



## THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

May 3, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
The Honorable Jeff Atwater  
The Honorable Larry Cretul  
The Capitol  
404 South Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 323399

Re: Address the Tri-Rail Funding Crisis

Dear Governor Crist, President Atwater & Speaker Cretul,

We write to urge your immediate intervention to fund the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority's Tri-Rail commuter rail system ("Tri-Rail") during the upcoming fiscal year. To maintain operations, it is critical Tri-Rail receive \$30,000,000.00 in funds from the State of Florida during FY 2009-10.

The economic downturn coupled with revenue shortfalls in local governments has rendered local funding sources for Tri-Rail unrealistic and unavailable. State intervention is the only possible solution for Tri-Rail.

This year the legislature was unable to adopt a long-term solution to dedicate a funding source to render Tri-Rail self-sufficient. This failure has led to a crisis that threatens thousands of jobs and the futures of families who depend on Tri-Rail on a daily basis.

We intend to work together to establish a dedicated funding source for Tri-Rail's future. But to achieve that future, we must assure that Tri-Rail can sustain its operations into the next legislative session.

We strongly urge you to adopt a temporary solution by redirecting for one year, \$30 million from the \$192,230,170 in the Rail Infrastructure Investment Reserve Box that was appropriated for expenditure for the benefit of CSX in the current fiscal year as part of the acquisition costs of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Corridor purchase, also known as

Senate's Website: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

**JEFF ATWATER**  
President of the Senate

**MIKE FASANO**  
President Pro Tempore

Honorable Charlie Crist  
Honorable Jeff Atwater  
Honorable Larry Cretul  
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SunRail. This money, already designated for commuter rail systems, is appropriate and available for the one-year redirection to Tri-Rail. The attached documents are intended to assist you in identifying available funding to address this critical need.

Intervention for Tri-Rail is merited and necessary.

Sincerely,

Senator Dave Aronberg  
Senator Paula Dockery  
Senator Ted Deutch  
Senator Dan Gelber  
Senator Nan Rich  
Senator Eleanor Sobel  
Senator Alex Villalobos  
Senator Frederica Wilson