

Resolution

Northeast Florida Regional Council

2009-05

Requesting

**GOVERNOR CRIST AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY KOPELOUSOS PRIORITIZE
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**

WHEREAS, the FEC corridor was historically operated as a passenger rail line along Florida's East Coast, traversing or providing rail connections to urban areas in Northeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida's East Coast historically developed around train stations along the FEC railroad; and

WHEREAS, local governments and the private sector along Florida's East Coast are currently implementing programs to redevelop historic downtowns built around train stations; and

WHEREAS, improved mobility is highly desired in Northeast Florida and throughout the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, transit, including rail transit, is a key component of improved mobility, especially between cities and throughout the Florida's East Coast; and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Florida Rail Plan identifies passenger transit along the FEC corridor as a potential "Coastal Route" for new passenger rail service in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak is well-suited to provide passenger rail service along Florida's East Coast; and

WHEREAS, the reintroduction of Amtrak service along Florida's East Coast would provide near-term jobs and economic stimulus for Florida's residents and businesses; and

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WHEREAS, the Federal Government is seeking appropriate projects for inclusion in the Federal economic stimulus package to provide immediate and near-term job opportunities for projects; and

WHEREAS, the Intercity FEC Corridor Project (Jacksonville/Miami) is an appropriate project for inclusion by the State of Florida in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan; and

WHEREAS, former work by Amtrak and FDOT includes plans for the improvements necessary to initiate Amtrak service on the FEC corridor;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Northeast Florida Regional Council requests the assistance of Governor Crist and FDOT Secretary Kopelousos to prioritize the Amtrak/FEC Corridor Project (from Jacksonville to Miami) as part of the Federal economic stimulus package for the State of Florida.

Adopted by the Northeast Florida Regional Council in a regular meeting assembled in the City of Jacksonville, this second day of July 2009.



Michael H. Boyle

The Honorable Michael H. Boyle

President

Brian D. Teeple

Brian D. Teeple
CEO