

RESOLUTION 12-03-2009

A RESOLUTION BY THE GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE RAIL TRANSIT POLICY FOR FLORIDA WHICH INCLUDES DEDICATED FUNDING FOR THE SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY; URGING THE SOUTH FLORIDA STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, The membership of The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce consists of small, medium and large businesses in and throughout the greater Fort Lauderdale region; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce has been committed to serving the business community and helping to promote future economic growth and development in the South Florida region; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce recognizes the importance of a safe, reliable, and balanced system of transportation infrastructure throughout South Florida, including public transit, and is fundamentally important to the sustained growth and economic prosperity of businesses and the South Florida economy and community residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce further acknowledges what has an extended and difficult struggle on the part of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (“SFRTA”) to meet the demands of providing high quality, safe and reliable commuter rail service residents and visitors who either live and/or work in the South Florida-Tri-County area, due primarily from a lack of a dedicated and recurring source of funding for its operations; and

WHEREAS, As the lack of the dedicated funding for the SFRTA has reached epic proportions which has generally caused instability in the delivery of passenger rail services to a growing customer base, threatened a potential default by SFRTA on Federal funding agreements and contributed to an overall perception that the State of Florida has not adequately demonstrated support of the future development of passenger rail services within the State; and

WHEREAS, The urgency of the funding situation for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority underscores the need for the Governor and Florida Legislature to address the creation of a stable and reliable dedicated funding source or sources as quickly as possible to prevent a foreseeable default of the SFRTA’s Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transportation Administration and possible detrimental impacts to Florida as it pursues future federal funding for transportation and transit projects; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce would like to convey its sincere appreciation to the Honorable Jeff Atwater, President of the Florida Senate, for his vision and leadership in spearheading the development of a comprehensive statewide rail transit policy which includes the creation of a dedicated, long term funding source for the SFRTA; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce would also like to convey its gratitude and appreciation to the Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor of the State of Florida, Senator Jeff Atwater and the Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives for their able leadership, which resulted in the convening of a special session to discuss the development of a comprehensive statewide rail transit policy and the creation of a dedicated funding source for the SFRTA, and Governor Crist for his leadership and support; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce has reviewed the proposed legislation and is generally supportive of its provisions, particularly the creation of a reliable, dedicated funding sources for the SFRTA; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce requests a minor modification related to the financial support that the SFRTA will receive from the State Transportation Trust Fund should the SFRTA become responsible for operating, maintaining, and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce requests that should the SFRTA become responsible for operating, maintaining, and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor, that an amount of no less than \$16 million be transferred from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the SFRTA for operations, maintenance, and dispatch and an amount no less than the work program commitments for fiscal year 2010-2011, as of July 1, 2009, for operating assistance to the SFRTA and corridor maintenance for the South Florida Rail Corridor; an increase of \$1 million annually over the \$15 million annually currently identified in proposed legislation should the SFRTA become responsible for operating, maintaining, and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce extends its sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of the South Florida State Legislative Delegation (“Delegation”) for their leadership and support of the SFRTA and requests that the Delegation support during the December 2009 Special Session proposed legislation that will establish a dedicated funding source for the SFRTA and create the framework for a statewide rail transit policy.



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT:

SECTION 1. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce supports the creation of a dedicated funding source or sources for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority.

SECTION 2. The urgency of the funding situation for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority underscores the need for the Governor and Florida Legislature to address the creation of a stable and reliable dedicated funding source or sources as quickly as possible to prevent a foreseeable default of the SFRTA's Full Funding Grant Agreement with the Federal Transportation Administration and possible detrimental impacts to Florida as it pursues future federal funding for transportation and transit projects.

SECTION 3. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce has reviewed the proposed legislation and is generally supportive of its provisions, particularly the creation of a reliable, dedicated funding sources for the SFRTA; and

SECTION 4. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce respectfully proposes that should the SFRTA become responsible for operating, maintaining, and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor, that an amount of no less than \$16 million be transferred from the State Transportation Trust Fund to the SFRTA for operations, maintenance, and dispatch and an amount no less than the work program commitments for fiscal year 2010-2011, as of July 1, 2009, for operating assistance to the SFRTA and corridor maintenance for the South Florida Rail Corridor; an increase of \$1 million annually over the \$15 million annually currently identified in proposed legislation should the SFRTA become responsible for operating, maintaining, and dispatching the South Florida Rail Corridor; and

SECTION 5. The Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce thanks the members of the South Florida State Legislative Delegation for their leadership and support of the SFRTA and requests that the Delegation support during the December 2009 Special Session proposed legislation that will establish a dedicated funding source for the SFRTA and create the framework for a statewide rail transit policy.

SECTION 6. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

ADOPTED this 3rd day of December 2009.

Sidney C. Calloway, Esquire, Chair
Greater Fort Lauderdale Chamber of Commerce, Inc.