Bay—the proposed corridor line furthers our long-range strategic plans, aiding the growth of our regional campus system while reducing our institution's carbon footprint. Both are important goals for this university.

We appreciate your strong and progressive leadership for Florida, and I am hopeful that your advocacy for this passenger service on our region's behalf will prove successful.

On a closing note, thank you again for your continuing support of our College of Medicine, which has an inaugural class of forty-one terrific students, all of whom have full, four-year scholarships. The medical school and the medical city at Lake Nona promise to transform the Central Florida economy, and we thank you for your legacy to our area.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John C. Hitt".

John C. Hitt
President

C: Michael Busha, Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council



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Stephanie Kopelousos
Secretary of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Kopelousos:

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For Central Floridians, the need to improve the mobility of people and commerce across our region is only too well known. Rail transportation must be a part of that improvement.

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John C. Hitt
President

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