



## Rail and Transit



Regional Listening Sessions





# PURPOSE



Recap and validate input on how rail and transit should function as part of an integrated, statewide and regional transportation system



Gather input on the roles and responsibilities of FDOT and other partners



Strengthen collaboration to advance rail and transit priorities





# AGENDA

**01** Rail & Transit System  
Overview Recap

**02** What We Heard

**03** Current Efforts &  
Next Steps



# TRANSIT



Urban



Rural



Intercity

**217.6 Million** passenger trips (2019)

# PASSENGER RAIL



Intercity



Regional

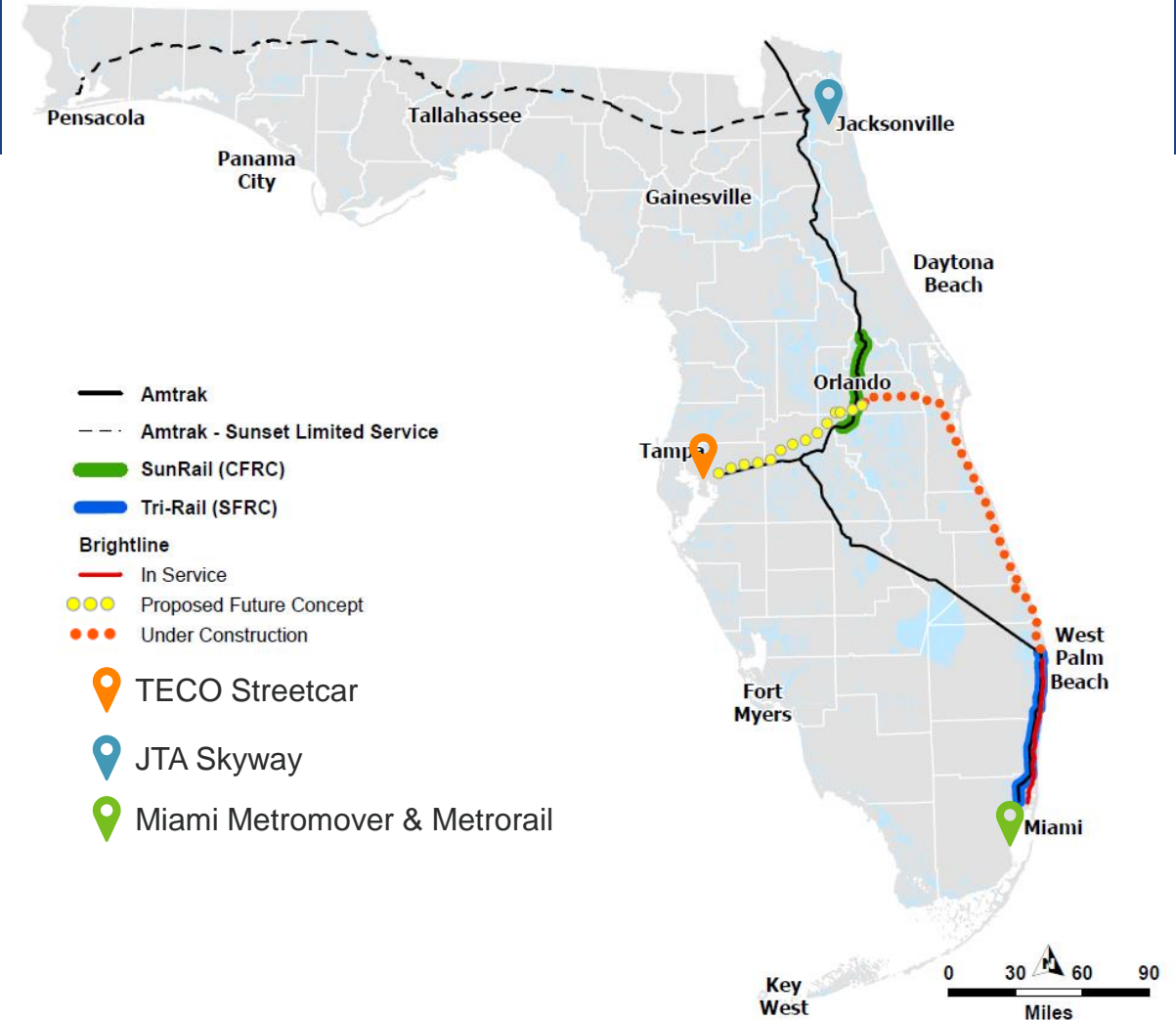


Urban

## Providers



*brightline*



**7.8 Million** Rail Passengers (2019)

# FREIGHT RAIL

Class I

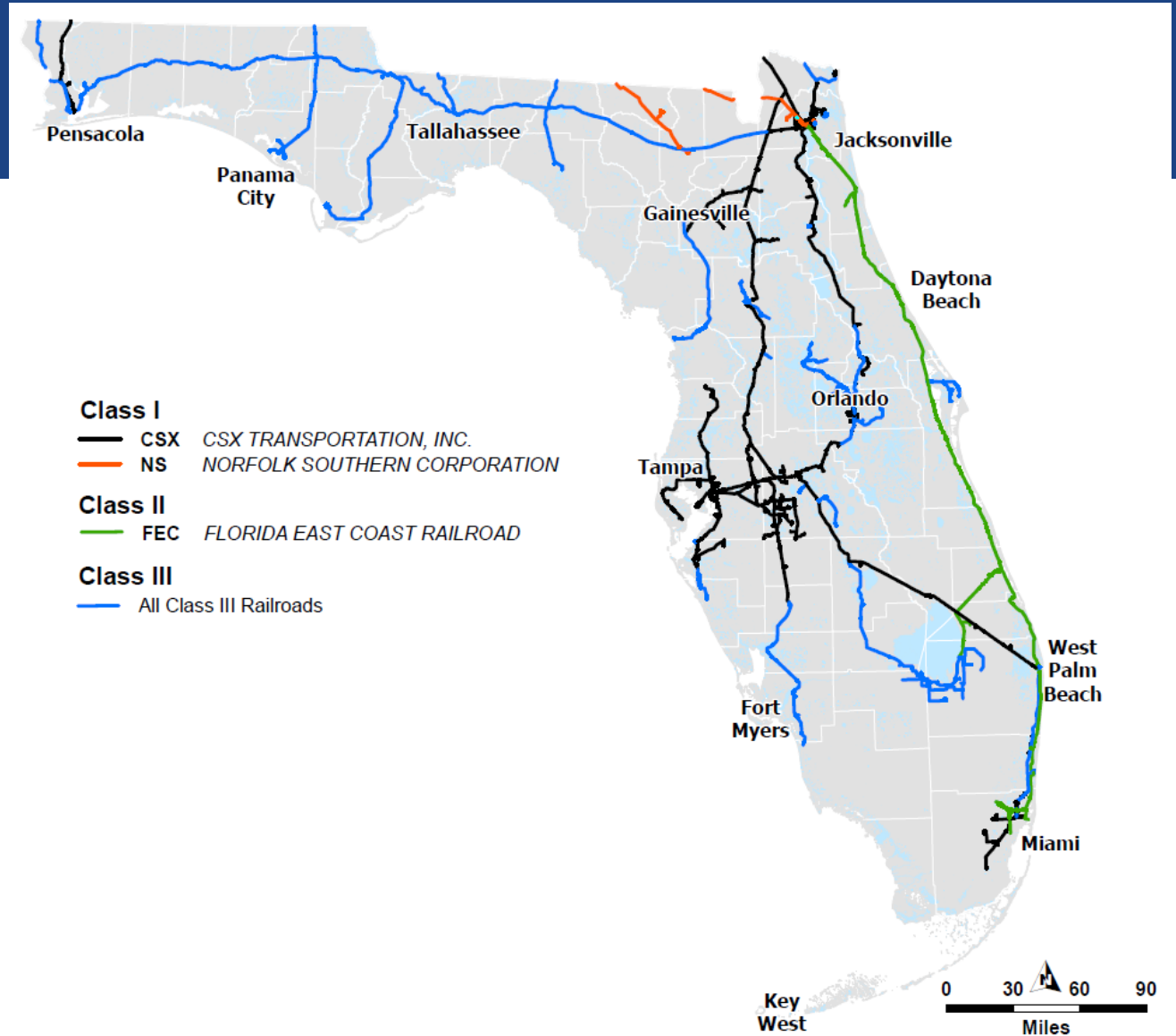
Class II

Class III

Partners



Florida  
East Coast  
RAILWAY



78 Million tons (2019)



# SCHEDULE



**MAR 29TH**

**APR 6TH**

**APR 7TH**

**APR 12TH**

**APR 13TH**

**APR 26TH**

**JUN 16TH**

**Jacksonville**  
FDOT  
District Two  
Headquarters  
*Training Room*  
1:00- 4:00 PM

**Lakeland**  
Magnolia Building  
9:00 AM –  
12:00 PM

**Longwood**  
Longwood  
Community  
Building  
9:00 AM –  
12:00 PM

**Ft. Myers**  
Riverside  
Community  
Center  
9:00 AM –  
12:00 PM

**Aventura Miami**  
Aventura Branch  
