



PRFSC March 2018 Meeting Minutes

SunRail is coming to Poinciana. It is expected to start service in July 2018. For those not familiar with SunRail it is a commuter rail service designed to run through the spine of Central Florida running from Deland to the north of Orlando to Poinciana in the south. Here is a brief video showing what SunRail operation was like on the first day of service back in 2014.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mt9kn54_uDY&feature=youtu.be

Check out the video describing the current expansion to Poinciana.

<https://youtu.be/ZuPRi7i55ms>

From its beginning SunRail has strived to achieve its objective to provide more than just a transportation system but to improve the quality of life for the communities that it serves. Moving people wherever they may want to go in Central Florida. Central Florida is the fastest growing region in America. The Orlando metropolitan area today consists of about 2.4 million people and that population is expected to double by 2030. The Poinciana area already has a population exceeding 80,000 and looking at recent expansion, will most likely grow even faster than the rest of Central Florida. In order to meet the transportation needs for Poinciana, more mass transit is needed. They simply cannot build roads fast enough to keep up with the population growth. One way to help is to provide rail transit to connect Poinciana to work centers in Kissimmee and Orlando along with connections to popular destinations like downtown Orlando, Orlando International airport and the theme park attractions.

SunRail currently serves 12 stations from Sand Lake Road to the south to Debarry at the north. 4 new southern stations terminating at Poinciana will start service in July. Service consists of Monday thru Friday with occasional special event service. Someday hopefully service will be expanded to later nights and weekends but that will need to be an economic decision. Fares range from \$2 to \$7.50 round trip with senior discounts and frequent user fare plans available. Sunrail works with other transportation partners such as Lynx, Volusia Transit (Voltran) , Uber and others to help provide door to door service. A Poinciana resident could call ahead for door pickup by Lynx neighborhood link, ride the bus to the station, connect to an airport bus at Sand Lake station and fly anywhere in the world from OIA. Transportation using SunRail from Poinciana to OIA would cost a couple bucks with free parking available at the Poinciana Sunrail station.

Riding the SunRail train is fun. The cars are clean and well lighted. There is a friendly conductor on each train looking out for the satisfaction of the passengers. The trains are wheelchair and bike accessible with Wi-fi and power outlets to connect laptops, phone and other communications devices necessary in today's world.

Best of all, SunRail works with partners in each community to serve the public. Partners include Florida Hospital and Orlando health for medical services, along with Amway Center, Orlando City Soccer and Camping World Stadium for sporting events. In addition to work and entertainment partnerships SunRail works with local community governments to promote economic expansion. SunRail cites 29 building projects totaling \$991 million dollars in economic expansion surrounding it stations since 2010. It cites 12 projects valued at \$774 million currently under construction. An additional 31 projects valued at more than\$1.8 billion have either been announced or are under review.

The best way to learn more about SunRail is to visit the web site www.sunrail.com . That site tells you everything you will want to know about current operations such as train schedules, ticketing and current status of the system. It also tells you about future events and expansion. In addition residents may subscribe to the SunRail news update service by sending an email to Ontrack@SunRail.com .