

RESOLUTION 2016-02-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY IN SUPPORT OF THE PASSENGER RAIL TERMINAL AND FREIGHT ENHANCEMENTS TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY ("TIGER") GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION BY THE JACKSONVILLE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.

WHEREAS, freight rail lines for CSX, Norfolk Southern and Florida East Coast railroads converge at downtown Jacksonville adjacent to the historic downtown rail terminal; and

WHEREAS, this convergence creates a chokepoint severely restricting freight capacity in and out of the state of Florida; and

WHEREAS, this chokepoint also impacts the flow of goods via rail from other strategic points in the State of Florida, such as the Port of Miami and the Port of Jacksonville; and

WHEREAS, goods coming into the Port of Jacksonville, and goods flowing through Jacksonville, are transported all across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Miami is under construction to facilitate Post Panamax ships in conjunction with the opening of the improved Panama Canal creating a large increase in additional goods and services moving via rail north through this rail chokepoint; and

WHEREAS, this chokepoint is impacting the transportation of goods from northeast Florida to the southeastern United States, and into south Florida; and

WHEREAS, this restriction in freight capacity has detrimental impacts to the economies of both Florida and the southeastern United States; and

WHEREAS, the chokepoint causes rail backups to the south of the historic downtown rail terminal across the St. Johns River onto the south bank of downtown Jacksonville, blocking access to Baptist Medical Center and emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the chokepoint causes trains to block access to the San Marco neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the chokepoint causes trains to block traffic creating backups on the I-95 ramps;
and

WHEREAS, the current AMTRAK station is located six miles north of downtown at a station lacking intermodal connections; and

WHEREAS, at the current station location, Amtrak trains block access to the Moncrief Yard for freight rail carriers that need the yard to optimize freight rail services; and

WHEREAS, JAXPORT is making improvements that will increase freight capacity and rail freight to and from the port which will need to use the Moncrief Yard; and

WHEREAS, the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center, at the historic downtown rail terminal, is an intermodal hub connecting local, regional and intercity transportation services including the First Coast Flyer Bus Rapid Transit and the Skyway Automated Express service currently in operation, and local and intercity bus facilities that will begin construction in 2017; and

WHEREAS, the relocation of AMTRAK to the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center will provide passengers with intermodal connections within and to other points in the region; and

WHEREAS, the full development of the Jacksonville Regional Transportation Center, including Amtrak, will have a positive impact on the City's economy and support the economic redevelopment of downtown Jacksonville; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of the chokepoint will have a positive impact on freight rail capacity on Florida's east coast creating economic benefit to the southeastern United States, now therefore

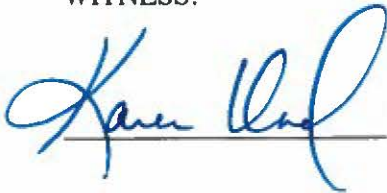
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Downtown Investment Authority:

Section 1. The Downtown Investment Authority supports the submission of the Passenger Rail Terminal and Freight Enhancements project for funding via the TIGER grant program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Section 2. This resolution shall become effective upon its approval by the DIA Board this 17th day of February, 2016.

WITNESS:

DOWNTOWN INVESTMENT AUTHORITY



Jim Bailey, Chairman

VOTE: In Favor: 7 Opposed: 0 Abstained: _____

FORM APPROVED BY:

Office of General Counsel