



**CITY OF PALATKA**  
201 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Palatka, FL 32177  
Phone: 904-329-0100  
Fax: 904-329-0106

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# Memorandum

**To:** City Commission and Staff  
**CC:** Bob Taylor, Project Architect  
**From:** Betsy Driggers, City Clerk  
**Date:** 9/20/2001  
**Re:** Train Depot Tour – 9/19/01

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On September 29, 2001, city officials, staff, Railroad Museum representatives and Amtrak officials toured the Palatka Train Depot and heard a presentation given by Bob Taylor, renovation project architect. In attendance were: Vice Mayor Mary Lawson Brown, City Manager Allen R. Bush, City Clerk Betsy Driggers, Parks Supt. Jeff Norton, Glennell Bowen with Congr. Brown's office; Joe Gonzales with the Railroad Preservation Society; Amtrak representative Steven W. Haerter; Arts Center Director Julia McCoy; and Tommy Suckow with Bob Taylor's office.

Mr. Taylor went over the new floor plans and defined the scope of work that the City can proceed on. The main lobby will be divided into two rooms, one housing the railroad museum and one half will house the Amtrak waiting room and ticket booth. Mr. Taylor went over the plans for the exterior and structural upgrades, and noted that instead of replacing the outside brick, they plan to clean, repair and repaint the existing brick.

Mr. Haerter, with Amtrak, said they plan to install a ticket booth, and they will furnish the waiting room. Per the question, he said Amtrak would find it practical to add a ticket agent for the depot, as most of the trains run between the hours of 8 – 5 during the week, with one train running at sunset. After-hours security measures were discussed. As the project progresses, they will determine if funds are available for extra fencing and security. Hiding places for the criminal element and transients are being eliminated and patrol will be increased. Amtrak is now providing bus services from surrounding cities to Palatka for boarding, and currently the Bus turns around in the Depot parking lot. Per discussion a bus drive could be constructed all the way around Price-Martin Center, and the Depot could become a transportation hub for Palatka, also housing a Greyhound Bus terminal.

A copy of the proposed plans are attached.

May 4, 2005

