



Community Redevelopment Agency

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TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Michael J. Busha, Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 SW Camden Avenue
Stuart, Florida 34994

February 9, 2010

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

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing to express the strong support of the City of New Smyrna Beach Community Redevelopment Agency regarding the reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast. Volusia County was formed historically with the introduction of Flagler's railroad in the early 1900s, 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 Volusia 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 will help promote Florida's green economy and improve energy independence.

The Commissioners of the City of New Smyrna Beach Community Redevelopment Agency resoundingly requests your office prioritize the Amtrak project (termed the "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 and as a component of the statewide transportation network.

We appreciate your leadership in helping secure this important investment in Florida's sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Steve Dennis
CRA Vice-Chair

Cc: Adam Barringer, Mayor
Pam Brangaccio, City Manager
CRA Commissioners