

Maryland Applies for Federal Rail Money

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The state of Maryland has applied for federal stimulus money that was intended for use in Florida to build a high-speed rail line. That state declined the \$2.4 billion. A press release issued in February (<http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/News/2011/February2011/LaHoodOmalleyltr>) details the rail projects in Maryland that would be funded if the money is reprogrammed here. Among those are a new rail bridge over the Susquehanna River and a third track in the AMTRAK right-of-way between Perryville and North East. That third track is needed for MARC service to be extended to Elkton. No news yet on how likely it is that Maryland will get any or all of this money — other states have applied, and much of the rail money has been eliminated in the mid-April Federal budget deal.