



*Florida Department of Transportation*

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GOVERNOR

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KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.  
SECRETARY

January 22, 2020

The Honorable Buddy Dyer  
Chairman, Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission (CFCRC)  
400 South Orange Avenue  
Orlando, Florida 32801

Subject: Seminole County Commission Concerns

Dear Mayor Dyer:

I am in receipt of your letter to Secretary Thibault dated December 12, 2019 in which you transmitted the letter of concern from Chairman Jay Zembower of the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners and asked for the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to consider addressing the issues highlighted in the letter at or prior to the next Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission (CFCRC) meeting. The SunRail operation falls within the jurisdiction of FDOT District 5; therefore, Secretary Thibault has asked that I respond on his behalf. Thank you for the opportunity to address the issues highlighted in the letter as we continue the strong collaboration that helps make SunRail a success.

In the letter from Chairman Zembower, there were several questions concerning the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) interest in the planned capital improvements for SunRail along the Central Florida Rail Corridor (CFRC) from DeBary to DeLand generally referred to as Phase 2 North. As a funding partner, the FTA has been an important part of the SunRail implementation and we will continue our close coordination with FTA representatives as we prepare for SunRail to be transitioned from FDOT to the CFCRC. It is understood that the CFCRC is contemplating a proposed change to the future plans for SunRail service and would like for the northern terminus of service to remain in DeBary and not extend to DeLand for the foreseeable future. While it is important to keep all our partners informed, FDOT does not anticipate any negative impact to the relationship with FTA as it relates to past, present or future opportunities. For the programmed capital improvements of SunRail Phase 2 North, FDOT has flexed approximately \$34M of FHWA funds to FTA. FDOT, in conjunction with FTA, would be willing to consider CFCRC's proposals for utilizing these funds for other qualifying capital improvements.

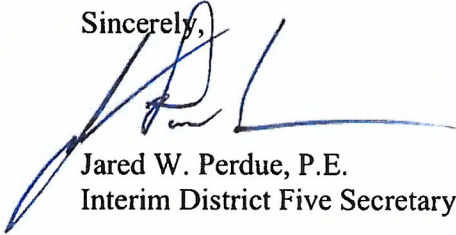
Regarding the CSX agreement, there is an option to acquire two (2) spur lines, referred to as the Aloma Spur and the DeLand Spur. In reviewing the agreement, the option to purchase either of these spurs expires 30 years after the execution of the Option Agreement in 2011, provided the Central Florida Rail Corridor in the area of the spur line is still being used for commuter or passenger rail service. This preserves the opportunity for the CFCRC to consider future expansion of service along those spurs at such time that the need arises.

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As partners in the continued success of SunRail, FDOT strives to ensure transparency and collaboration and understands how important it is to provide all parties with the most current financial information. As such, FDOT will continue to provide the CFCRC with the latest SunRail budget and actual expenditures as well as information on forthcoming capital improvements. FDOT also realizes the importance of this financial information as it relates to the transition of SunRail from FDOT to the CFCRC and are pleased to support the continued effort.

FDOT continues to be focused on facilitating a smooth and successful transition of SunRail Operations from FDOT to the CFCRC and are confident that all partners are working to honor the spirit and intent of the original agreements that are in place. Please feel free to contact my office or Charles "Mike" Heffinger, SunRail Chief Operating Officer (COO) at (321) 257-7162 or by email at [Charles.Heffinger@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Charles.Heffinger@dot.state.fl.us) for any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Perdue', is written over a horizontal line.

Jared W. Perdue, P.E.  
Interim District Five Secretary

JWP:n

Cc: The Honorable Bob Dallari  
The Honorable Jerry L. Demmings  
The Honorable Viviana Janner  
The Honorable Ed Kelley  
Charles Heffinger, P.E.  
Lorie Matthews