

RESOLUTION 2009-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 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 City of St. Augustine is home to the railroad depot, Circa 1883, for the railroad known as the Jacksonville, St. Augustine & Halifax River Railroad which was acquired by Henry Flagler; and

WHEREAS, the FEC corridor was historically operated as a passenger rail line along Florida's east coast and traversed or provided rail connections to urban areas like the City of St. Augustine; 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 currently are implementing programs to redevelop historic downtowns built around train stations; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Augustine currently is seeking means for rehabilitation of its railroad depot, Circa 1883; and

WHEREAS, improved mobility is highly desired in the City of St. Augustine 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

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;

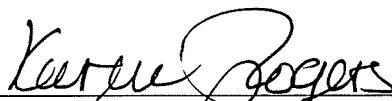
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Request for Assistance. The City of St. Augustine 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.

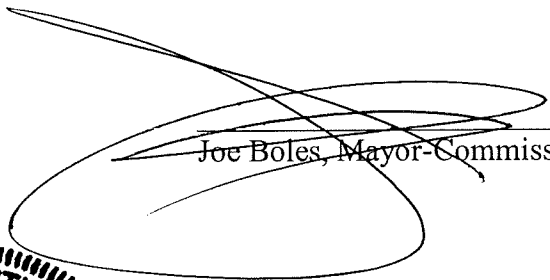
Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission for the City of St. Augustine, Florida this 22nd day of June, 2009.

ATTEST:



Karen Rogers, CMC, City Clerk
(SEAL)



Joe Boles, Mayor-Commissioner

