

RESOLUTION O-W 08-27

A RESOLUTION OF THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION REQUESTING AMTRAK TO RESTORE SUNSET LIMITED RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE IN FLORIDA

WHEREAS, the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) is the organization designated by the Governor of Florida as being responsible for carrying out the continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process for the Okaloosa-Walton Metropolitan Planning Area; and

WHEREAS, prior to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Amtrak operated the three-day-a-week Sunset Limited rail passenger service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak discontinued operation of the Sunset Limited service between New Orleans and Florida due to partial destruction of the CSX railroad caused by Hurricane Katrina; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has not resumed the Sunset Limited service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida, even though the CSX damaged rails have been repaired and freight rail traffic is again utilizing the line; and

WHEREAS, rail passenger service will become an even more important alternative transportation mode to the private automobile as our nation moves toward reducing our dependency on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, intermodal connections with rail passenger service are important for the future of railroad infrastructure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION THAT:

The TPO requests AmTrak to restore Sunset Limited rail passenger service between New Orleans and destinations in Florida.

Passed and duly adopted by the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization on this 18th day of September 2008.

**OKALOOSA-WALTON TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

BY:

William H. Garvie
William H. Garvie, Chairman

(Seal)

ATTEST:

[Signature]