February 22, 2010

Mayor Samuel J. Ferreri, Chairman
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 SW Camden Avenue
Stuart, Florida 34994

Re: Florida East Coast Amtrak Service

Dear Mayor Ferreri:

At its February 15, 2009 meeting, the Martin MPO Board discussed the January 28th announcement from the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S.DOT)-Federal Railroad Administration regarding the applications for the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) in the State of Florida. While the U.S. DOT has not initially selected the application to fund the Florida East Coast Amtrak Service, our Board remains committed in its support for this vital rail project. The Martin MPO Board considers this rail project as an essential transportation link that will promote the environmental and economic sustainability of the entire east coast of Florida.

The Martin MPO Board appreciates the commitment of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) in supporting the Florida East Coast Amtrak Service and the HSIPR application process. We encourage the TCRPC to continue its support by submitting a written correspondence to all the MPO/TPO Boards on Florida’s east coast and request that they submit a letter to their respective Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Secretaries requesting their full engagement in the FEC Amtrak Corridor Coalition discussions. Please find the attached letter from the Martin MPO to James Wolfe, FDOT-District IV Secretary, requesting his full engagement in the FEC Amtrak Corridor Coalition discussions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael Mortell
Martin MPO Chairman
cc: Senator George LeMieux
    Senator Bill Nelson
    Commissioner Doug Smith, MPO Vice-Chair
    Commissioner Ed Ciampi
    Commissioner Patrick Hayes
    Commissioner Sarah Heard
    Commissioner Mary Hutchinson
    Commissioner Don Osteen
    Mr. Brian Powers, MPO Ex-Officio
    Mr. Jack Kelly, MPO Ex-Officio
    Mr. Michael Busha, TCRPC
    Ms. Beth Beltran, Martin MPO
February 22, 2010

Secretary James A. Wolfe, P.E.
Florida Department of Transportation, District IV
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33309

Re: Florida East Coast Amtrak Service

Dear Secretary Wolfe:

At its February 15, 2009 meeting, the Martin MPO Board discussed the January 28th announcement from the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT)-Federal Railroad Administration regarding the applications for the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) in the State of Florida. While the U.S. DOT has not initially selected the application to fund the Florida East Coast Amtrak Service, our Board remains committed in its support for this vital rail project. The Martin MPO Board considers this rail project as an essential transportation link that will promote the environmental and economic sustainability of the entire Treasure Coast region.

The Martin MPO Board appreciates the effort of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in preparing the HSIPR application and pursuing the funding for the Florida East Coast Amtrak Service. We encourage FDOT to build upon the collaborative relationship developed with the U.S. DOT to secure the federal funding that is necessary to complete a project of this importance, and request your full engagement as FDOT-District IV Secretary in the FEC Amtrak Corridor Coalition discussions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Michael Mortell
Martin MPO Chairman
cc: Senator George LeMieux
    Senator Bill Nelson
    Commissioner Doug Smith, MPO Vice-Chair
    Commissioner Ed Ciampi
    Commissioner Patrick Hayes
    Commissioner Sarah Heard
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    Mr. Brian Powers, MPO Ex-Officio
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    Ms. Beth Beltran, Martin MPO