

UPDATE: **Breaking News**

**To:** Central Florida Transportation Corridors “Task Force”;  
Great Thinkers

**From:** Teresa Barber  
Fairfield Index, Inc.

**Re:** **Central Florida Commuter Rail:** Amtrak Inter-City Rail  
Alternative; **Central Florida Commuter Rail:** Community  
Discourse; **Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Hub:**  
Community Discourse; **Space Ports:** 2010 Shuttle  
Program Retirement; **Wekiva Parkway and Interstate 4:**  
Effort Funding

**Date:** June 19, 2008

### Summary

Six major items spanning a range of topics are included in today’s Breaking News update.

**The Ledger** political editor Bill Rufty reports on the recent meeting of state Sen. Paula Dockery (R-Lakeland) and other state legislators, Florida Department of Transportation officials, and Amtrak officials to discuss Amtrak Inter-City Rail. Deviating from recent coverage out of Tallahassee that had noted Amtrak vice president Anne Witt’s concern that Inter-City Rail is “not the commuter answer,” (see “Dockery talks passenger rail with Amtrak,” June 18, 2008; Deslatte; **Orlando Sentinel**) Rufty notes that state Rep. Dennis Ross (R-Lakeland) asserts his belief that Inter-City Rail “could be a solution for passenger rail.” Out of Tallahassee, a spot report on the meeting from **WCTV CBS Channel 4** is also included in this update.

A report from the **Orlando Sentinel** discusses the recent decision by Winter Park City officials to adopt a resolution reaffirming support for Central Florida Commuter Rail, and emphasizing the importance of financial prudence. The **Sentinel** reports warm receipt of the Winter Park resolution by Maitland Mayor Doug Kinson, who in partnership with Regional planning group, MetroPlan, has sponsored a resolution, adopted by eight municipalities to date, also supporting Central Florida Commuter Rail.

**The Ledger** reports on the 4-1 adoption by the Polk County Commission of a 20-item list of suggestions for the Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Hub, to be presented to the Central Florida Regional Planning Council on August 13, 2008. Commissioner Jack Myers cast the one dissenting vote, noting concern that some of the recommendations exceeding the scope of planning concerns and could drive jobs away.

The **Orlando Sentinel’s** Washington Bureau reports on the bipartisan 409-15 support by the U.S. House of a bill, suggested to “send a strong message” to presidential hopefuls of support by Congress for NASA efforts. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Florida) is crafting the companion Senate Bill; his spokesperson remarked that the bill should be reflective of the House Chamber’s. Championed in the House bill, that would increase NASA funding significantly from current proposals by the Bush administration and from the current House and Senate budget allotment, are the requirement for an additional shuttle mission, and the removal of the 5-year gap between the 2010 Shuttle Program Retirement and the 2015 sunrise of the Constellation program – a move that could help retain up to 6,400 high-value jobs at Kennedy Space Center.

The **Palm Beach Post’s** Dara Kam reports on Gov. Charlie Crist’s veto earlier this week of SB 682, a transportation bill that carried implications for Wekiva Parkway and Interstate 4 express lanes; the bill would have allowed toll rate increases to be linked to an inflation index. Kam’s coverage focuses largely on remarks of House Speaker Marco Rubio and Gov. Crist, and on the issue of single contract issuance for food and fuel concessions along Florida’s Turnpike.

**Central Florida Commuter Rail: Amtrak Inter-City Rail Alternative****2 Items**

The Ledger (TheLedger.com)

**AMTRAK: We Can Do Commuter Rail**

Bill Rufty

June 18, 2008 3:32:30 PM

<http://blogs.theledger.com/default.asp?item = 2214209>

**Overview:** This blog published June 18 by *The Ledger* political editor, Bill Rufty, discusses the recent meeting of Amtrak officials, Florida Department of Transportation officials, and state legislators. The blog presents a disparate report from the day's late-breaking posts by Tallahassee correspondents Aaron Deslatte (*Orlando Sentinel Central Florida Political Pulse*) and Florida Capital News (Gannett). Contrasting FCN and Deslatte's reports that Amtrak vice president Anne Witt had asserted Inter-City Rail should be viewed as "not the commuter answer," Rufty reports that state Rep. Dennis Ross (R-Lakeland) notes his belief that Amtrak Inter-City Rail "could be a solution to passenger rail" for Florida (see "Dockery talks passenger rail with Amtrak;" June 18, 2008; Deslatte; Orlando Sentinel).

