WHEREAS, an unprecedented spirit of cooperation and partnership brought Orange County, Seminole County, Volusia County, Osceola County, the City of Orlando, MetroPlan Orlando, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX), and numerous community organizations together in support of Passenger Rail in Central Florida; and

WHEREAS, FDOT has reached agreement with CSX Transportation providing for the acquisition of the CSXT’s 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 Commuter Rail Project and improvements to all passenger rail in the corridor; and

WHEREAS, FDOT is in process of finalizing the design, permitting and construction of Central Florida’s Commuter Rail Project known as SUNRAIL; and

WHEREAS, implementation of the improved rail access to SUNRAIL, Florida’s High Speed Rail and future Light Rail Transit Projects in Central Florida will result in environmental benefits, improve the quality of life in the state, stimulate economic growth, create new employment options, and serve as a positive growth management catalyst; and

WHEREAS, improvements to passenger rail will greatly benefit all of the citizens of and visitors to the Central Florida region, and is needed in order to relieve traffic congestion, provide transportation opportunities, and provide relief for I-4 traffic during its reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Central Florida communities have been working for decades to create a balanced transportation system which, with concurrent development of improvements to roadways and bus transit, will greatly enhance the mobility of the traveling public; and
WHEREAS, it is more critical than ever to provide the traveling public with transportation alternatives as gasoline prices continue to rise and 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 President of the United States, Barack Obama; the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, Ray LaHood; and Congressman John Mica and Congresswoman Corrine Brown are working in support of a High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail System; and

WHEREAS, the Central Florida Commuter Rail Project will support the efforts of Governor Crist’s Energy and Climate Change Action Plan, established by Executive Order 07-128, with ambitious goals for reducing statewide greenhouse gas emissions;

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida that:

Section 1. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners supports the Application for High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Track 1 funding by the Florida Department of Transportation; for funding of right-of-way acquisition for the 61-mile rail corridor which will facilitate intercity rail travel.

ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF AUGUST, 2009.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

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

By: Deputy Clerk

By: Richard T. Crotty
Orange County Mayor