



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION IV
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Kentucky, Mississippi,
North Carolina, Puerto
Rico, South Carolina,
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RECEIVED

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Planning & Environmental Mgmt
District Four

August 11, 2005

Mr. Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.
District Planning and Environmental Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation
Planning and Environmental Management-District 4
3400 West Commercial Blvd.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421

[Handwritten signature]
8/11/05
cc: SPS
Grobally

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

I received your letter of July 27, 2005, and concur that FTA is the lead Federal agency for the South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis project; which will be conducted as a tiered Environmental Impact Statement. I have made contact with the Federal Railroad Administration regarding their role in the study.

The information regarding the priority projects designation process is available for review on the Federal Highway website, at www.fhwa.dot.gov/stewardshipeo/projects.htm. Nominations are submitted from Governors, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Airport Authorities and other local stakeholders. Nominations are encouraged to be submitted through the appropriate State agency. After briefly reviewing the Departments' criteria, it does not appear that this project would qualify as a Priority Project. In addition, New Starts candidate projects have generally been rejected in the past because the delays they experience are due to the non-environmental New Starts process.

FTA looks forward to working with District 4 of the Florida Department of Transportation in the study process for the South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis project.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Martin
Community Planner

cc: Christopher VanWyk, FTA
Beth Day, FTA