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**From:** Lee Nasehi [mailto:[lnasehi@lcf-fl.org](mailto:lnasehi@lcf-fl.org)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009 10:04 PM  
**To:** [fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:fasano.mike.web@flsenate.gov)  
**Subject:** SunRail  
**Importance:** High

Dear Senator Fasano,

As the CEO of a Lighthouse, and board member of both statewide and national associations of agencies serving the sight-impaired, and most importantly as the parent of an adult blind child, I know how much mass transportation means to people of all ages living with impaired sight. It is key to them being able to participate fully in community life: working, paying taxes, receiving and paying for professional and recreational services and shopping! There is an old joke that says gather two or more sight-impaired people in a room for more than five minutes and they will commiserate about transportation.

Over the next three decades, America's baby-boomers are going to become aging senior citizens, many of them living well into their nineties and beyond. According to [myregion.org](http://myregion.org), we can expect the population of Central Florida to grow to over 7 million by the year 2030 and by then the median age of Central Florida is going to rise from 34 to 58. Duke University published a study about 5 years ago that indicated as many as half of people aged 65 and over will develop at least one of the following three age-related eye diseases: macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma. This means that 20 years from now (not a very long time) more than a million people in Central Florida could be living with low vision or blindness. We will need those people to rehabilitate, to continue working and continue being active consumers. This cannot occur unless we have true mass transportation. We need to start building this kind of infrastructure tomorrow!

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