

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
REGARDING CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUTER RAIL**

WHEREAS, the *Central Florida Chamber for Persons with Disabilities, LLC* is committed to encouraging vigorous community dialogue with thorough examination and evaluation of important community issues and priorities which may contribute significantly to enhancing the vitality, quality of life and positive community reputation of the Central Florida region: and

WHEREAS, the *Central Florida Chamber for Persons with Disabilities, LLC* is aware the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is undertaking the development and implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail running from Deland in Volusia County through Seminole County, and Orange County to Poinciana in Osceola County; and

WHEREAS, the FDOT has reached agreement with CSX Transportation providing for the acquisition of the CSXT's A-line between milepost A749.7 near Deland and A814.1 near Poinciana, a distance of approximately 61.5 miles for the use of Central Florida Commuter Rail; and

WHEREAS, Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Osceola Counties and the City of Orlando (collectively, the "Local Government Partners") have agreed the FDOT will be the agency responsible for the design, permitting and construction of Central Florida Commuter Rail and will be responsible for its operation, management and maintenance for a period of seven years; and

WHEREAS, FDOT has agreed to convey Central Florida Commuter Rail to the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission (other than the stations, which will be conveyed to the Local Government Partners) after the initial seven years; and

WHEREAS, implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail will greatly benefit all of the citizens of, and visitors to the Central Florida region, and is needed in order to relieve traffic congestion, provide transportation opportunities and provide a relief for I-4 traffic during its reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Central Florida Commuter Rail will become an integral part of Central Florida's balanced transportation system and, with concurrent development of improvements to roadways and bus transit, will greatly enhance the mobility of the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, financial commitments for Central Florida Commuter Rail have been made by the Local Government partners and state funding is contained in the Five-Year Work Program of the FDOT; and

WHEREAS, Congressman John Mica and Congresswoman Corrine Brown have pledged to secure more than \$300 million in federal funding for Central Florida Commuter Rail

and, if not used for this project, will be lost to rail transit projects elsewhere in the country; and

WHEREAS, it is more critical than ever to provide the traveling public with transportation alternatives as gasoline prices are soaring and new federal air quality standards for ozone put Central Florida at risk of being declared a non-attainment area which could result in sanctions being imposed; and

WHEREAS, Central Florida Commuter Rail will support the effort of Governor Crist's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, established by Executive Order 07-128, with ambitious goals for reducing statewide green house gas emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the *Central Florida Chamber for Persons with Disabilities, LLC* supports the design, construction and implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail in the Central Florida area; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Legislature is requested in its 2009 Legislative Session to remove the one remaining obstacle to the development and implementation of the Commuter Rail by approving fair and reasonable insurance provisions for the Central Florida Commuter Rail as recommended by FDOT and consistent with the provisions of the Interlocal Agreement.