



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

August 21, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

Dear Secretary LaHood and Administrator Szabo:

Please accept the Florida Department of Transportation's grant application for the Central Florida Rail Passenger Corridor under Track 1a under the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program.

While I fully recognize the intense national competition for these dollars, I believe this application proposes an excellent opportunity to create jobs, relieve congestion and create a critical transportation asset in the State of Florida. In these difficult financial times, the project will provide more than 261,000 new jobs and \$8.8 billion in economic benefit. Further, the first phase of the corridor is truly "shovel ready" – having completed the NEPA process and expected to begin construction in a few months.

The project also will offer badly needed transportation options in the congested Orlando and Jacksonville urban areas, serve as a spine for connections to future rail projects (including High Speed Rail, Light Rail, and expanded Commuter Rail) and greatly enhance the limited inter-city rail service that now exists between the Jacksonville and Orlando areas with planned track improvements.

As required in the application, I will be sending by overnight express mail the signature page for the SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form, Tracking Number: 869418513056.

Should you have any questions about the application, or if I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with to further the national objective of developing intercity and high speed passenger rail in America.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kopelousos
Secretary