WCTV (CBS 4 – Tallahassee)

**Florida Legislators Discuss Commuter Rail**

Jun 18, 2008

<http://www.wctv.tv/home/headlines/20552534.html#>

**Overview:** *WCTV CBS Channel 4* files this spot report from Tallahassee on the meeting of state Sen. Paula Dockery (R-Lakeland) and other state legislators with Amtrak and Florida Department of Transportation Officials.

**Central Florida Commuter Rail: Community Discourse**

Orlando Sentinel

**Measure explains rail stance**

Daphne Sashin

June 19, 2008

[www.orlandosentinel.com/community/news/maitland/orl-wprail1908jun19,0,3124178.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/community/news/maitland/orl-wprail1908jun19,0,3124178.story)

**Overview:** The *Orlando Sentinel* reports on the decision by Winter Park City officials to craft a resolution to clarify their support for Central Florida Commuter Rail, and emphasize the importance of financial solvency for the effort. The report notes the adoption by eight municipalities of a parallel resolution, supporting the Central Florida Commuter Rail effort to bring mass rail transit to the Region, proposed by the Regional planning group MetroPlan and Maitland Mayor Doug Kinson.

**Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Hub: Community Discourse**

The Ledger

**Officials Back Suggested Conditions for CSX**

Tom Palmer

June 19, 2008

[http://www.theledger.com/article/20080619/NEWS/806190457/1338/NEWS00&title = Officials Back Suggested Conditions for CSX](http://www.theledger.com/article/20080619/NEWS/806190457/1338/NEWS00&title=Officials%20Back%20Suggested%20Conditions%20for%20CSX)

**Overview:** *The Ledger's* Tom Palmer reports on the Polk County Commission's 4-1 adoption of a 20-item suggestion list for the Winter Haven Intermodal Logistics Hub. The list of suggested conditions for the Winter Haven hub are prepared in advance of the August 13, 2008 Central Florida Regional Planning Council hearing, set to approve the hub proposal as a Development of Regional Impact (DRI). The dissenting vote on came from Commissioner Jack Myers, who voiced concerns that some of the conditions now adopted by the commission transcended planning concerns, and could drive jobs away.

## Space Ports: 2010 Shuttle Program Retirement

Orlando Sentinel (OrlandoSentinel.com)

### **NASA backers up ante, send message to next president**

Mark K. Matthews, Washington Bureau

June 19, 2008

WASHINGTON

[www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/state/orl-nasa1908jun19,0,253051.story](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/state/orl-nasa1908jun19,0,253051.story)

**Overview:** The *Orlando Sentinel* reports from Washington on an overwhelming vote of support from the U.S. House to allot greater funding for NASA, a move the report suggests is intended to send a “strong message” to presidential hopefuls Barak Obama and John McCain on the prioritization of NASA’s efforts. Priorities championed in the 409-15 approval include the requirement of an additional shuttle mission and the possible elimination of the 5-year gap between the 2010 Shuttle Program Retirement and the 2015 sunrise of the Constellation program, a move that could result in the retention of up to 6,400 high-value jobs at Kennedy Space Center. The bill proposes agency funding of \$20.2 B, significantly more than the \$17.6 B currently budgeted by the House and Senate or the \$17.8 B proposed by the current Bush administration. The Senate companion bill is being crafted by US Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Florida), who had previously suggested that Central Florida would be positioned to have its call for NASA prioritization heard by the presidential hopefuls.

## Wekiva Parkway and Interstate 4: Effort Funding

Palm Beach Coast (TCoast News)

### **Crist vetoes transportation bill**

Dara Kam, Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Wednesday, June 18, 2008

<http://www.palmbeachpost.com/state/content/state/epaper/2008/06/18/0617losingbidders.html>

**Overview:** Trailing a barrage of previous coverage, *Palm Beach Coast’s* Dara Kam reports on Gov. Charlie Crist’s veto of SB 682 on June 17, 2008. Unlike previous coverage that had focused on the impacts of the veto upon potential funding for Wekiva Parkway and Interstate 4 express lanes by disallowing linkage of toll rate increases to an inflation index, Kam’s coverage focuses on the topic Crist largely voiced issue with: the provision that would have bared the issuance of a single contract for food and fuel services by turnpike officials.

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