



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON DC 20590

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Buddy Dyer
Orlando City Hall
P.O. Box 4990
Orlando, FL 32802-4990

The Honorable Gow Fields
City of Lakeland
228 S. Massachusetts Ave.
Lakeland, FL 33801

The Honorable Pam Iorio
City of Tampa
306 East Jackson Street
Tampa, FL 33602

The Honorable Tomás P. Regaldo
City of Miami
3500 Pan American Drive
Miami, FL 33138

Dear Mayors,

Tampa, Orlando, Lakeland and Miami (the "Cities") recently proposed that the Florida high speed rail project be undertaken by a local governmental entity ("Interlocal Entity") created under Florida law by the Cities. The standard form of grant agreement between FRA and its grantees ("cooperative agreement") requires that in the event that high speed rail service on the rail line improved with grant funds is discontinued, the grantee must return a pro-rata share of the grant. While this standard provision was included in the original draft of the cooperative agreement for the Florida high speed rail system, it is important to note that it could have been negotiated with the State had the issue ever been raised.

In light of the Cities' recent proposal, FRA will make clear in any future cooperative agreements for the Tampa-Orlando project that the State of Florida does not bear any financial responsibility for this reimbursement obligation. We will further work with the Interlocal Entity with respect to any reimbursement obligations, with the full understanding that the Cities establishing the Interlocal Entity will also have no responsibility for such reimbursement payments.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued commitment to this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John D. Porcari', written in a cursive style.

John D. Porcari