

RESOLUTION 2009- 177

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REPRESENTING SAINT JOHNS COUNTY 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 the coastal regions of St. Johns County and urban area 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 are currently implementing programs to redevelop historic downtowns built around train stations; and

WHEREAS, improved mobility is highly desired in St. Johns County 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 Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that:

Section 1. The above recitals are hereby incorporated into the body of this Resolution, and are adopted as Findings of Fact.

Section 2. The Board of County Commissioners requests the assistance of Governor Crist and FDOT Secretary Kopelousos in prioritizing the Amtrak/FEC Corridor Project (from Jacksonville to Miami) as part of the Federal economic stimulus package for the State of Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, this 16th day of June, 2009.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: Cyndi Stevenson
Cyndi Stevenson, Chair

ATTEST: Cheryl Strickland, Clerk

By: Patricia De Grande
Deputy Clerk