Library  
1:00- 4:00 PM

**Marianna**  
Jackson County  
Agriculture Center  
9:00 AM –  
12:00 PM

**Statewide  
Closing**  
Virtual  
*GoToWebinar*  
4:30 PM –  
6:30 PM

# SESSION RECAP

01 Overview Presentation  
with Live Polling

02 Rail & Transit System  
Engagement Stations

03 Roles, Responsibilities  
& Priorities Discussion





I-4 Beyond the University  
 Main St. Space of Traffic  
 Avenue Construction  
 - More Frequent Service  
 Express Bus I-4

support  
logical  
connections  
transit → unfair  
→ bright line

Wheelchair accessibility  
on fibrous connection.  
People are sitting in  
the disabled sections.  
"Wheelchair Priority  
Only"

Add POLK  
EV charging  
stations at  
Transit Terminals  
+ P+Ride Lots.

Autonomous/ev shuttles

- Vehicles that hold more than 2 bicycles

Use Intercity Bus  
& Passenger Rail together  
to test Routes, Connect  
to hubs, etc... Also:  
Amtrak has shuttle  
bus along I-75 for years,  
from Naples to Tampa  
using buses can help id  
future rail options

PARTNER w/ PRIVATE PROVIDERS - USER/LYAF FOR LAST MILE

dedicate a Bus lane  
apply penalties - for  
use correction routes  
increase frequency

Installing BAT  
or BRT Lanes  
on State Owned  
Roads.

Citrus Connection  
Add AM  
PM  
Hours  
to all Routes.

