



High Speed Rail Statement
Tampa Bay Partnership and Central Florida Partnership
February 16, 2011

We are surprised and disappointed by Governor Scott's announcement this morning to reject \$2.4 billion dedicated to building America's first true high speed rail line between Tampa Bay and Orlando.

While we respect the Governor's desire to make a fact-based decision, we look forward to reviewing in detail the information he used to make this decision. Our belief was that the Governor would carefully study the results of the upcoming Florida Department of Transportation ridership study before making a decision to allow the project to go out for bid thus providing the private sector the opportunity to assume the risk and any future costs for the project.

We share the Governor's concern for creating jobs and stimulating economic development. This project was an important step in that direction and could provide thousands of immediate and long term jobs plus an unprecedented boost to businesses and citizens across Central Florida and the state. We will assess the impact of its loss going forward to the state and particularly to Florida's Tampa Bay and Central Florida Super Region.

Regardless of today's decision, the need to provide an affordable and effective transportation system for the residents of our region and state remains as a critical factor for job creation, economic competitiveness and quality of life. We stand firm in our commitment to find and implement solutions that benefit our communities, businesses and residents.