

APR 19 2011 CAS/cms

# RESOLUTION

*of the*

## **ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SUNRAIL, CENTRAL FLORIDA'S FIRST PASSENGER RAIL PROJECT.**

**Resolution No. 2011-M-14**

**WHEREAS**, alternative forms of transportation must be provided at the local, regional and state level to provide a sustainable future for the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, travel demand in Central Florida is growing and expected to rapidly increase in the coming decades; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently a lack of transportation alternatives for commuters in Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties in Central Florida;

**WHEREAS**, following more than a decade of planning, SunRail, Central Florida's first passenger rail line, was unanimously approved by the governing bodies of Orange, Osceola, Seminole, and Volusia Counties, and the City of Orlando ("Local Government Partners"); and

**WHEREAS**, the 61.5 mile commuter rail project from Volusia County to Osceola County provides a transportation alternative for 15 percent of the state's population and direct connections with two of the region's largest employers; and

**WHEREAS**, an economic impact analysis of the planned system shows more than \$981 million in commercial business sales and 11,523 jobs tied to construction and operation of the system over the next 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, an economic impact analysis of future transit-oriented development plans along the 61.5 mile system shows such development within a half-mile radius of the station stops is expected to directly account for an additional 38,310 permanent jobs in Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, an economic impact analysis shows a secondary impact, realized when workers spend earnings in the area, is forecasted to exceed \$2.5 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, implementation of SunRail will result in overall social and environmental benefits, improve the quality of life in the state, stimulate economic growth, create new employment opportunities, and serve as a positive growth management catalyst; and

**WHEREAS**, SunRail will greatly benefit all of the citizens of and visitors in the region, and is needed in order to relieve traffic congestion in the I-4 corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, it is more critical than ever to provide the traveling public with transportation alternatives as proposed revisions to federal air quality standards put Central Florida at risk of being declared a non-attainment area, which could result in sanctions and loss of federal transportation funding; and

**WHEREAS**, SunRail serves as the backbone for a larger transit plan for the region and provides a foundation for new passenger rail projects throughout the state's urban areas; and

**WHEREAS**, SunRail represents a strong partnership between the local, state, and federal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, financial commitments for SunRail have been made by the Local Government Partners and state funding is contained in the Five-Year Work Program of the Florida Department of Transportation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:**

**Section 1.** The Orange County Board of County Commissioners supports the design, construction, and implementation of the Commuter Rail Project in the Central Florida area; and

**Section 2.** The Orange County Board of County Commissioners requests the Florida Legislature and Governor continue to work in cooperation with citizens and local governments throughout Central Florida to finalize the project; and

**Section 3.** The Orange County Board of County Commissioners requests Governor Scott approve releasing the contracts submitted by the Florida Department of Transportation to begin construction of the project and provide much needed jobs in Central Florida.

**Section 4.** This Resolution shall take effect on the date of its adoption.

**DONE and ORDERED this 19<sup>th</sup> DAY of APRIL, 2011.**

**ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: Board of County Commissioners

By: *Teresa Jacobs*  
Teresa Jacobs  
Orange County Mayor

Date: APR 26 2011

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

By: *Martha O. Haynie*  
Deputy Clerk

Date: APR 26 2011

*CHMN-D-01*

