



The Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council

Mayor Richard J. Kaplan
Chairman

August 5, 2009

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

Dear Governor Crist,

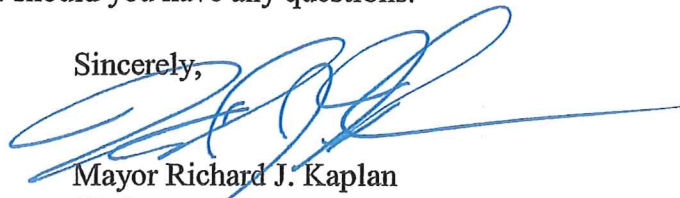
The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recently submitted pre-application forms for federal High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program funds to:

1. Construct the Tampa to Orlando leg of the proposed Florida High Speed Rail System and complete the environmental and engineering work for the Orlando to Miami leg,
2. Restore Amtrak passenger rail service on the Florida East Coast corridor between Jacksonville and Miami, and
3. Purchase an existing 61-mile freight rail corridor in Central Florida that will be used for multiple technologies including Intercity Rail, High Speed Rail, Commuter Rail and light rail.

On behalf of the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC), I want to express our endorsement of and thanks for the initiative and leadership being shown by the FDOT to secure funding for these three extremely important passenger rail projects. From Orlando to Jacksonville, from Southeast Florida to the Tampa Bay area, MPOs across the state have been working to increase the availability of premium passenger rail services within and between Florida's metropolitan areas. It is in that spirit that Florida's MPOs enthusiastically support each of the three proposed projects.

Thank you again for your current and future efforts to secure federal funds for premium rail services in Florida. We look forward to working with you, your staff and our transportation partners to advance multi-modal transportation options in Florida for the benefit of our citizens and businesses. Please contact Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director at (850) 414-4062 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mayor Richard J. Kaplan
Chairman

cc: Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos, FDOT
MPOAC members