
From: Kent Sharples

Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2009 11:31 AM

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Subject: SunRail Support

Importance: High

To the Volusia/Flagler Legislative Delegation:

I am writing in support of the SunRail to connect central Florida communities for the many citizens and visitors that must, or desire to, travel from place to place. Whether it is our working population going to jobs, our students going to various campuses for education and training, our elderly and frail going to medical appointments or visitors exploring central Florida, the SunRail will provide a clean, efficient and effective method of transport. It is my understanding that this will cost much less than expansion of our interstate highways.

A \$1.2 billion economic impact from the implementation of the SunRail system is projected over a 30 year period. In addition to jobs created by this project, local business and industry will be provided with expanded access to consumers and visitors traveling from county to county. This impact will exceed and benefit the state's investment over time.

It is my understanding that the majority of the cost of the system will be derived from federal transportation funds and that these funds are earmarked for transportation and cannot be used for other critical areas such as education, health care and criminal justice. The implementation of the SunRail system will ensure that 20 percent of our federal gasoline tax funds will remain in Volusia County. As you know, we have been a "donor" county for federal funds for many years.

I realize you have many issues to prioritize but wanted to lend my support to the SunRail project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions. Also, thank you for all that you do in representing your constituents.

Sincerely,

D. Kent Sharples, President
Daytona State College