For <sup>more</sup> adoption -  
I think non-transit riders would be more inclined to ride "transit" like Disney & Airport, or shuttles & things they ride on vacation

More unique vehicles such as trolleys that connect between ~~the~~ tourist destinations, hotels & airports

GIS mapping  
App like User-  
it finds you and  
shows you buses  
near by a stops in  
real-time

FOCUS ON TIER 2  
CITIES - BEFORE  
THE POPULATION  
GROWTH AND PLAN  
AHEAD

Change  
The mindset  
of Floridians &  
the people who have  
never ~~visited~~ been  
on a bus, think it  
is too hard to  
figure out, fear  
getting lost.

More (some is already good)  
Use of marketing bus  
"wraps" with  
art work, pop  
culture - eye  
catching images

# WHAT WE HEARD

Incorporate more  
on demand service  
@ activity centers

Set modal share  
goals for transit

Better transit  
options  
for  
elderly & disabled  
in Highlands  
Co.

I'd support  
a local sales  
tax  
- for 10 years  
- for specific  
List of  
TRANSIT PROJECTS

BIA FUNDING 1064  
Any County/ system w/  
Dedicated Tax Source  
is eligible for New  
State Funding. It then  
must fund local / reg /  
Needs w/ community  
involvement! Report  
on W/D & Survey!

FOOT Funding!  
Prioritize for needs.  
Ex:  
1- Frequency vs. Area  
2- Reg vs. local  
3- maintain vs. expansion  
Then use \$5 to accept/del  
If only takes \$3!

BRT  
Corridor  
US 27 from  
Lake Colina  
South to  
Sebring/Avon  
park.

Improve frequency  
One-hour frequency is  
important for routine  
drop & consulting

Traffic cues for roundabouts for blind + low vision

Need Better system  
on TNC Requirements  
when Contracting to  
transit agencies.  
TNC's think operate  
outside of Public  
system regts

More bus routes  
in Sebring,  
Lake Placid, &  
Avon Park

D. Ho

"Authority"

## Land Use Guidance

Bus ramps for wheelchair accessibility inconsistent. #10 bus drivers inconsistent

