



Gregory B. White
Chairman

John Spain
Vice-Chairman

Knox Ross
Secretary-Treasurer

May 18, 2016

To Mayors and City, County, & Parish Leaders:

The recently passed federal Surface Transportation Bill - Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (or "FAST Act") of 2015 - included passenger rail authorization along with highway and transit needs for the first time in U.S. history. Section 11304 of that Act mandated that the Federal Railroad Administration convene a working group to evaluate the restoration of intercity rail passenger service in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans and Orlando. The responsibilities of the working group, as outlined in the FAST Act, are to:

- Evaluate all options for restoring passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast, and select a preferred option.
- Prioritize and develop cost estimates for capital projects and other actions required to restore passenger rail services.
- Identify funding sources to restore service including potential public-private partnerships along the Gulf Coast.

The Act further requires the group to submit its findings in a formal report to Congress by September 2016.

This working group has met in person or by tele-conference seven times thus far. FRA has requested that documentation of support for service restoration be included in the report's appendices. A draft of the report is currently planned for release in August 2016. To that end, members of the working group have been coordinating with communities, counties and parishes in the route's service area and on the suspended route to provide formal Resolutions of Support. The West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) has received eight such resolutions to date from communities across the panhandle of Florida.

This letter is to request your consideration in preparing and approving a formal Resolution of Support. There is a template resolution accompanying this letter with highlighted text where specific changes can be made for your community or organization. Please have your executive staff, clerk or legal counsel modify the template for your community or organization's approval.

COMMISSIONERS

LOUISIANA

Gov. John Bel Edwards
Rep. Stephen Carter
Colonel Phil Jones
Shawn Wilson
Governor's Designee
Rep. Walter Leger, III
Michael Jackson
John Spain
Jerry Wall
Roy Woodruff

MISSISSIPPI

Gov. Phil Bryant
Ashley Edwards
Kay Kell
Jack Norris
Knox Ross
Patrick Sullivan
Blake Wilson
Governor's Designee

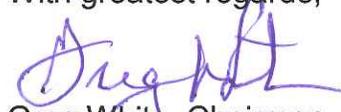
ALABAMA

Gov. Robert Bentley
Claire H. Austin
Corbett Bennington
Angelia L. Mance
J. W. McFarland, Jr.
Governor's Designee
Larry Watts
Gregory B. White

If possible, please add this to your agenda for review and approval during the next 6 to 8 weeks, so that it can be included in the draft report by mid-August.

We are so grateful to have your ongoing support for the restoration of a daily passenger rail service across the Gulf Coast!

With greatest regards,



Greg White, Chairman,
Southern Rail Commission