

Winter Haven Chamber Business Blog

*The official blog of the Winter Haven
Chamber of Commerce*

Scott Gives Green Light to SunRail – Haven ILC to Follow

Posted on [July 1, 2011](#) by [Bob Gernert](#)



Governor Rick Scott today gave a long awaited approval releasing funds necessary to the creation of the SunRail Commuter Rail system from Deland to Poinciana. The project will require the relocation of the freight handling Taft rail yard and that function is to be included in a more comprehensive and automated “integrated logistics center” on 300 + acres of land in south Winter Haven. The intermodal center was first proposed by CSX Transportation officials in early 2006.

These types of integrated freight terminals are among the most highly sought after economic development engines in the country as they ultimately attract significant warehousing, industrial and commercial clients. The Winter Haven center is estimated to generate approximately six million square feet of such economic activity during its first decade.

Local officials lauded the decision. Winter Haven Mayor Jeff Potter said, “This is just tremendous! The opportunity that Governor Scott and the State of Florida as well as CSX have given to Winter Haven is immeasurable!”

Chamber President Cindy Price welcomed the approval for SunRail noting that the decision should serve as a catalyst for the ILC in south Winter Haven. She noted, “The rail facility, related distribution and light industry that would be attracted will bring wage scales above our current averages — and that is a good thing for our citizens and our economy.”

You can see the text of the FDOT announcement approving SunRail [here](#).

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