



EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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Philip Laurien, AICP
Executive Director

August 19, 2009

Office of Governor Charlie Crist
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist,

The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC) strongly endorses the Amtrak Florida East Coast Corridor Project.

On July 22, 2009 the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council unanimously voted to endorse Amtrak's inclusion of the Intercity Rail Component of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Corridor Project as part of Florida's Economic Stimulus Plan.

The Amtrak/FEC Corridor Project is eligible for funding under the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Thus, we strongly urge the State of Florida to include the project as part of its request for Federal economic stimulus dollars. The project includes train track and local train station improvements over the 326-mile FEC railway corridor with an estimated population of 8.3 million served within 30 miles of the corridor.

Amtrak service could provide enhanced inter and intra-regional mobility within southern, central, and northeast Florida. With Americans taking 10.7 billion trips on mass transit last year, the highest level since 1952, the time is right for the project. Introduction of Amtrak service along Florida's east coast will provide near-term jobs and economic stimulus for Florida's workforce and businesses. Additionally, the project should contribute to reduction in Florida's overall greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled.

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The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council wholeheartedly supports Amtrak's application for the FEC Corridor Project.

Sincerely,



Vice-Mayor Mary Martin
Chair, ECFRPC



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Executive Director

Cc: Ms. Kim DeLany, Growth Management Coordinator, TCRPC