



SUPPORT SunRail For ALL of Florida!

“Even if you’re on the right track,
you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”
- Will Rogers

Dear Florida Transportation Supporter-

As our name and logo implies, we at FBT support “better transportation” for the Sunshine State in a variety of different forms – including highways, bridges, airports, seaports, bus service, and commuter rail. That’s why I’m contacting you to:

- 1.) **express support for [SunRail](#)**, the proposed Central Florida Commuter Rail service regrettably being jeopardized by Legislative “inaction” here in Tallahassee, and
- 2.) **ask you to contact your *local* Florida Legislators ASAP** in support of this common sense transportation initiative.

****Click [HERE](#) to *Email Your Elected Officials TODAY!*****

Transportation Solves Unemployment - With Florida’s unemployment rate now exceeding 9.4% – its highest level in 33 years – every Floridian, including Governor Crist and members of the Florida Legislature, should be focused on preserving and creating JOBS. Well, transportation is “the” SOLUTION.

Targeted investments in transportation yield an amazing \$5.60 return for each dollar, and 28,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion invested.

And with transportation construction costs having dropped dramatically and our state’s rapid population growth having temporarily slowed, **NOW IS THE TIME** to literally “invest” in transportation ... and in a better, brighter future for Florida.

SunRail = JOBS - Recent [economic analyses](#) show that SunRail could create an additional 260,000 jobs and provide \$8.8 billion in positive economic impact to the State of Florida.

That’s HUGE, and don’t miss the fact that it helps the entire state – not just Central Florida! Not only will this project have an economic benefit for the whole state - *by directly reinvesting private money in roadways, railroads and other transportation facilities throughout Florida* - but it will also lay the foundation for passenger rail systems in other Florida regions desperate for multi-modal transportation solutions.

The Money’s Already There - In these tough economic times, the very good news is that virtually no one is asking for any new money for SunRail.

- o Florida Members of Congress John Mica and Corrine Brown recently announced agreement on a record level of federal funding support for SunRail. Working with a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders from the House and Senate, some \$13 million in federal funds have been secured for SunRail construction grants.
- o Additionally, Congressman Mica received \$950,000 in federal appropriations for construction and improvements to the Winter Park Amtrak Station and \$1.425 million for

the construction of bus and rail terminals to serve SunRail stations in Sanford, Lake Mary, Longwood and Altamonte Springs.

- Congresswoman Brown and Florida Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez have also secured more than \$11 million for LYNX and the Downtown Orlando East-West Circulator System – which will enhance SunRail operations and provide new transit alternatives in the Orlando area.
- Governor Charlie Crist is a strong supporter, and at the state level the necessary dollars have already been identified and committed.
- All that remains to be done is for the Legislature to give SunRail the same approval granted to South Florida's Tri-Rail system 20 years ago.

The Bottom Line - As the former Federal Programs Coordinator for Florida DOT from 1989-2001, I'm painfully aware of Florida's status as a "donor" state – paying much, much more in federal gas tax dollars to Washington, D.C., than we ever receive back in federal surface transportation funding.

Right now, Florida only gets 86 cents back for every highway dollar sent to D.C. Overall on federal transit funding, our "rate of return" is far less – typically in the 63 cent-on-the-dollar range – and we only get back 16 cents-on-the-dollar in the transit category called "new starts" where dollars for projects like SunRail come.

Simply put, SunRail is a great chance to get MORE of **OUR Money** back from Washington, at a time when we need and deserve it most! Knowing all this ...

Why would anyone not give SunRail a speedy "thumbs up" right now?

Please join me TODAY and **click [HERE](#)** to Email Your Elected Officials.

Tell them that the Florida Legislature needs to act NOW so the SunRail project can serve as a much-needed stimulus to our state's economy NOW.

Florida needs long-term thinking and short-term action. Clearly, the time to act on SunRail has come. Will you do your part for "better transportation" in Florida?

Sincerely,



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Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) is a statewide business and transportation association dedicated to making transportation safer and more efficient in Florida. FBT has a growing and diverse membership of businesses, organizations, and individuals, including the Florida Chamber of Commerce, the Florida Transportation Builders Association, Publix Super Markets, SunTrust Bank, the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers, the Florida Public Transportation Association, the Florida Ports Council, the Florida MPO Advisory Council, the Florida Airports Council, and numerous local businesses, Chambers of Commerce, MPOs, and transit providers all across the Sunshine State.