~~Shuttles~~  
Shuttles are not  
ADA/Disabled compliant

Bus stops on  
Ave. (going north)  
have been re  
right sizing of

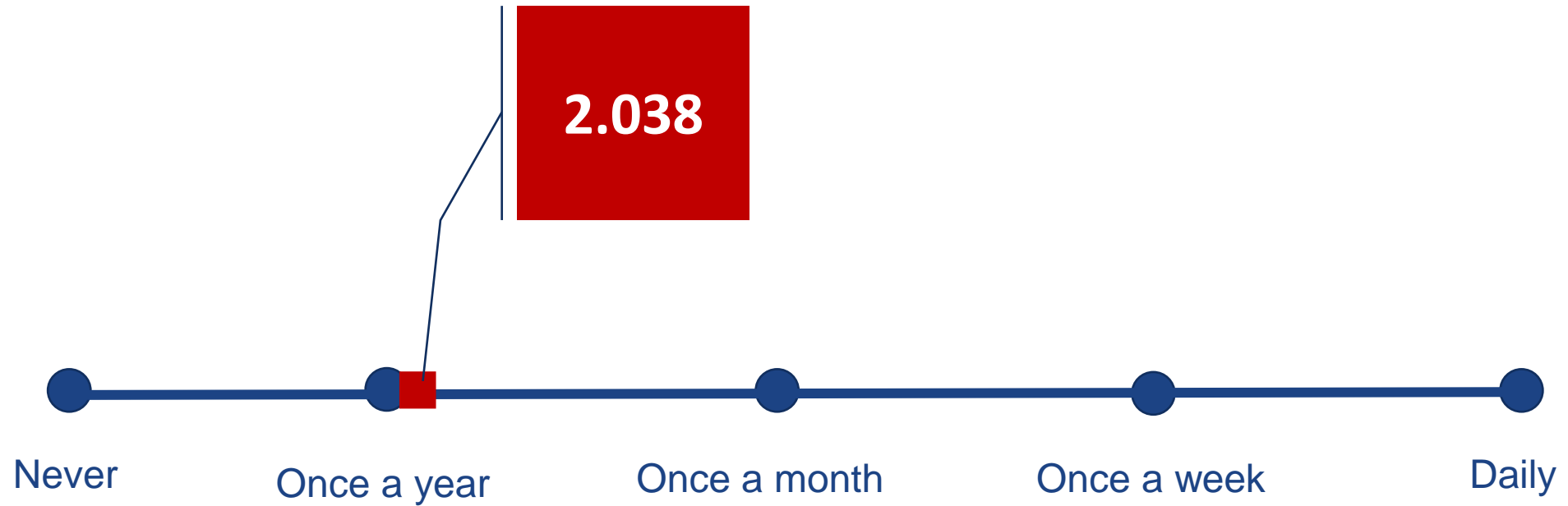
# TRANSIT





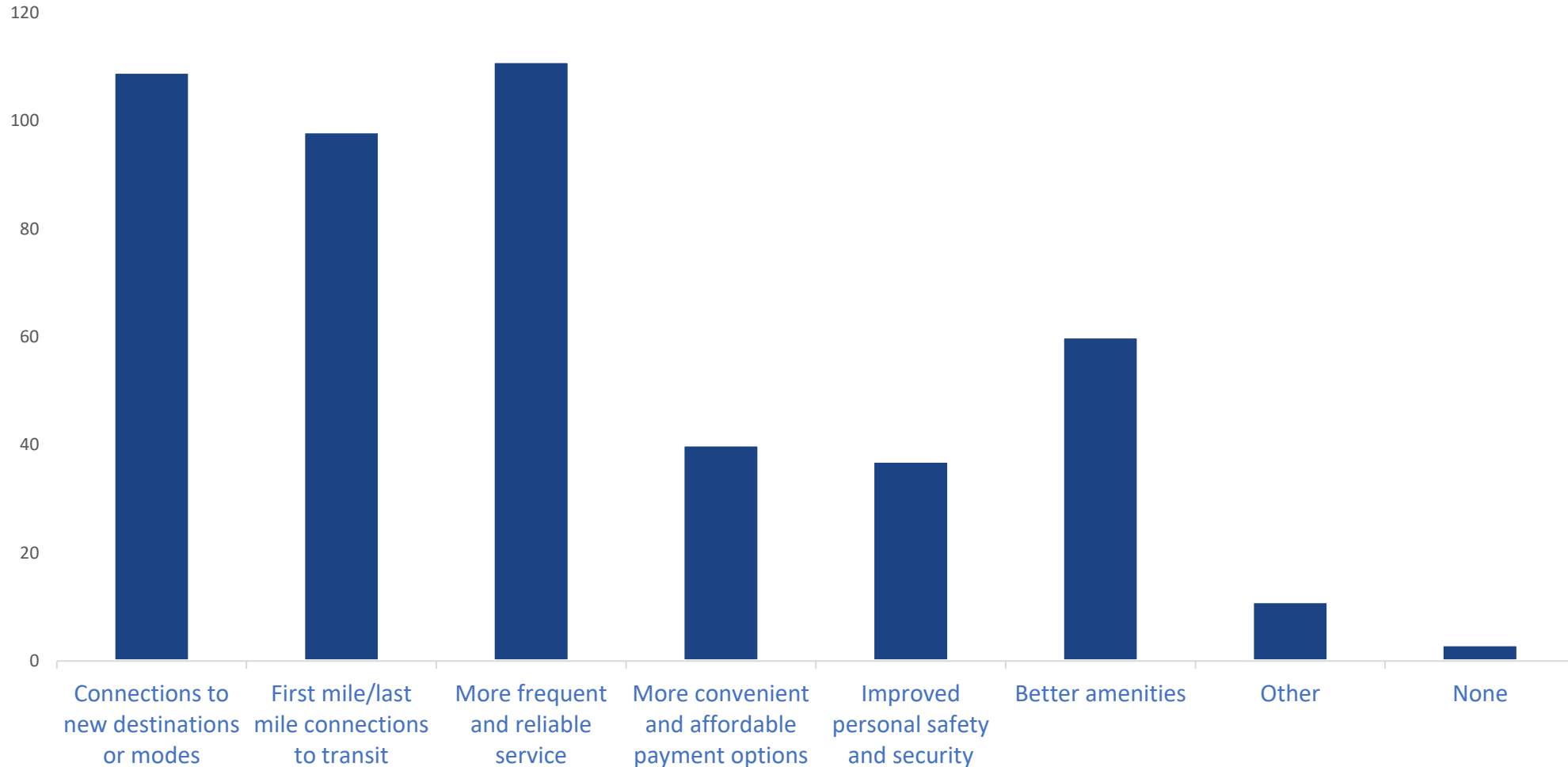
# TRANSIT LIVE POLLING RESULTS

How often do you use transit?



# TRANSIT LIVE POLLING RESULTS

What would encourage you to use transit?





# TRANSIT RECURRING THEMES

Reliability

Connectivity

Technology

Coordination

Prioritizing Transit

Planning

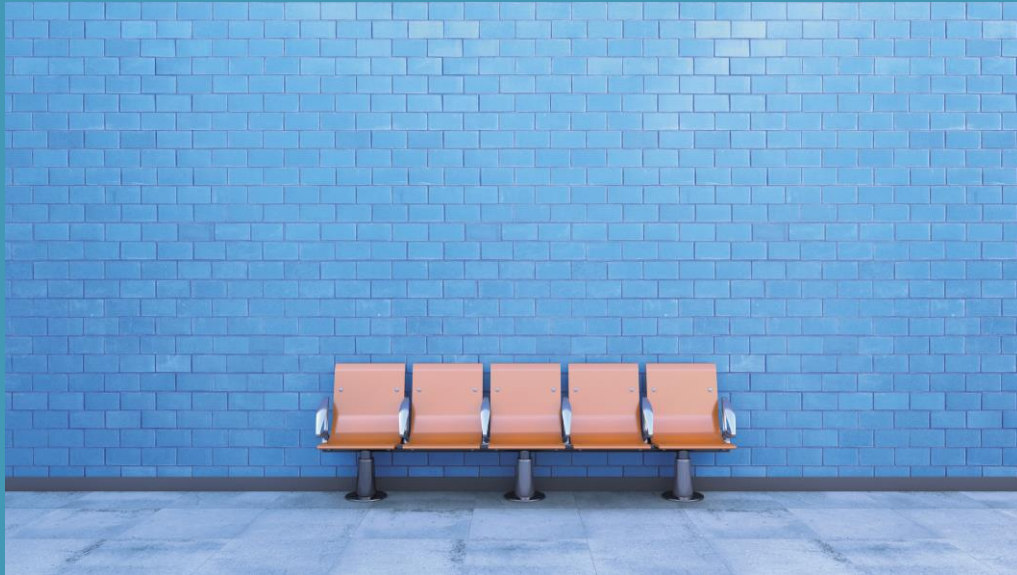
Accessibility

Perception

Funding

# Reliability

Increased frequencies and extended service hours are necessary to create a reliable experience for transit riders



