

August 31, 2009

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TREASURE COAST  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

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

**Re: Reintroduction of Amtrak Passenger Service on the FEC Corridor in Florida**

Dear Ms. Kopelousos:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast regarding the reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast. Brevard County was formed historically with the introduction of Flagler's railroad in the early 1900s, and our community flourished with the easy interconnectivity provided by rail transit.

Amtrak passenger service along the coastline is a missing piece of the transportation network in Brevard County. Passenger train service would expand tourist access, expand economic development opportunities, improve interconnectivity, and expand quality of life opportunities for our residents. Transit is also a critical component of a sustainable transportation network, one that will help promote Florida's green economy and improve energy independence.

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast resoundingly requests your office prioritize the Amtrak project (termed the "Intercity Rail Component of the FEC Corridor Project"), from Jacksonville to Miami, as part of the Federal economic stimulus package for the State of Florida. We appreciate your leadership in helping secure this important investment in Florida's sustainable future.

Sincerely,



Lynda L. Weatherman  
President & CEO

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

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