RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

ACCELERATION OF I-4 MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Resolution No. 2009-M-08

WHEREAS, our top three transportation priorities of regional significance are the Central Florida commuter rail project (SunRail), the Wekiva Parkway to complete the region’s beltway and the implementation of the I-4 master plan; and

WHEREAS, tremendous progress has been made on SunRail and, pending approval of insurance-related language during the current legislative session, construction is expected to begin in September 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Wekiva River Basin Commission continues its important work which, among other things, will allow for the construction of the Wekiva Parkway in Orange, Seminole and Lake Counties consistent with federal and state laws; and

WHEREAS, recent actions by the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority provide this agency with the financial capacity to assume full responsibility for the construction of the Wekiva Parkway (subject to interlocal agreements with Seminole and Lake Counties), thus relieving the Florida Department of Transportation from funding this project; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned developments now call attention to the importance of the remaining top priority of regional significance – the implementation of the I-4 master plan; and

WHEREAS, planning and design work for the I-4 master plan are done; interchange improvements have been completed at a number of critical locations with additional work underway at other locations; and necessary right-of-way in the corridor is being acquired; and

WHEREAS, one of the many benefits of the SunRail project is that it will serve as a maintenance of traffic strategy during the implementation of the I-4 master plan, and SunRail operations are now planned to begin in 2011; and

WHEREAS, construction of the I-4 master plan from Kirkman Road in Orange County to SR434 in Seminole County is included in the cost-feasible element of METROPLAN ORLANDO’s Year 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan; and
WHEREAS, this project is funded in the Florida Department of Transportation’s Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan for the Year 2035, although recent revenue trends may have jeopardized elements of this plan; and

WHEREAS, construction funding for the implementation of the I-4 master plan is not programmed in the Florida Department of Transportation’s current Five-Year Work Program, and given recent revenue trends, prospects for funding in the immediate future are uncertain;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Department of Transportation is requested to conduct a comprehensive review of the I-4 program and to identify all possible options for phasing, financing, and accelerating construction plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this review should be a collaborative effort involving Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, METROPLAN ORLANDO, the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority, affected counties, and other parties deemed appropriate by the Florida Department of Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this review should include innovative methods of project delivery that have proven to be effective in other metropolitan areas throughout the world, along with new methods that might be applicable to Central Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this review should consider a broad range of partnership opportunities involving regional, state, and national entities, including opportunities that could be available through federal economic stimulus efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida Department of Transportation is requested to make this review a priority with the results being presented to the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board at a date that is considered to be reasonable to the Department but not later than July 2009.

ADOPTED this 10th day of March, 2009.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Richard T. Crotty, Orange County Mayor

Date: 3/12/09

ATTEST: Martha O. Haynie, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: Deputy Clerk