

MARTIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Commissioner, District 5

TARYN KRYZDA
Acting County Administrator

STEPHEN FRY
County Attorney

July 29, 2009

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

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

**RE: Resolution of Support by Countywide Redevelopment Advisory Committee
To Include the Intercity Rail Component of the FEC Corridor Project
In Florida's Economic Stimulus Plan**

Dear Governor Crist and Secretary Kopelousos,

The Countywide Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee to Martin County's Community Redevelopment Agency strongly supports including the Intercity Rail Component of the FEC Corridor Project in Florida's Economic Stimulus Plan. We are excited by this effort to bring AMTRAK passenger rail service to existing FEC rail lines in coastal Martin County. This project would improve access to and from our redevelopment areas, boosting our economy and increasing choices and quality of life for our residents.

Ours is a citizens' committee, with representatives from seven CRA areas in unincorporated Martin County. The FEC rail line runs through or beside 5 of the 7 areas. All seven areas could benefit from a passenger rail stop in Stuart, which is part of the Intercity Rail Component. Specifically:

1. This project would better connect Martin County's coastal areas to the rest of Florida's east coast and beyond.
2. The use of existing FEC rail lines would provide alternatives to widening roads and would support CRA efforts to make these areas more pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly.
3. The track record of stable to increasing property values near rail stations would support our long-term economic redevelopment goals.

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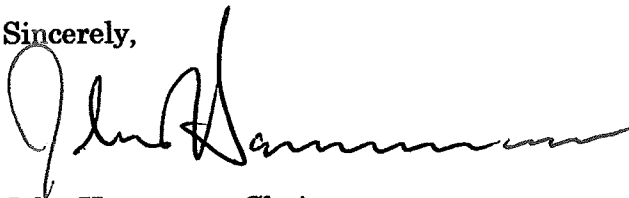
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**Letter of Support to Gov. Christ and FDOT
Martin County Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee
Intercity Rail Component of FEC Corridor Project
Page 2**

- 4. As part of a well-planned multi-modal transportation system, this passenger rail service would improve access to international airports, commuter rail services, and future high-speed rail facilities.**
- 5. As longtime population hubs, our redevelopment areas are ideal locations for passenger rail service within a regional mass transit system.**
- 6. Improved access to our area would help the economic revitalization efforts of our adopted Community Redevelopment Plans. Rail service plus our proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, Intracoastal Waterway, and St. Lucie Estuary would attract more customers to waterfront, tourism, and other small businesses.**
- 7. Improved access would provide our residents with more choices for employment, travel, and shopping.**
- 8. We support sustainable transportation options, those which Reduce Carbon Emissions and provide Green Sustainability.**
- 9. The Martin County Comprehensive Plan makes a multimodal transportation system a goal for our Community Redevelopment Areas. The FEC option would dovetail nicely with our other transportation efforts.**

We welcome the opportunity to connect to one of the most robust passenger rail lines in the Country. Please include the Intercity Rail Component of the FEC Corridor Project in Florida's economic stimulus proposal for American Recovery and Reinvestment dollars.

Sincerely,



**John Hennessee, Chair
(Martin) Countywide Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee**

JH:cr

**cc: Martin County Community Redevelopment Agency Board
Martin County Metropolitan Planning Organization
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council**