



**Resolution No. 09-13**

**Subject:**

**Reaffirmation of Support for SunRail**

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is undertaking the development and implementation of the SunRail project (also known as the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project) from DeLand in Volusia County through Seminole County and Orange County to Poinciana in Osceola County; and

**WHEREAS**, FDOT has reached agreement with CSX Transportation providing for the acquisition of the "A" line between Milepost A749.7 near DeLand and A814.1 near Poinciana (a distance of approximately 61.5 miles) for the use of the project; and

**WHEREAS**, public acquisition of the "A" line presents an extraordinary opportunity to establish rail transit service through Central Florida's primary transportation corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, the SunRail project is included in METROPLAN ORLANDO's Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan and the Volusia County MPO's Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the SunRail project is the region's top transportation priority and complements other regional priorities including the implementation of the I-4 master plan and the Wekiva Parkway; and

**WHEREAS**, the SunRail project is intended to be the first component of Central Florida's regional rail transit system and is critical to the effective implementation of the region's growth vision; and

**WHEREAS**, in most communities which are to be served by SunRail stations, actions have been taken to promote transit-oriented development that supports the regional growth vision; and

**WHEREAS**, assurances have been given by members of our Congressional delegation that the federal government will fund 50% of the capital cost for the project (consistent with the adopted financing plan), the Federal Transit Administration has

authorized the project to advance into the final design stage and funding has been included in President Obama's proposed budget; and

**WHEREAS**, state funding to cover 25% of the capital costs and the operating and maintenance costs for the project's first seven years are included in the adopted FDOT Work Program;

**WHEREAS**, local government partners have made financial commitments to fund 25% of the capital costs for the SunRail project; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more critical than ever to provide the public with transportation alternatives as 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**, the SunRail project, along with similar rail transit projects that exist today or are under development in Florida's other metropolitan areas, will complement the Florida high speed rail project by providing intermodal connectivity; and

**WHEREAS**, the SunRail project will support Governor Crist's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, established by Executive Order 07-128, with ambitious goals for reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, action was required by the Florida Legislature during the 2009 session to revise state statute pertaining to insurance and liability for the joint use of rail corridors for both passenger and freight service that would enable FDOT to close on the transaction with CSX Transportation;

**WHEREAS**, despite the outstanding efforts by most members of Central Florida's legislative delegation and the support of transportation industry leaders, business groups and Governor Crist, the legislation was not approved during the 2009 legislative session;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that given what has been invested in the SunRail project already and all that is at stake, the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board reaffirms its commitment to the project as the region's top transportation priority; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that METROPLAN ORLANDO supports the examination of alternatives for addressing the insurance and liability issues to advance the project absent changes in state statute so the transaction can be completed with CSX Transportation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that METROPLAN ORLANDO will retain the SunRail project in the Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan and in the development work that is underway on the Year 2030 Long Range Transportation.

Passed and duly adopted at a regular meeting of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.