



# The Florida House of Representatives

## Office of the Speaker

Larry Cretul  
Speaker

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Florida House of Representatives

FROM: Larry Cretul, Speaker

DATE: November 30, 2009

RE: Special Session scheduled to begin Thursday, December 3, 2009

During the past few months, the House and Senate have engaged in extensive discussions to determine whether the state can take advantage of new opportunities that may enhance our transportation infrastructure without increasing taxes. I am happy to announce that we have come to an agreement in principle on how to accomplish that goal. The agreement relating to SunRail and Tri-Rail represents a compromise between prior House and Senate positions; the result is a bill that is significantly better than similar legislation we have supported in the past two sessions.

The proposed bill represents a win for Florida commuters who will now have more access to cleaner and more efficient mass transit. It's also a win for Florida taxpayers who understand best that now is not the time to raise taxes. I am pleased that we were able to fund this initiative with existing transportation dollars. We are hopeful that our leaders in Washington will follow through on their commitments for Florida's transportation future. Doing our part now is intended to advance federal actions supporting this initiative. Those federal actions are not expected until we make necessary changes in state law.

President Atwater and I have decided to convene the Legislature in Special Session on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, to take up the proposed legislation. I expect a Proclamation to be issued today. Please be advised of the altered schedule so that you can make appropriate travel arrangements.

The House will convene at 10:30 am on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. I expect the proposed bill to be considered in the Economic Development & Community Affairs Policy Council that day. The Council PCB should be published tomorrow, but a summary of the expected bill is attached. I expect the House to be in session for Second Reading on the bill on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. It is

my hope that the House can vote on final passage on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. This schedule would permit the Senate to complete work by early Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Because of this schedule I will be revising the previously published interim meeting schedule for next week.

Thank you for your service to the House and the state, and thank you for the flexibility that your service demands in these challenging times.