

RESOLUTION 09-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY REQUESTING THE ASSISTANCE OF GOVERNOR CRIST AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY KOPELOUSOS TO 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 like South 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 South 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 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

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;

WHEREAS, FDOT owns the South Florida Rail Corridor (SFRC) and substantial federal and state funding has resulted in the double tracking of the corridor and other substantial capital and operational improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Amtrak stations in South Florida, from West Palm Beach to Miami exist on the SFRC and represent a significant public investment in infrastructure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

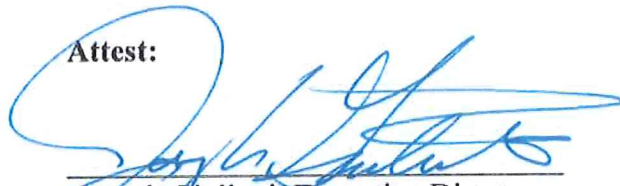
THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY supports the Intercity FEC Corridor Project and the reintroduction of passenger rail service on the FEC Rail Corridor between Jacksonville and West Palm Beach, and continuing on the South Florida Rail Corridor from West Palm Beach to Miami, to be provided by Amtrak; and

THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY requests the assistance of Governor Crist and FDOT Secretary Kopelousos to prioritize the Intercity Rail component identified as the "Coastal Route" in FDOT's August 2006 Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Vision Plan, which provides passenger rail transit service between Jacksonville and Miami as part of the Federal economic stimulus package for the State of Florida.

The Chair thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 28th day of August 2009.



John Koons, SFRTA Chair

Attest:


Joseph Giuliatti, Executive Director