



Florida Department of Transportation

CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

STEPHANIE C. KOPELOUSOS
SECRETARY

December 14, 2010

Citizens of Florida:

I am pleased to submit to you the Investment Element of the 2010 Florida Rail System Plan. Unlike in past years, where the Florida Rail System Plan was more descriptive of the separate freight and passenger rail systems, this plan is more visionary, strategic, and policy-driven.

The plan was guided by a broad base of stakeholders, including the Rail Stakeholder Advisory Committee, members of the public and private sectors, modes of transportation, economic development and environmental interests, and citizen representatives. The Committee and others worked throughout the summer and fall of 2009 to develop an inventory of Florida's rail system needs and recommend priority investments that support the strategic goals, objectives, and policies of the Florida Rail System Plan.

The Florida Rail System Plan is comprised of a Policy Element and this document, the Investment Element. The Policy Element provides a broad policy framework for the investment of limited state resources in Florida's rail system. The Investment Element builds upon the framework of the Policy Element by identifying the needs of Florida's rail system, establishing priorities for the investment of state funds, and setting forth future action steps necessary to implement the plan.

Florida in the year 2030 will be shaped by the actions, decisions, and policy choices made today. The challenges of continuing population growth, a rapidly diversifying economy, improving our infrastructure, and preserving our exceptional natural environment, will require a creative and visionary approach to address the mobility needs of Florida's citizens, businesses, and visitors while fostering smarter and more sustainable patterns of growth for our future. Rail transportation will play a critical role in meeting those challenges.

Please join with the Florida Department of Transportation and all of our partners in delivering the promise of this plan.

Sincerely,

Stephanie C. Kopelousos
Secretary