# Connectivity

Considerations should be made for new routes, regional hubs, connections to other modes, and first/last mile connections





# Technology

As the transit environment evolves, technology is becoming increasingly important



# Coordination

Partnerships and coordinated planning efforts are needed between FDOT, transit agencies, local governments, RPCs, and human service agencies



# Prioritizing Transit

Dedicated bus lanes and express bus routes should be given priority on high-ridership corridors in order to shift mode use



# Planning

There is a need to change policies and align priorities to integrate transit into local land use and growth management practices





# Accessibility

Paratransit/ADA accessibility should be included in all transit discussions to increase access for transit dependent populations and promote equity



# Perception

The perception of transit must be addressed: Why people are reluctant to use transit, how to better serve existing riders, and how to attract new riders



# Funding

There is a need to reimagine the use of existing transportation funds and find alternate funding opportunities for transit





# FEEDBACK



**I can support transit needs as identified**



**I can support transit needs with clarifications or changes**



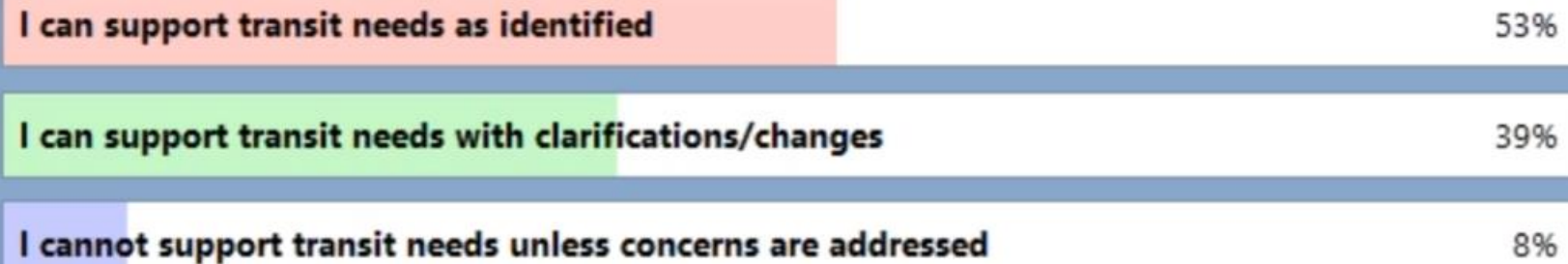
**I cannot support transit needs unless concerns are addressed**



## QUICKPOLL

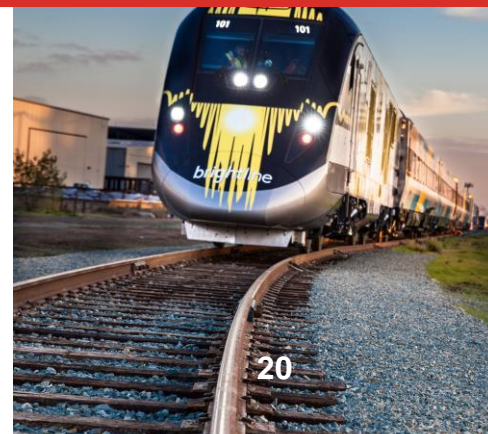
# Transit Feedback

Poll Results (single answer required):



