

RightTrackFlorida

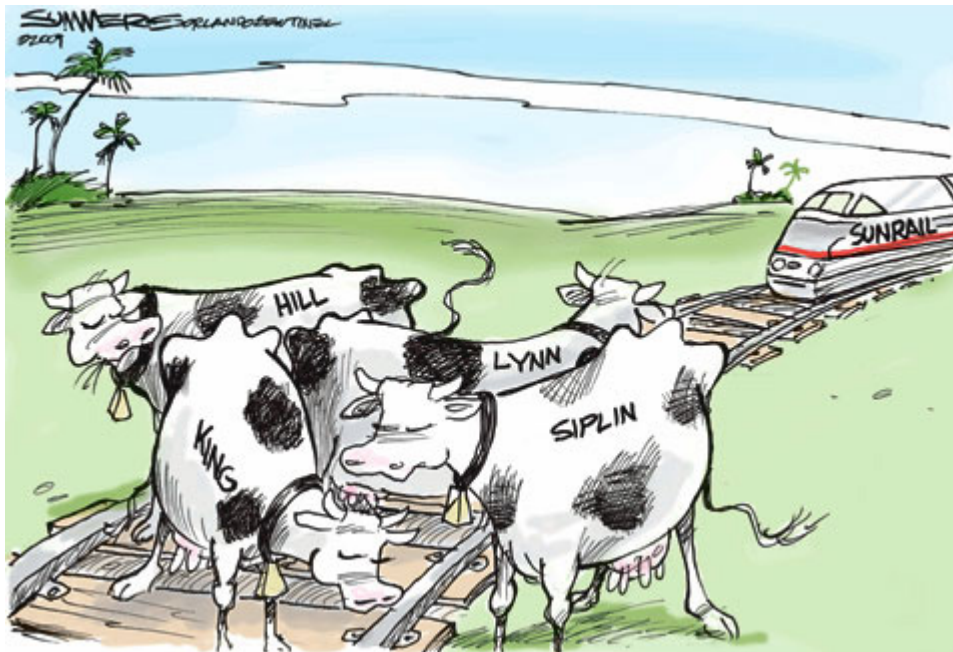
Weekly Newsletter Update Special Edition – April 3, 2009

SPECIAL EDITION!

SunRail Means Jobs, Jobs and More Jobs

Florida's unemployment rate jumped to 9.4% last month, its highest level in 33 years, as a steady decline in housing starts and the nationwide credit crisis forced an additional 108,568 to seek jobless claims. John Kennedy, Director of Special Projects, for the Florida Chamber Foundation recently wrote an article entitled "[Florida's Rising Jobless Toll May Yield Longterm Changes to State Economy.](#)" We think you will find this very interesting; and it makes a strong case for [SunRail](#), because [SunRail](#) means jobs, jobs and more jobs.

Published in the Orlando Sentinel



Published this week in the *Orlando Sentinel*, here is a view of *SunRail* from Dana Summers, Editorial Cartoonist for the *Orlando Sentinel*. Mr. Summers has lived in Orlando for the past 26 years. His cartoons are syndicated nationally.

High Speed Rail Authority Supports SunRail

According to yesterday's News Service of Florida, Members of the High Speed Rail Authority voted 4-1 to show solidarity on rail development in Florida, adopting a resolution in favor of [SunRail](#). [Chairman Lee](#)

Chira said it was appropriate for the High Speed Rail Authority to discuss [SunRail](#), since interconnectivity is the key to our transportation future. For the entire article, go to www.RightTrackFlorida.org.

It's Time to "Set the Record Straight"

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Chair of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission sent a second letter to the Florida Senate in order to "Set the Record Straight." According to the letter, Dyer says that "You looked at the 'big picture' and voted to support the critical first-step in a future statewide rail network that will one day connect your district's residents to communities across the state – and all the opportunities that come with these sorts of new connections."

In addition, a letter was sent to supporters of [SunRail](#), asking everyone to pick up the phone and contact Florida Senators. Check out both letters at www.RightTrackFlorida.org and help us "Set the Record Straight."

Local Perspective on Ridership Numbers

The *Daytona Beach News Journal* this week interviewed local citizens who anxiously await the development of [SunRail](#). "Regardless of its obstacles, public-transit use is up nationally. And its advocates say lawmakers and residents should consider the big picture: population growth, clogged roadways, rising energy costs and environmental degradation." For longtime I-4 bus commuter Peggi Andrade, [SunRail](#) is long past-due. "I think it needs to happen," said Andrade, who lives in Sorrento in Lake County. "I think it's a disgrace that Florida with the population isn't better with public transportation than they are." To review the entire article, please go to www.RightTrackFlorida.org.

Jacksonville Looks to SunRail

A recent article in *Metro Jacksonville* compares the advantages other communities are enjoying over their own hometown when it comes to transit projects like Tide Rail in Norfolk, Virginia. It also states, "properties located within a quarter-mile radius of a light rail station increase in value by up to 25 percent more than other properties, according to studies conducted by the Urban Land Institute."

"A viable mass transit system is one thing that all first class cities have in common. If we don't act soon, our community will have to face the prospects of becoming America's largest city without viable rail-based transit options and the negative impact..."

that will have within the business community and our region's overall standard of living." To read the entire article, go to www.RightTrackFlorida.org.

Orlando Magic Supports SunRail

Special thanks to the *Orlando Magic* for their support of [SunRail](#). In their web site message to NBA fans, they state, "For years, Orlando has been the number one tourist destination in the world. Central Florida is in the midst of building world-class community venues, including the new Events Center scheduled to open in 2010. Residents and visitors to our region also deserve a world-class transportation system. This is why The Orlando Magic is proud to support [SunRail](#)."

To see for yourself, click here: [Orlando Magic](#). Want to post a similar message on your corporate or community web site or newsletter? Contact us and we will supply you with what you need to make it happen. Thanks for your continued support of [SunRail](#).

Don't Forget!

Please go to our comprehensive web site, www.RightTrackFlorida.org to find recent reports, talking points, and articles of interest. In addition, please utilize the "Email Your Elected Officials" page to let Governor Crist, Florida's Cabinet Members, and the Legislature that you support commuter rail!

So You Will Know

As our Governor and Legislative Leaders continue their work in Tallahassee, I will continue to represent the [Central Florida Partnership](#) "on the ground;" advancing [SunRail](#) and other key issues that will positively impact the Central Florida Region.

Need More Information?

Please let us know please if there is any information we may provide to you and your organization as we work enthusiastically toward successfully advancing [SunRail](#).



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