



Florida East Coast Railway Company

August 4, 2010

Mr. Joseph C. Szabo  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Szabo:

It is our understanding that the state of Florida intends to file a High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) service development program application under the provisions of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) for new intercity and corridor passenger rail service operating over the Florida East Coast Railway (FEC). The first phase of the new service would be to operate Amtrak's *Silver Star* and one new pair of corridor trains over the FEC between Jacksonville and West Palm Beach to offer both long distance and intra-Florida corridor services. This modification would include (1) development of intercity passenger rail stations in St. Augustine, Daytona Beach, Titusville, Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, Vero Beach, Fort Pierce and Stuart, Florida; (2) development of a rail connection between FEC and the South Florida Rail Corridor at Northwood in Palm Beach County; and (3) other capacity improvements to the FEC corridor to provide for the efficient operation of passenger service. Future phases of this program contemplate the development of additional corridor frequencies between Jacksonville and Miami, via the FEC and South Florida Rail Corridor.

The Florida East Coast Railway would like to take this opportunity to express its support for Florida's service development program application, subject to and conditioned upon (i) the development of a program agreement between the state and FEC for infrastructure improvements on the FEC and (ii) the development of an acceptable operating agreement between FEC and Amtrak for the operation of these new services.

The advancement of projects like these with HSIPR funds will help high speed and quality intercity passenger rail service to become a reality in this country. We look forward to the opportunities to develop intercity passenger rail that the HSIPR program will provide.

Sincerely,

  
James R. Hertwig  
President

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