



THE FLORIDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Office of the Executive Director

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

October 2, 2009

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing to express the strong support of The Florida Historical Society regarding the reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast. As I'm sure you know, passenger rail service was essential to the growth of Florida in the early 1900s, as Henry Flagler's railroad made its way down the east coast. Many historic downtown areas emerged as a direct result of having passenger trains stop in their areas.

As the oldest existing cultural organization in the state, established in 1856, The Florida Historical Society would welcome passenger train service that stopped near our state-wide headquarters in historic Cocoa Village. There are many historic sites in this vicinity for tourists on the Amtrak trains to visit, as well as at other proposed stops along this route.

Amtrak passenger train service along the east coast is a missing piece of the transportation network that should be restored. Passenger train service would expand tourist access, increase economic development opportunities, improve interconnectivity, and expand quality of life opportunities for our residents. This passenger train service will also help promote Florida's green economy and improve energy independence.

The Florida Historical Society asks that your office prioritize the Amtrak project, called 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 to secure this important investment in Florida's sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Benjamin D. Brotemarkle



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Office of the Executive Director

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

October 2, 2009

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Dr. Benjamin D. Brotemarkle

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