

***A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT
REGARDING THE CENTRAL FLORIDA COMMUTER RAIL TRANSIT SYSTEM***

WHEREAS, the *Congress of Regional Leaders* 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 *Congress of Regional Leaders* is aware the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is undertaking the development and implementation of Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit System (Commuter Rail System) running from Deland in Volusia County through Seminole County, and Orange County to Poinciana in Osceola County; and

WHEREAS, the FDOT has reached agreements 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 and for the use and operation of the Commuter Rail System on and within the rail corridor; 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 the Commuter Rail System and will be responsible for its funding, operation, management and maintenance of that system for a period of seven years; and

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

WHEREAS, implementation of the Commuter Rail System 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, the Commuter Rail System 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 the Commuter Rail System 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 Transit System which, 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

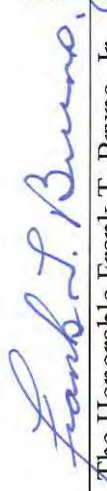
WHEREAS, this Commuter Rail System will support the effort of Governor Crist's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, established by Executive Order 07-128, with ambitious goals for reducing statewide green house gas emissions.

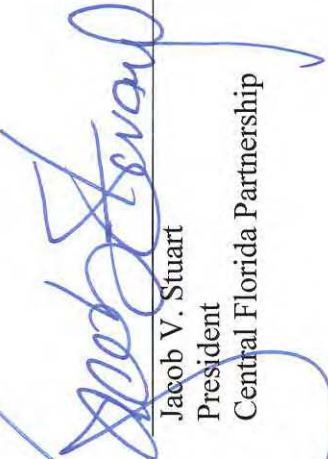
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the *Congress of Regional Leaders* supports the design, construction and implementation of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit System in the Central Florida area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Legislature is hereby requested in the 2009 Legislative Session to support the development and implementation of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit System by enabling FDOT to meet critical contractual obligations through legislative action approving fair and reasonable insurance provisions necessary for the operation of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Transit System as recommended by FDOT and consistent with the provisions of the Interlocal Agreements by, between, or among the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission, the FDOT, and the Local Government Partners.

APROVED AND ADOPTED by the *Congress of Regional Leaders* this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed this 14th day of November, 2008.


The Honorable Frank T. Bruno, Jr.
Chair, *Congress of Regional Leaders*
Chair, Volusia County Council


Jacob V. Stuart
President
Central Florida Partnership