



## Florida Receives Largest Federal Share of High Speed Rail Funding

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### Tallahassee, Fla:

Florida has received \$66.6 million in federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation to develop a brand new high speed rail system between Orlando and Tampa. Nearly \$80 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants to Florida and four

other states for high speed rail development were announced today by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood at a regional leadership conference in central Florida. Florida's first funding installment is part of the \$1.25 billion grant to the state announced by the Administration in January.

"Florida received the largest share of grant funds because our federal partners realize we are ready to go now with our high speed rail project," said Governor Crist. "Florida's high speed rail will create efficient transportation options, boost our economy and put Floridians back to work."

Florida's grant covers the next six months of work and will include completing 30 percent of the design for the Orlando-Tampa segment, ramping up the public outreach plan, updating ridership projections, buying right of way and doing preliminary station design.

"All of this hard work and preparation is getting us closer to building the country's first, true high speed rail system," said Kevin Thibault, Interim Executive Director of the Florida Rail Enterprise. "We will eventually ask private companies to compete for the right to submit bids to build, operate and maintain the system."

Work has already begun on Florida's high speed rail project. Motorists will see soil testing crews working in the median of I-4 in the next few weeks. Other Florida firms have been doing aerial and ground surveys for the past two months. In addition, preliminary engineering and design work on the high speed rail project will

begin shortly.

For more information, please visit [www.floridahighspeedrail.org](http://www.floridahighspeedrail.org).

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