



All About Florida

RODNEY J. LONG
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PRESIDENT ELECT
BROWARD

DOUG SMITH
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
MARTIN

BILL WILLIAMS
SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
GULF

SUSAN LATVALA
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
PINELLAS

CHRISTOPHER L. HOLLEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 9, 2009

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

Ms. Stephanie Kopelousos, Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Dear Governor Crist and Secretary Kopelousos:

On behalf of the Florida Association of Counties, I am writing to express our support of including the Intercity Rail Component of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Corridor Project as part of Florida's Economic Stimulus Plan. Recently, the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council and numerous local governments have adopted resolutions supporting this effort and have provided copies to your offices. As you may know, this project was initially envisioned in 2001, when the Florida Intercity Rail project was negotiated between Amtrak, FEC, and the Florida Department of Transportation. Although the earlier project was stalled due to funding constraints, it appears a renewed project would make a perfect candidate for federal stimulus funding. As envisioned, the updated project would include train track and local train station improvements necessary to get Amtrak passenger service on the FEC rail line serving the entire east coast of Florida.

With the federal government's current focus on transit investments for a greener future, the time is right for this project. The reintroduction of Amtrak service along Florida's east coast will provide near-term jobs and economic stimulus for Florida's workforce and businesses, while complementing other on-going transit initiatives in the state. In light of this, we urge you to prioritize the Amtrak/FEC Corridor Project (from Jacksonville to Miami) as part of the Federal economic stimulus for the State of Florida.

Willing to Serve,

Rodney J. Long, President

cc: Marcos Marchena, Chair, Florida Transportation Commission
Michael Busha, Executive Director, Treasure Coast Regional
Planning Council
Kim DeLaney, Growth Management Coordinator, TCRPC
Commissioner Doug Smith, Martin County Board of County
Commissioners

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