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[One less obstacle for CSX](#)

by [Tom Palmer](#)

A few hours after Wednesday's post on the CSX project, the word came down that Amtrak had backed off from its objections.

But that still leaves the Florida negotiations to purchase the 61 miles of rail line hanging in connection with the planned SunRail commuter rail project in the Orlando area..

Gov.-elect Rick Scott's staff has been vague so far about support for the project. Whoever he appoints to head the Florida Department of Transportation could send a signal on whether he wants to go through with the deal.

The Florida Legislature has simply authorized the deal. It's up to DOT to follow through.

With all of the conservative trending in Tallahassee, I was wondering how much influence conservative think tank papers on transit issues will have.

One paper issued recently by the [Cato Institute](#) advocates privatization of transit. SunRail will be a publicly subsidized transit system.