



September 21, 2009

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

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 2009  
TREASURE COAST  
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Subject: Reintroduction of Amtrak Passenger Service on the FEC Corridor in Florida

Dear Stephanie:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Merritt Square Mall regarding the reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast. Brevard County was formed historically with the introduction of Flagler's railroad in the early 1900's, and our community flourished with the easy interconnectivity provided by rail transit.

Amtrak passenger service along the coastline is a missing piece of the transportation network in Brevard County. Passenger train service would expand tourist access, expand economic development opportunities, improve interconnectivity and expand quality of life opportunities for our residents. Transit is also a critical component of a sustainable transportation network; one that promotes Florida's green economy and improve energy independence.

The management of the Merritt Square Mall resoundly requests your office prioritize the Amtrak project (termed: 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 secure this important investment in Florida's sustainable future.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Sheard".

Bob Sheard  
General Manager  
Merritt Square Mall

cc: Michael Busha  
Executive Director  
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

cc: Mary Sharpe, Office of Economic Development  
City of Cocoa, Florida