



Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

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Secretary/Treasurer
Jill Collins

Executive Director
Manny Pumariega

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor
State of Florida, The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Subject: Reintroduction of Amtrak Passenger Service on the FEC Corridor in Florida

Dear Governor Crist:

As Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council I am writing to express my support for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council regarding the reintroduction of Amtrak passenger service on the FEC Corridor along Florida's east coast. With the introduction of Flagler's railroad in the early 1900s, the east coast communities flourished with the easy interconnectivity provided by rail transit.

Amtrak passenger service along the east coast is a missing piece of Florida's larger transportation network. Passenger train service would expand tourist access, expand economic development opportunities, improve interconnectivity, and expand quality of life opportunities for the coastal residents. Transit is also a critical component of a sustainable transportation network, one that will help promote Florida's green economy and improve energy independence throughout the entire state.

I sincerely request your consideration and support for The Board of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council which is resoundingly requesting that your office prioritize the Amtrak project (termed 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. We appreciate your leadership in helping secure this important investment in Florida's sustainable future.

Sincerely,

Manny L. Pumariega, AICP
Executive Director