

Agenda

Florida Coalition of Rail Passengers

Zoom Meeting - 10:00 AM EDT

Thursday, November 4, 2021

I. Welcome and introductions

Attending: 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 UpdateJim 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!**



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



FEATURED SPEAKER

Roger Harris
Executive Vice President
Chief Marketing
and Revenue Officer
Amtrak

Monday Sept 20th



Laura Mason, Amtrak Executive Vice President, Major Program Delivery



FEATURED SPEAKER

Laura Mason
Executive Vice President
Major Program Delivery
Amtrak

Monday Sept 20th



Amit Bose, FRA Deputy Administrator



FEATURED SPEAKER

Amit Bose
Deputy Administrator,
Federal Railroad Administration

Monday Sept 20th



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



FEATURED PRESENTATION

**Rail Passengers Economic
Benefits Studies and Results**

with Jim Matthews
President & CEO

Monday Sept 20th
4:15pm Eastern



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 FRCF's president, upon the approval of a quorum of FRCF's board. Jim will be posting a short bio of his background on the FRCF website to facilitate the approval process.*
- *Recruiting new membership to FRCF*

VI. Any Other

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

VII. Adjournment