



RESOLUTION
Board of Directors
Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce

THE JACKSONVILLE REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTS FLORIDA'S APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE CONNECTING JACKSONVILLE TO MIAMI.

WHEREAS, rail is the safest, most efficient and most environmentally friendly mode of transportation for both freight and passengers; and

WHEREAS, the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is offering \$8 billion in stimulus money attached to President Barack Obama's vision for "world-class passenger rail" in 10 major corridors and an additional \$1 billion for high-speed rail for each of the next five years; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation has submitted an application for an intercity passenger rail system in Florida that would connect Jacksonville to Miami on Florida's east coast using the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) corridor and connecting to Tri-Rail in South Florida, providing intercity passenger service to major population centers along Florida's east coast; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville currently serves as a major hub for intercity passenger rail and freight rail service into and out of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Jacksonville and Northeast Florida want to be included in long-term transportation options with the understanding that when options for Northeast Florida are considered we will work with public and private stakeholders to ensure that our ability to move goods throughout our region is not adversely impacted; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber acknowledges concerns that expansion of passenger rail operations over freight rail lines could, without infrastructure improvements to these rail lines, reduce capacity to operate freight rail transportation service in Jacksonville and in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that a reduction in capacity to operate freight rail transportation service would increase the amount of freight carried through Jacksonville and in the State of Florida on highways and other road infrastructure, which would be detrimental to the public of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Chamber believes that, prior to the expansion of passenger rail operations over freight rail lines, a rail capacity study should be conducted to



determine how much new capacity is required to insure the safe, reliable and fluid operation of the new and existing passenger and freight rail service in Jacksonville and in the State of Florida; and,

WHEREAS, if capacity does not currently exist to permit the safe and reliable operation of both the new passenger trains and the existing passenger and freight trains substantial infrastructure improvements may be required; and,

WHEREAS, funding of certain infrastructure improvements to freight rail lines will benefit the public by enabling the furnishing of additional passenger rail service by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak") while simultaneously preserving the ability to provide freight rail transportation service; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce supports Florida's application for intercity passenger rail that would connect Jacksonville to Miami on Florida's east coast using the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) corridor and connecting to Tri-Rail in South Florida; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce will continue to work with the public and private sector on any future rail initiatives to ensure that the movement of freight is not adversely impacted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Hightower". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mike Hightower, Chair

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wally Lee". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Wally Lee
September 30, 2009