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TRANSIT TIMES

Spring 2010

SunRail back on Track

By Noranne Downs



NORANNE
DOWNS

In early December, the Florida Legislature took an “historic step”, approving landmark legislation establishing the framework for rail transit improvements throughout the state for generations to come.

It was an exciting moment in Florida’s transportation history – one that not only allows Central Florida’s SunRail project to move forward, but offers us new opportunities to advance other rail projects, including High Speed Rail and eventual rail connections in the Jacksonville and Tampa areas.

I am extremely grateful for the legislative action.

Now, the hard work begins!

We currently expect that we’ll be able to get the first phase of SunRail up and running by early 2013, serving passengers along one of the most congested transportation corridors in the state. We’re shooting for 2015 to get the entire 61.5-mile corridor operational, from DeLand in Volusia County to Poinciana, south of Kissimmee in Osceola County.

Our station designs are almost complete. And with the tremendous, continuing support of our local partners in Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties, as well as the City of Orlando, we hope to finalize plans within the next few months, begin actual construction by early next year, and start providing jobs, jobs, jobs to our fellow Floridians almost immediately.

In May, we also plan to hold public hearings in all four counties to finish up environmental analyses along the corridor. As always, we strongly encourage your participation in that process, as public input is a vital part of our planning efforts for SunRail. Please read more about the hearings inside this edition of TRANSIT TIMES.

The Federal Railroad Administration in January also awarded Central Florida a highly-competitive \$1.25 billion grant to begin the final design and construction of a High Speed Rail project that will link Orlando International Airport to the Orange County Convention Center, Walt Disney World, Lakeland and downtown Tampa. Bus service from SunRail’s Sand Lake Road station to both Orlando International



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Transportation Veterans Join SunRail Team



Todd Hammerle



Joe Antonucci

As SunRail moves from the planning stages to actual implementation, two veteran leaders have been named to help “bring the project home.”

Todd Hammerle, a professional engineer who previously served as the District 5 Maintenance Engineer for the Florida Department of Transportation, was named the department’s SunRail project manager by FDOT Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos. In his new role, Todd will work closely with consultant team leader Tawny Olore, P.E. on all aspects of SunRail planning, construction and operations.

And Joe Antonucci, a railroad veteran with more than three decades of experience managing train operations, system planning and safety at the Long Island Rail Road (the largest commuter rail operation in North America), has been appointed the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) for SunRail. Joe, who has served as SunRail’s chief safety and security officer for more than a year, will work closely with retiring COO Pete Turrell to ensure a smooth transition. Most recently, Joe worked with PB Americas as the interim safety officer for Caltrain in California.

We’re fortunate to have both on board!




Jobs, Jobs and Jobs!

With Florida’s unemployment rate hovering above the national average, the construction, operation and maintenance of SunRail holds tremendous promise for getting Floridians back to work – and not a moment too soon!

The Florida Department of Transportation is currently negotiating the final details of its first SunRail contract with a consortium led by Archer Western and RailWorks. The group has been hired to perform design and construction work within the SunRail right-of-way – installing new track, designing a new signalization system and building station platform bases.

Additional contracts include the construction of station amenities, oversight of construction activities, building SunRail locomotives and coaches, marketing, advertising and public involvement opportunities; and the ongoing operation and maintenance of SunRail (including jobs for conductors, train and track workers, and so forth) Once those contracts are executed, links to job opportunities will be posted on the www.sunrail.com website, on the “Jobs and Procurement” page.

Interested in bidding on a contract with FDOT? Visit the “Jobs and Procurement” page on the www.sunrail.com website or the Florida Department of Transportation’s procurement website at <http://www.dot.state.fl.us/contractsadministrationdistrict5> or http://vbs.dms.state.fl.us/vbs/search_criteria_form. Be sure to check the websites frequently for updates. 



C h e c k u s o u t o n t h e w

What do you Think?

The Florida Department of Transportation District 5 has scheduled public hearings regarding certain aspects of the proposed SunRail project. The hearings will be held at locations shown at right and will begin as an open house at 6 p.m.; a formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

The hearings are being held to allow interested persons to express their views concerning the location, conceptual design; and social, economic and environmental effects of two aspects of the proposed 61.5-mile SunRail project: (1) certain station modifications at DeLand, Altamonte Springs, Sand Lake Road, Meadow Woods, Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee and Poinciana Industrial Park and (2) a general analysis of noise and vibration impacts associated with the change in vehicle technology from diesel multiple units to “push-pull” locomotives and coaches.

