

CALL TO ACTION

Central Florida Commuter Rail

The future of transportation in Central Florida is fast approaching a critical crossroads. The region's population is expected to double by the year 2050. The construction of roads, alone, will not be enough to handle this growth.

The Florida House of Representatives advanced this project on March 20th when the House Infrastructure Committee approved the necessary liability legislation. Although the results were favorable, the job is not yet done in Tallahassee.

The House Economic Expansion & Infrastructure Council – Chaired by our own Rep. Dean Cannon - will consider Legislation to advance the Central Florida Commuter Rail project during with week of March 31 and the Senate will take up the matter soon after. As a community leader, you are asked to reach out to any and all members on the attached list of Committees to help advance the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project.

The following information is provided to assist you in your conversations. Commuter Rail is the first step toward reducing traffic congestion and giving residents and visitors more transportation options. Beyond merely easing gridlock, commuter rail has other long-term benefits:

- **Good for the environment:** Provides the equivalent of one new lane in each direction on I-4, taking thousands of vehicles off in an environmentally-friendly way.
- **Good for business:** Spurs economic development by allowing business, research and education centers to tap into geographically broader talent pools.
- **Improved quality of life:** Transportation options, cleaner air and increased connectivity and partnership between communities benefit everyone.
- **Unprecedented example of partnership:** The project is an outstanding example of regional cooperation with four counties and the City of Orlando coming together as major funding partners; local governments have committed to pay 25% of the project's capital costs. The project has also received strong congressional support. Senators Martinez and Nelson, Congresswoman Mica and Congresswoman Brown have worked to obtain federal funding (50%) for this project. A failure by the state to fulfill its financial commitment would undermine their efforts.
- **A rare chance for further partnership to benefit all of Florida:** The future of transportation (and transportation funding) statewide is tied into this project. Central Florida Commuter Rail will lay the foundation for a larger, regional, transit system. In a "big picture" sense, this is a pivotal first step in changing the way we travel as a region and as a state. We need to take this next step *together*.
- **Benefits a wide community:** The deal between FDOT and CSXT goes beyond the Central Florida commuter rail project – it includes benefits for many other communities throughout the state. Additional freight capacity helps support Florida's long-term economic growth while stimulating more than a billion dollars in short-term construction activity at a critical time in our economy.
- **Insurance:** The Central Florida Commuter Rail project is seeking the same authorization for insurance that South Florida's Tri-Rail project has enjoyed for over 20 years. I will like to defer to FDOT staff for further explanation of need.

Central Florida Commuter Rail is the most significant transportation project in Florida in the last quarter century. If we do not act now to ensure its creation we may not have another meaningful chance to positively shape the way we travel for another two, three or four decades.