



**RESOLUTION 2008 – 18
NORTH FLORIDA TPO SUPPORTS AMTRAK
SERVICE USING THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILWAY**

WHEREAS, the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization (North Florida TPO) is the lead transportation planning agency for Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties; and

WHEREAS, the North Florida TPO believes that a strong intercity rail passenger system is vital to America; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak offers passenger service from Jacksonville to Miami on its Silver Star and Silver Meteor trains using routes that are long and not the most direct; and

WHEREAS, while Amtrak set record ridership numbers in 2007, the Southeast is one of the most underserved regions in the country when it comes to rail; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak service in Florida could expand using the quicker route over the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway allowing for stops in cities like St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Fort Pierce, West Palm Beach and Ft. Lauderdale; and

WHEREAS, passenger service on the FEC ended in 1968 and Amtrak has discussed the possibility of using the lines, the last time in 2001-2002; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida East Coast Railway would form a partnership to further discuss the possibility of Amtrak service over the FEC, identify the associated improvement costs and funding options;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization strongly encourages and endorses a feasibility study among Amtrak, FDOT and the FEC to examine the viability of passenger rail service over the FEC and that a dialogue resume at the earliest possible time.

Adopted by the North Florida TPO in regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville the 13th day of November 2008.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ah', written over a horizontal line.

The Honorable Art Graham, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise Bunnewith', written over a horizontal line.

Denise Bunnewith, Executive Director