

RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

**SUPPORT FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA'S FEDERAL
FUNDING APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL RAILROAD
ADMINISTRATION FOR FLORIDA'S PROPOSED HIGH
SPEED PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEM; RECOMMENDING
EQUITABLE STOPS AT THE ORANGE COUNTY
CONVENTION CENTER MULTI-MODAL STATION; AND
PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

Resolution No. 2010-M-72

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has announced a strategic plan for the development of a national high speed rail network from a host of high priority regional corridors, including the "Florida Corridor," proposed into Phase I ("Tampa-Orlando Corridor") and Phase II ("Miami-Tampa Corridor"); and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Transportation submitted an application to the Federal Railroad Administration requesting funding for the construction of the Phase I High Speed Passenger Rail ("HSR") System as a shovel-ready project based upon previous planning of the Florida High Speed Rail Authority; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the HSR System will greatly benefit all of the citizens of and visitors to the Central Florida Region and is needed to relieve traffic congestion, provide regional transportation opportunities, and provide an alternative solution to the growing transportation needs throughout our state; and

WHEREAS, high speed rail will have significant economic and quality of life benefits for connected communities and regions across the country by offering a viable, environmentally friendly, and energy efficient transportation alternative, which also promotes economic development, job creation, and enhanced travel and tourism opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the HSR System will become an integral part of Central Florida's balanced transportation system with concurrent development of improvements to roadways, LYNX bus transit and the new Sun Rail system, which will greatly improve the mobility of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, based on previous proposals and the performance of investment grade ridership studies, it is anticipated that the service that will result in this Corridor will consist approximately of hourly trains connecting the end stations, and more frequent service in the Orlando area from Orlando International Airport ("OIA") to other Orange County stations at the Orange County Convention Center ("OCCC") and Walt Disney World; and

WHEREAS, this service will allow the over 30 million passengers arriving at "OIA" each year the ability to travel via HSR System from the station at the airport to the following locations: the first station after exiting OIA will be located at the OCCC multi-modal center, where visitors will have access to the OCCC, the many hotels and major entertainment areas, including Sea World and Universal theme parks; and the next station will be located in the Walt Disney World/Celebration area and provide access for the millions of visitors to the theme parks and surrounding hotels and amenities; and

WHEREAS, the Central Florida economy is fueled by tourism and has a long history of attracting diverse populations; and

WHEREAS, the demand for transportation options in Florida are increasing based on the current transportation network, but also on the continued growth in tourism, expected increase in population, and the need to provide services for an aging population; and

WHEREAS, the Central Florida region is the state's largest tourist population base and is expected to positively impact anticipated ridership numbers on the HSR System, especially given direct linkage to OIA and connection to the OCCC and other Central Florida attractions; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County high speed rail stop at the OCCC Multi-Modal Station will increase accessibility and better serve one of this country's leading convention center markets, while offering a viable transportation alternative for all of the residents and businesses of the region; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that the OCCC Multi-Modal Station be deemed a priority stop, directly connected to the emerging high-speed rail system to ensure the region's continued economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the initial investment in high speed rail to Central Florida's most highly populated corridors must provide accessibility for the larger publicly funded tourist attractions and employment centers of the region to fully realize and leverage all the potential benefits of such a major transportation investment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and adopted and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Orange County affirms its support for the establishment of the State of Florida proposed High Speed Passenger Rail System as presented to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Section 3. Orange County supports the proposed transit station locations, as identified through a collaborative public process in the proposed plan as presented to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Section 4. Phase I of the Florida High Speed Passenger Rail System proposed along the Interstate 4 Corridor between Tampa and Orlando should be considered a priority with emphasis on the importance of the OCCC Multi-Modal Station location in the International Drive/Convention Center district.

Section 5. The OCCC Multi-Modal Station, which services the OCCC, many hotels and major entertainment areas, including Sea World and Universal theme parks, should be treated as a priority stop with assurance that every train will stop at the station to protect the public investment this stop represents.

Section 6. That future consideration of potential rail station sites in Orange County, Florida should include an evaluation of the following attributes:

- A. Access to existing and proposed local transit service sites offered by METROPLAN, LYNX, and/or other regional planning entities.
- B. Proximity to areas with large workforce population to assure access to employment, medical/health care facilities, education and training facilities and recreational/cultural attractions.

- C. Consideration of existing and planned roadway and other inter-modal capacity expansion projects.
- D. Connection to proposed commuter and light rail services in both Tampa and Orlando areas.

Section 7. The Florida Department of Transportation is encouraged to work with the entire range of stakeholders in this process, including officials with the Federal Rail Administration, AMTRAK, CSX, private railroad companies and other related organizations to promote high-speed rail across this state and our country.

Section 8. The Board further encourages the Florida Department of Transportation to use sound judgment, public input and assure diverse participation for the procurement of goods and services for this project through the final stages of completion.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED this 14th day of September, 2010.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: Richard T. Crotty
Richard T. Crotty
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: Deputy Clerk
Deputy Clerk

