



Florida Department of Transportation

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GOVERNOR

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STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Joseph Szabo, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood and Administrator Szabo:

I am pleased to submit Florida's application under the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program – Service Development Program to re-establish passenger service on the Florida's east coast including Silver Star between New York, New York and Miami, Florida and corridor service between Jacksonville and Miami, Florida.

The \$250 million request to supplement the State and local government commitment of \$123.3 million will provide improvements to the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) to allow 90 mph operations, builds Amtrak stations in eight east coast cities, constructs a connection between FEC and the South Florida Rail Corridor at West Palm Beach, makes improvements to the Miami Intermodal Center to accommodate Amtrak services and funds acquisition of necessary rolling stock. It is supported by every local government along the corridor, including the eight communities who have committed financially to maintaining the new stations. (A total of over 160 resolutions and letters of support are included in this application.)

The Florida Department of Transportation worked in partnership with Amtrak and Florida East Coast Railway in developing the information included in this application. Each of these partners is an active supporter of the proposed service changes.

Additionally, this project is a key link in implementing the Florida Rail System Plan and the Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Vision Plan and is something all of the partners have been working toward since 2001.

The Honorable Ray LaHood
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Page Two

I am very excited about this service and future corridor service on this route. It will have a tremendous positive impact on mobility for our growing resident and visitor population, as well as on Florida's economy.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working with you on this important project.

Sincerely,



Stephanie C. Kopelousos
Secretary

SCK/nhp