## <u>Agenda</u>

Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers Zoom Meeting - 10:00 AM EDT

Thursday, November 4, 2021

I. Welcome and introductions

<u>Attending</u>: Stephen Sayles, James Tilley, Greg Behun, Michael Smith, Jim Duran, Jeff Dearmin

- II. Rail Topics
  - Tampa Union Station....Sayles

Tampa Union Station recently received a grant of nearly \$1 million which will enable the replacement of windows throughout the station and the installation of air conditioning in the baggage room. It is hoped that 2022 National Train Day will be celebrated at the station.

• Brightline Update .....Jim Tilly

Universal and other Orlando-based theme parks are now asking for Brightline stations. The question is who will pay for them. Stephen noted that if they receive a benefit, those theme parks should be willing to help defray the cost. Brightline has secured a \$1B bond offering to finance the Orlando extension. Service to Central Florida is expected to open in 2022. Meanwhile, Brightline is pushing forward with its Southern California to Las Vegas, NV line, although the exact route has yet to be agreed upon.

• Gulf Coast route, Gov. on SRC, FDOT....Sayles

Stephen reported that following a conversation he had with Jim Matthews, the Florida governor has directed FDOT that its scope of responsibility is not just highways, but include rail as well. The governor told FDOT to join the Southern Rail Commission. A positive sign that will hopefully bear fruit in the future.

This would be welcome change since FDOT has pushed forward highway projects to the exclusion of rail. Michael Smith point out one recent instance of this when Governor DeSantis approved a controversial FDOT proposal to build a new toll-highway and extend two other toll-highways that has been vehemently opposed by environmentalists and will eliminate the opportunity to resurrect an existing rail line for rail commuter operations.

• RPA update.....Jim Tilley

Jim recounted in some detail highlights from the presentations on Monday, September 20 at the RPA Rail Nation: DC 2021 Virtual Event. You can revisit the

presentations on the RPA You Tube channel. Links to each speaker's presentation are provided below:

Jim Matthews, President and CEO, RPA and Sean Jeans-Gail, RPA Vice-President of Policy and Government Affairs opening remarks and review of the Infrastructure Package

## RAIL NATION: DC 2021 Virtual Event

Sunday September 19 - Wednesday September 22

go to: railpassengers.org/events and register today!

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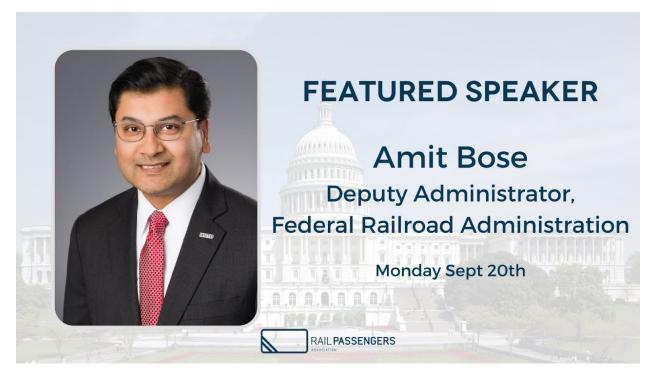
Roger Harris, Amtrak Executive Vice President, Chief Marketing and Revenue Officer



Laura Mason, Amtrak Executive Vice President, Major Program Delivery



## Amit Bose, FRA Deputy Administrator



Also of particular interest is the presentation Jim Matthews gave about RPA's Economic Benefits Studies and Results



III. Treasures and Secretarial Reports......Greg Behun
*Current active members: 43 FCRP Financial Account Balance: \$6,143.98*

IV. Old Business

NONE

- V. New Business
  - Stephen announced that Jim Tilley will be assuming the role of FRCP's president, upon the approval of a quorum of FCRP's board. Jim will be posting a short bio of his background on the FCRP website to facilitate the approval process.
  - Recruiting new membership to FCRP
- VI. Any Other

We hope to have an in-person meeting of all FCRP members in March or April of 2022.

VII. Adjournment