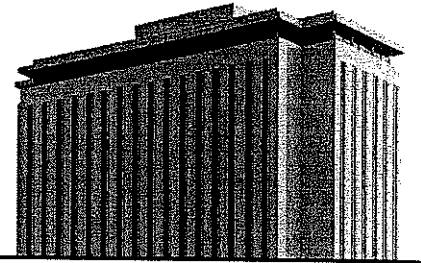




2009 LEGISLATIVE ACTION AGENDA



ERRATA SHEET LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

COMMUTER RAIL

Policy Statement

The Florida League of Cities will support legislation that establishes a commuter rail system in Central Florida linking regional population centers, provided that no costs of the system are mandated to municipal governments. Such legislation must ensure that any agreement be negotiated in a transparent manner with participation by affected municipal governments. Support of this system is based on the idea that it will be the catalyst for commuter systems statewide. The goal is to create a comprehensive transportation network that includes a strategy for both commuter rail and freight, maximizing use of existing infrastructure. A dedicated funding source should be implemented by the legislature to fund commuter rail statewide.

Background:

During the 2008 regular session of the Florida Legislature, legislation to establish a commuter rail line in Central Florida was defeated. A comprehensive commuter rail system in Florida would help to alleviate road congestion, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce Florida's dependence on foreign energy sources. It is hoped that a successful commuter rail system in Central Florida would lead to commuter rail system in other areas of the state. Participation by all affected municipalities is critical to the success of commuter rail in Florida. The costs of commuter rail systems should be supported by state and federal funds, as well as ridership, and no costs should be mandated upon municipalities.