

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

1. Regional Transportation Advisory Group Request for Administrative Assistance

Mr. Scott Koons, Executive Director, reported that the State Road 26 Regional Transportation Advisory Group is an ad hoc cooperative effort among Alachua, Gilchrist and Levy Counties and the cities of Fanning Springs, Newberry and Trenton whose goal is to resolve transportation related issues with the State Road 26 corridor. He stated that during Fiscal Year 2006-07, the Council received a technical assistance planning grant to prepare a draft interlocal agreement to establish the Regional Transportation Advisory Group as a formal organization to evaluate existing and future traffic concurrency capacity of State Road 26 and to prepare conceptual plans to address current and future needs.

Mr. Koons reported that the Advisory Group has requested assistance from the Council to perform certain administrative tasks, such as attending a commission meeting in each of the six local governments participating in the Advisory Group to review the interlocal agreement and have it considered for adoption. He added that following adoption of the interlocal agreement, the Advisory Group has asked Council staff to prepare and distribute meeting notices, agendas and minutes for their quarterly meetings.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the provision of administrative assistance requested by the Regional Transportation Advisory Group concerning the adoption of an interlocal agreement and preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas and minutes for quarterly meetings.

**ACTION:** Ms. Thomas made the motion, with a second by Commissioner Hersey, to authorize the provision of administrative assistance requested by the Regional Transportation Advisory Group concerning the adoption of an interlocal agreement and preparation and distribution of meeting notices, agendas and minutes for quarterly meetings. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Federal Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act

Mr. Koons stated that on October 30, 2007, the U. S. Senate passed Senate Bill 294 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007 by a 70 to 22 vote. On June 11, 2008, the U. S. House of Representatives passed House Resolution 6003 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 by a 311 to 104 vote. Both bills reauthorize Amtrak for a five-year period. Mr. Koons reported that House Resolution 6003 requires Amtrak to prepare a plan to be considered by Congress that will include a projected timeline for restoring Amtrak Sunset Limited service between Jacksonville and New Orleans. He stated that before its closing in 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, the Sunset Limited stopped in the north

Florida communities of Pensacola, Crestview, Chipley, Tallahassee, Madison, Lake City and Jacksonville.

Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Chairman to send letters to U.S. Senator Mel Martinez, U. S. Senator Bill Nelson, Congressman Allen Boyd, Congresswoman Corrine Brown, Congressman Ander Crenshaw and Congressman Cliff Stearns requesting their support of the provision to restore Amtrak Sunset Limited service between Jacksonville and New Orleans. After further discussion, a suggestion was made that the Chairman also send letters to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Northeast Florida Regional Council and the West Florida Regional Planning Council requesting their support of the provision to restore Amtrak Sunset Limited service.

**ACTION: Ms. Haas made the motion, with a second by Ms. Donovan, to authorize the Chairman to send letters to U.S. Senators Martinez and Nelson, Congresspersons Boyd, Brown, Crenshaw and Stearns and to the Apalachee Regional Planning Council, Northeast Florida Regional Council and the West Florida Regional Planning Council requesting support of the provision to restore Amtrak Sunset Limited service between Jacksonville and New Orleans. The motion carried unanimously.**

3. Line of Credit

Mr. Koons stated that in July 2004, the Council approved securing a \$75,000 line of credit from SouthTrust Bank, which subsequently has been acquired by Wachovia. He stated that this line of credit was to be used to meet cash flow needs for payroll and vendor payments on a bi-weekly basis. During the past four years, the cash position of the Council has improved significantly and the Council has not needed to borrow funds against the line of credit to meet cash needs. He added that the annual fee for maintaining the line of credit is \$250. Mr. Koons stated that the Executive Committee recommended that the Council authorize the Executive Director to cancel the Council's existing \$75,000 line of credit with Wachovia.

**ACTION: Mayor Ketring made the motion, with a second by Ms. Haas, to authorize the Executive Director to cancel the Council's existing \$75,000 line of credit with Wachovia. The motion carried unanimously.**

4. Employee Health Insurance Proposal

Mr. Koons reported that at its May 22, 2008 meeting, the Executive Director was authorized to solicit proposals from health insurance providers to provide health, dental and life insurance for Council employees and authorize the Executive Committee to review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Council for final action at the July 24, 2008 Council meeting. Proposals were received from 12 agents. The Executive Committee met on July 10, 2008 to review the proposals