



APPROVED BY
METROPLAN ORLANDO
K. Yellein 8/12/09

RESOLUTION NO. 09-20

SUBJECT:

**SUPPORT FOR FLORIDA EAST COAST AMTRAK SERVICE
THROUGH THE FEDERAL HIGH SPEED RAIL PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, alternative forms of passenger transportation must be provided at the local, regional, statewide and national levels to provide for a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a lack of transportation alternatives for intercity travel in the State of Florida and it is not practical to plan for sufficient highway capacity alone to serve the current and expected demand for intercity travel; and

WHEREAS, improving intercity passenger service in the State of Florida is consistent with plans developed by the Florida Department of Transportation and the metropolitan planning organizations serving Central Florida, including METROPLAN ORLANDO; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service between Jacksonville and South Florida along Florida's east coast was discontinued in 1968 leaving Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties without any form of passenger rail service; and

WHEREAS, the Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization (serving Brevard County) is among the many entities that has made restoring passenger rail service along Florida's east coast a top priority; and

WHEREAS, METROPLAN ORLANDO recognizes that the benefits of projects of this nature extend beyond the immediate communities that are served resulting in a stronger region, a stronger state and a stronger nation; and

WHEREAS, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides federal funding for the development of high speed rail projects throughout the nation and the start-up of Amtrak passenger service between Jacksonville and South Florida in cooperation with the Florida East Coast Railway is considered to be an eligible project; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation has filed a pre-application for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to provide long distance passenger service along Florida's east coast by making route and operational improvements to the existing railroad, building eight new stations and acquiring the necessary rolling stock;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that METROPLAN ORLANDO fully supports the application filed by the Florida Department of Transportation for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to restore rail passenger service between Jacksonville and South Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that METROPLAN ORLANDO encourages the members of Florida's Congressional delegation to fully support the state's grant application and that they actively promote the value of this project with officials from the United States Department of Transportation and President Obama; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that METROPLAN ORLANDO urges the United States Department of Transportation to approve funding for the restoration of Amtrak service along Florida's east coast.

Passed and duly adopted at a regular meeting of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board on the 12th day of August 2009.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Chairperson of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board.


Honorable John Quinones
Board Chairman

Attest:


Lena Tolliver
Recording Secretary