

RESOLUTION 09-\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING 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**

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**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 St. Johns County; 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 THAT:**

COUNCIL ON AGING supports the Intercity FEC Corridor Project and the reintroduction of passenger transit on the FEC Rail Corridor from Jacksonville to Miami, specifically in the form of Amtrak; and

COUNCIL ON AGING 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.

The Chair thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this 11 day of August 2009.

**Attest:**

~~Joseph L. Boles, Jr. Chairman/Mayor  
St. Johns County Council on Aging, Inc.  
St. Augustine, FL~~

Susan Johnson (Name) Notary (Title)

