



DAILY BRIEF

From December 4, 2009

Today, the Florida House of Representatives convened to discuss the merits of HB 1B, an act relating to Transportation. The sponsor of the legislation, Representative Gary Aubuchon (R-Cape Coral), fielded hours of questions and comments regarding the legislation. Representative Aubuchon laid out a clear vision for the future of passenger rail planning; emphasizing repeatedly a commitment to a number of core tenets AIF outlined earlier this week.

HB 1B clears the way for shovel ready projects to begin and creates thousands of jobs for Florida's families and businesses. The legislation allows Florida a needed comprehensive rail transit policy that will bring about new investments and more importantly added jobs. HB 1B does not increase the current rental car surcharge nor does it raise any new fees or taxes on the citizens of the State of Florida.

The bill was rolled over to third reading with no amendments meaning that it is now ready to be voted for final passage.

Speaker Larry Cretul (R-Ocala) also announced today that Representative Aubuchon will be available in the Chamber at 8:30 a.m. Monday morning to answer questions from a number of members that were excused from today's proceedings. The full chamber will then convene at 9:30 a.m. for full debate and final vote that morning.

Associated Industries of Florida supports passage of legislation creating a comprehensive rail transit system in Florida. At a time when so many Floridians are out of work, we must make the necessary infrastructure investments that will lead to the creation of jobs and bring about much needed investments to our state.