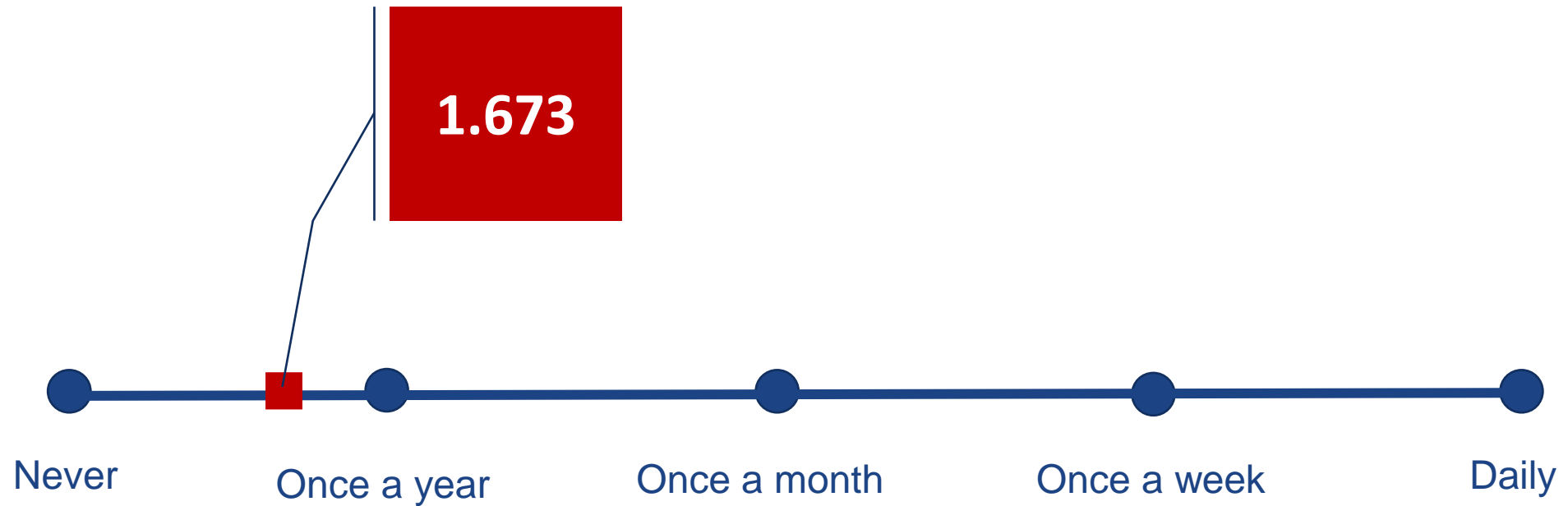


# PASSENGER RAIL



# PASSENGER RAIL LIVE POLLING RESULTS

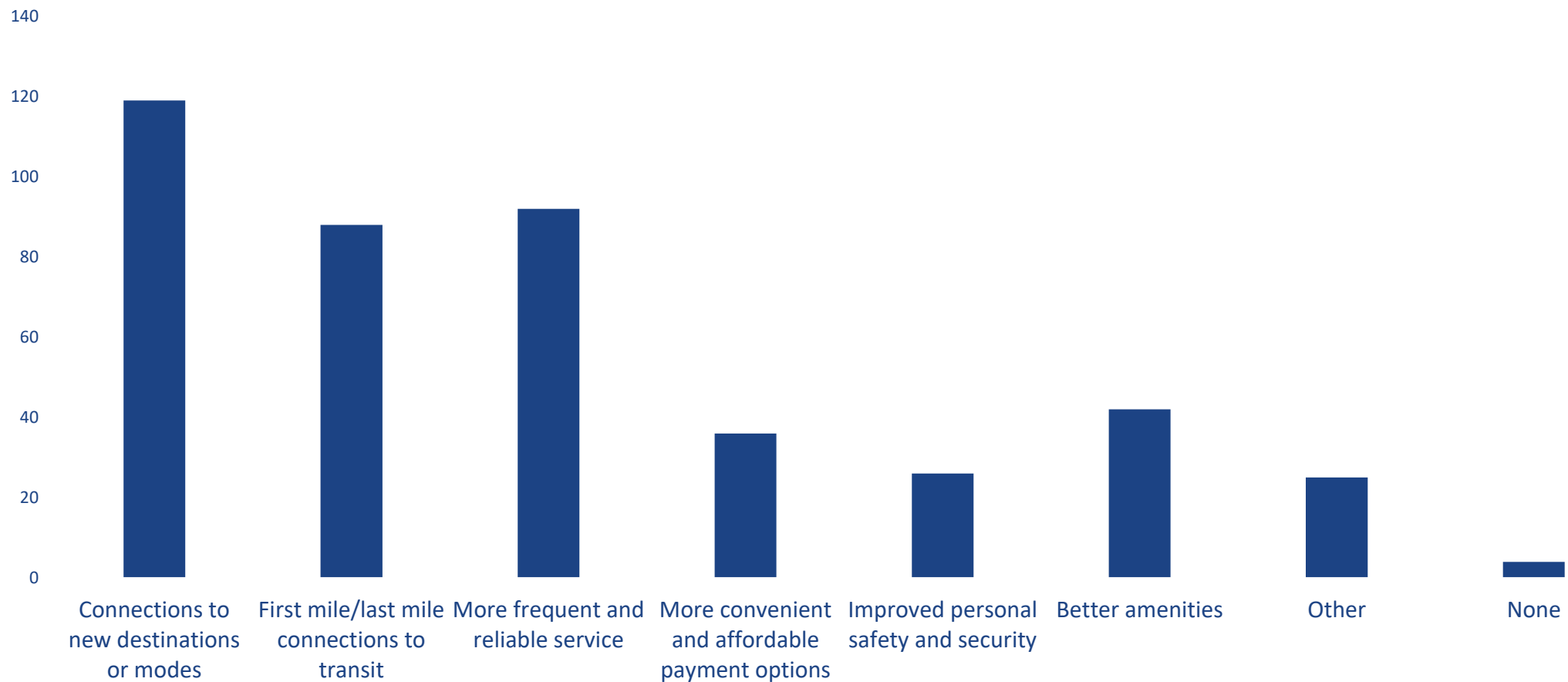
How often do you use passenger rail?





# PASSENGER RAIL LIVE POLLING RESULTS

## What would encourage you to use passenger rail?



# PASSENGER RAIL RECURRING THEMES

Connectivity

Consistency

Convenience

Accessibility

Corridor  
Preservation

Technology

Awareness

Safety

Partnership

Funding

# Connectivity

Considerations should be made for new routes, regional hubs, connections to other modes, and first/last mile connections



# Consistency

Increased frequencies and extended service hours help create a more accessible service





# Convenience

Passenger Rail should be convenient for all user groups – tourists, tourist support workers, college students, commuters, etc.