The Second Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA), along with other pertinent information developed by the Department, is available on-line at www.sunrail.com and also will be available for public review at the following locations:

- **FDOT District 5**
719 S. Woodland Blvd
DeLand, FL 32720
- **Central Branch Library**
215 North Oxford Rd
Casselberry, FL 32707
- **FDOT Orlando Urban Office**
133 S. Semoran Blvd
Orlando, FL 32807
- **Orlando Public Library**
101 East Central Blvd
Orlando, FL 32801
- **DeLand Area Public Library**
130 E. Howry Ave
DeLand, FL 32724
- **Hart Memorial Central Library**
211 East Dakin Ave
Kissimmee, FL 34741

Public Hearing Dates and Locations

Tuesday | May 25, 2010

Sonesta Orlando
Downtown Hotel
60 S. Ivanhoe Blvd
Orlando, FL 32804

FDOT District 5
Headquarters
719 S. Woodland Blvd.
DeLand, FL 32720

Thursday | May 27, 2010

Sanford City Hall, 300
North Park Ave.
Sanford, FL 32771

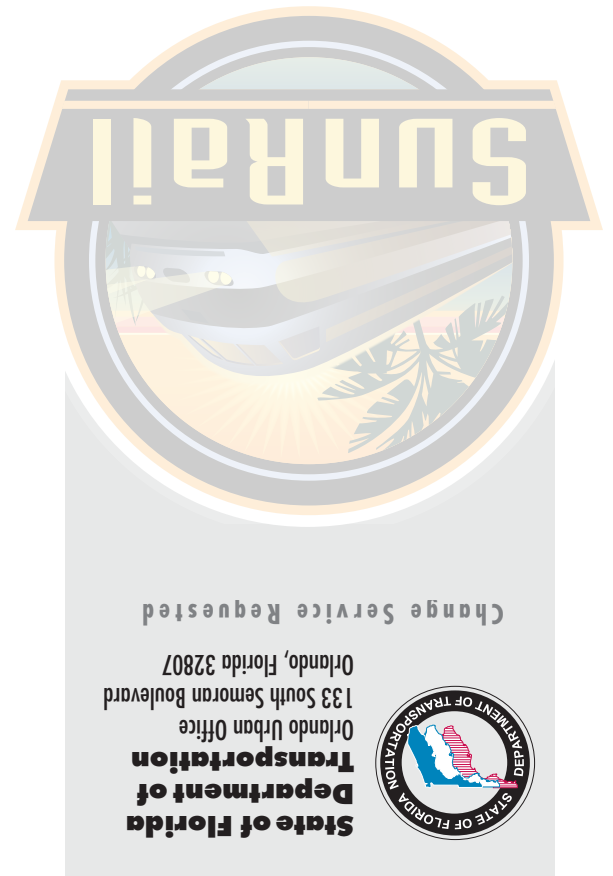
Kissimmee Civic Center
201 East Dakin Ave.
Kissimmee, FL 32741

These materials also will be available at the hearing sites from 6 p.m. until the end of the hearings. The same information and materials will be presented at each of the hearings.

Persons desiring to submit written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements, may do so at the hearing or by sending them to Marianne Gurnee, Public Liaison, FDOT District 5, Orlando Urban Office, 133 South Semoran Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32807 or via e-mail to marianne.gurnee@dot.state.fl.us. All exhibits or statements postmarked no later than June 8, 2010, or submitted at the hearings will become a part of the public hearing record.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status.

Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (*free of charge*) should contact Ms. Lorie Wilson, Florida Department of Transportation, by mail at 719 S. Woodland Blvd., DeLand, FL 32720-6834, or by telephone at 386-943-5346, or e-mail lorie.wilson@dot.state.fl.us at least seven days prior to the meeting. 



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Airport and the Convention Center will provide immediate links to High Speed Rail, with future rail links being looked at. For more information about the state’s exciting High Speed Rail plans for Central Florida and beyond, please visit the Department’s website at www.floridahighspeedrail.org

SunRail is back on track! And all of us at the Florida Department of Transportation and members of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission are dedicated to creating a brighter transportation future for the Central Florida community.

As our work progresses, project updates and job opportunities will be posted on the SunRail website at www.sunrail.com. Check it out – and as always, please let us know what you think!

Noranne Downs is the District 5 Secretary for the Florida Department of Transportation.



WHAT'S COMING DOWN THE TRACKS

- ▶ Submit Full Funding Grant Agreement application to federal government - *Summer 2010*
- ▶ Complete project design - *Summer 2010*
- ▶ Receive Full Funding Grant Agreement from the federal government - *Winter 2010*
- ▶ SunRail construction starts on Phase I - *Early 2011*
- ▶ SunRail begins passenger rail service for Phase I - *2013*