# Accessibility

ADA accessibility is vital to increase access and promote equity



# Corridor Preservation

Dedicated rail infrastructure should be considered within existing highway/utility corridors



# Technology

Technology should aid in passenger rail accessibility and convenience





# Awareness

Civic engagement through outreach and marketing can help educate the public on the availability and benefits of passenger rail to attract users



# Safety

The safety of riders as well as roadway users who interact with rail tracks is a top priority





# Partnership

For a successful passenger rail system, FDOT, the railroads, and local jurisdictions must be willing to partner and expand their roles



# Funding

There is a need to reimagine the use of existing transportation funds and find alternate funding opportunities for passenger rail



# FEEDBACK



**I can support passenger rail needs as identified**



**I can support passenger rail needs with clarifications or changes**



**I cannot support passenger rail needs unless concerns are addressed**

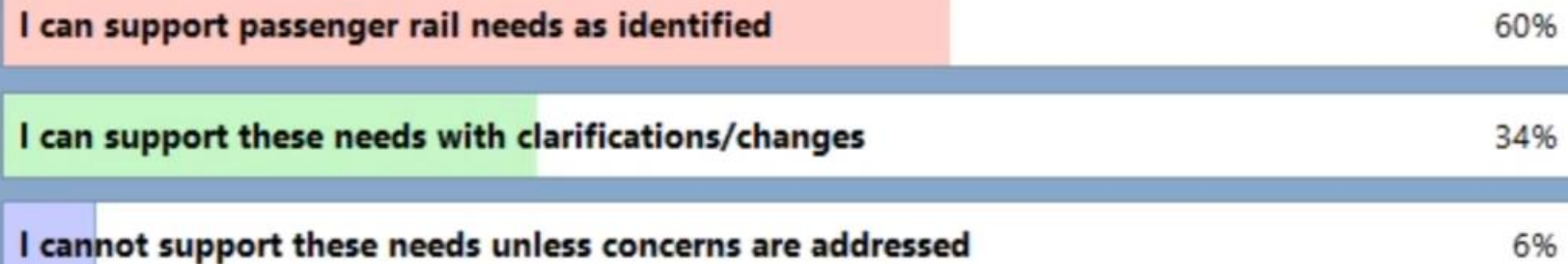




## QUICKPOLL

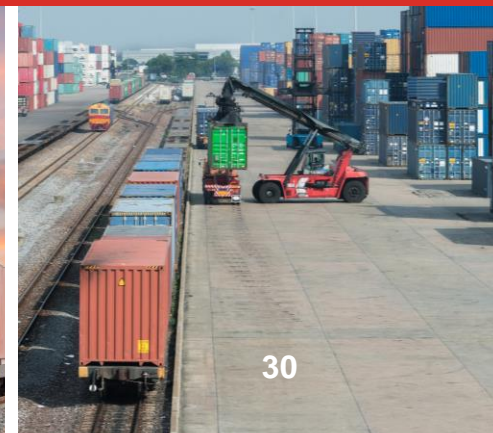
# Passenger Rail Feedback

Poll Results (single answer required):



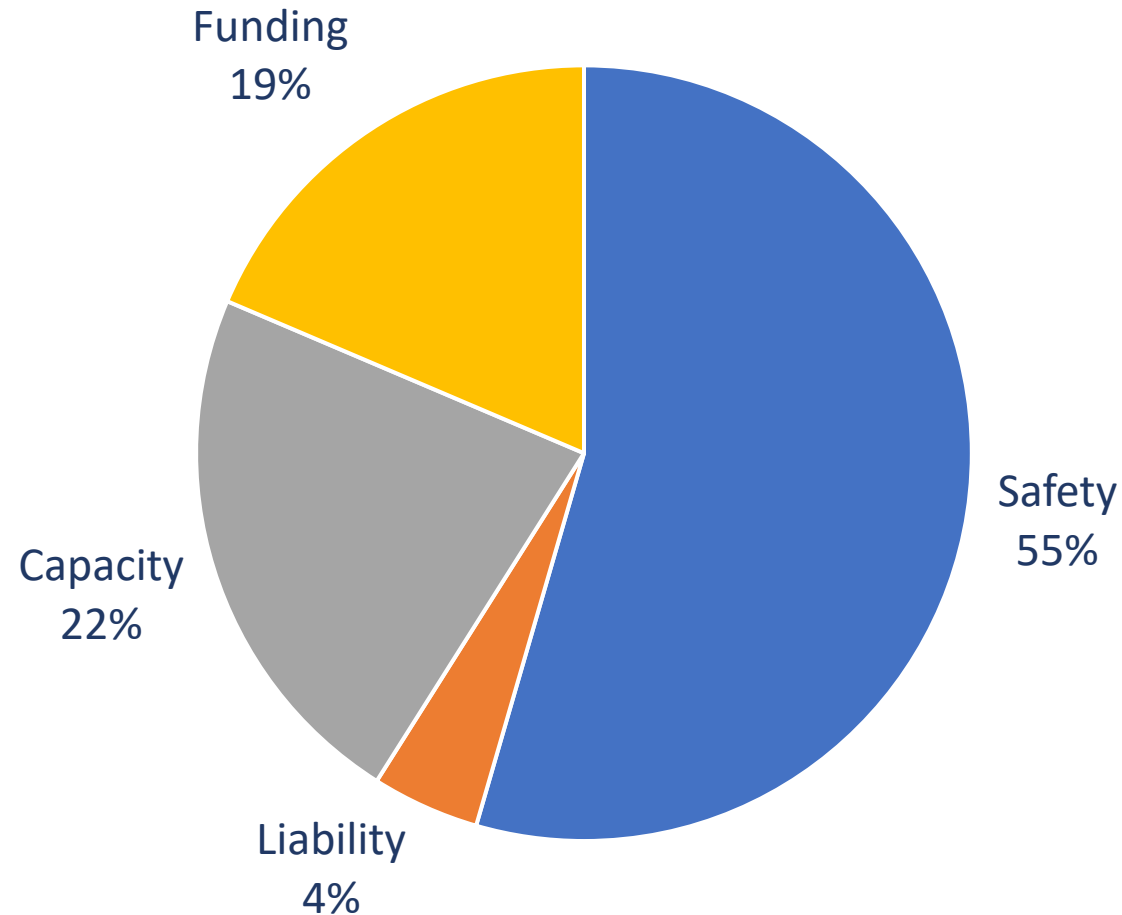


# FREIGHT RAIL



# FREIGHT RAIL LIVE POLLING RESULTS

Which of the following is your top freight rail priority?



# FREIGHT RAIL RECURRING THEMES

Capacity/Corridors

Trucking

Maintenance  
Needs

Intermodal  
Facilities

Business

Safety

Coordination/  
Relationships

FDOT's Role



# Capacity/ Corridors

There is a need to increase capacity and connections for freight rail, whether through re-imagining shared tracks or using dedicated freight corridors



# Trucking

Modal shift from truck to rail is necessary to ease highway congestion, reduce carbon footprint, and help solve the truck parking issue



# Maintenance Needs

There is a need for maintenance and retention of existing corridors around the state



# Intermodal Facilities

There is a need for inland ports and inland port funding opportunities





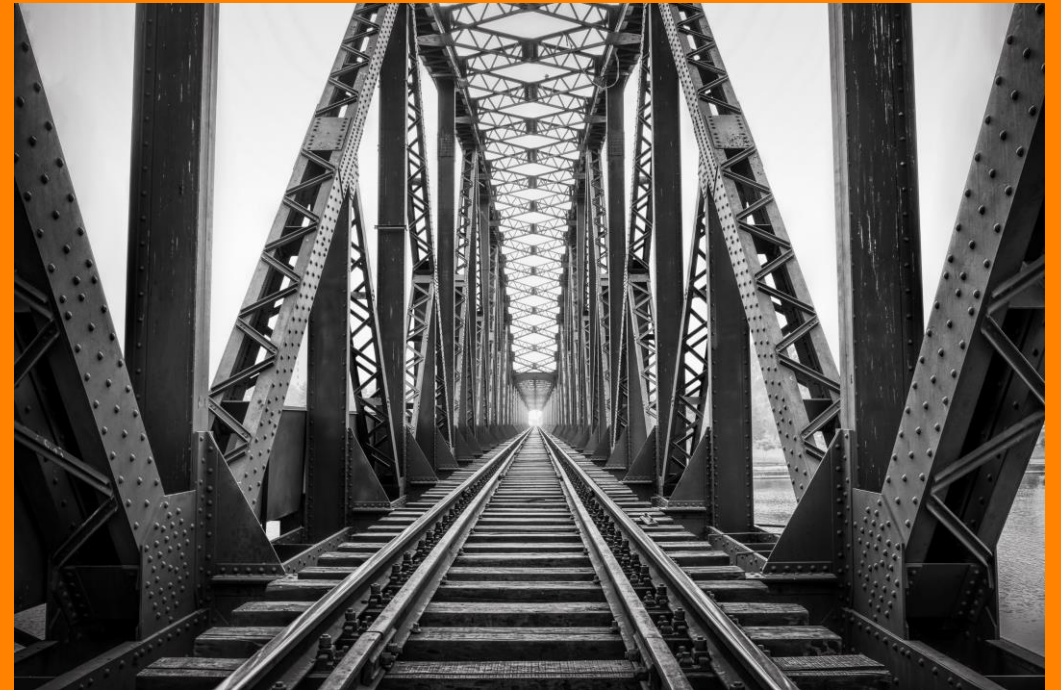
# Business

Florida should incentivize Class I railroads into market



# Safety

There is a need to address rail/roadway conflicts through crossing elimination or separation and encouraging safe behavior around tracks





# Coordination/ Relationships

Coordination amongst FDOT, freight railroad companies, ports, passenger rail companies, and local jurisdictions is critical to getting things done



# FDOT's Role

There were various opinions on the role that FDOT should play, but majority felt the role should be expanded



# FEEDBACK



I can support freight rail needs as identified



I can support freight rail needs with clarifications or changes



I cannot support freight rail needs unless concerns are addressed





## QUICKPOLL

# Freight Rail

Poll Results (single answer required):





# IMPACTS OF LISTENING SESSION INPUT ON RAIL PLAN

## Past

- Objectives were general
- Limited needs analysis: Amtrak improvements, capacity, partnerships, tourist railroads

## 2022 Rail System Plan Update

- Objectives for Passenger Rail Service will be proactive and prescriptive
- Unique strategies, roles & responsibilities depending on the type of service
- More detail to update the section on Freight Rail Needs and Passenger Rail Needs



A high-speed train is shown in motion, blurred to convey speed. The train is moving along a track with overhead power lines. The background is a clear blue sky. The word "QUESTIONS" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, white, bold, sans-serif font.

**QUESTIONS**





# CURRENT EFFORTS

- Rebranding and sharing modal insights on variety of platforms
- Working with partners to apply for federal discretionary funding
- Identifying High-Capacity Premium Transit Corridors
- Brainstorming Options for Intercity Rail Corridor Identification Program



# NEXT STEPS

- Needs will be prioritized for implementation
- Florida's rail service and investment program will be available for a public comment period around August/September
- Send additional comments to:
  - [RAIL@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:RAIL@dot.state.fl.us)
  - [fdot.transit@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:fdot.transit@dot.state.fl.us)







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