

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 10

From: Staff

Date: October 16, 2015 Council Meeting

Subject: All Aboard Florida Update

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to provide an update regarding activities related to the Florida East Coast Industries' (FECI) proposed All Aboard Florida (AAF) project. The project is intended to provide new high-speed intercity express service between Miami and Orlando on the Florida East Coast (FEC) rail corridor. Pursuant to the company's application for a Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is processing an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Background

In 2012, FECI introduced the AAF project, which proposes new intercity express rail service between downtown Miami and Orlando, with additional stations in downtown Fort Lauderdale and downtown West Palm Beach. The project has been the subject of extensive Council, local government, and public discussion since its announcement. As currently proposed, the project would provide sixteen daily round-trip trains, totaling 32 additional trains on the corridor with maximum speeds of 79 MPH south of West Palm Beach, 110 MPH between West Palm Beach and Cocoa, and 125 MPH from Cocoa to Orlando. The company has indicated the FEC rail corridor will continue to carry freight service through Florida East Coast Railroad, which is projected to increase over time. Although the rail corridor is privately owned, it is included in the Florida Department of Transportation Strategic Intermodal System, which prioritizes it for statewide transportation funding to advance economic competitiveness and quality of life.

General Project Updates

Quiet Zones

Palm Beach County municipalities in the AAF Phase 1 segment (from West Palm Beach to Boca Raton) are proceeding with the establishment of quiet zones. Informational presentations for each affected local government will occur in January/February 2016, with establishment of quiet zones anticipated in Summer 2016, coinciding with the planned completion of AAF's construction activity. The Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has already

allocated additional funding necessary for the construction of all required infrastructure to enable the establishment of quiet zones in this section of the county.

Palm Beach County municipalities in the AAF Phase 2 segment (from West Palm Beach to Tequesta) are currently evaluating AAF's proposed grade crossing improvements and quiet zone requirements. Through an agreement with the Palm Beach MPO, Council is working with these local governments, and a workshop to confirm the ability to establish quiet zones in this segment will be scheduled in the Fall of 2015. The Palm Beach MPO has already prioritized funding, if needed, to install any additional grade crossing improvements required for the establishment of quiet zones in this section of Palm Beach County.

For the local governments in Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties in the AAF Phase 2 segment, Council staff facilitated a quiet zone technical workshop on September 24 with FRA staff and local government representatives. An overview of the quiet zone designation process was provided, and local governments are reviewing quiet zone requirements. Local governments raised concerns that AAF has indicated they "must take liability for grade crossings" if they establish quiet zones, and this requirement has been included in proposed new grade crossing easement agreements provided by AAF to local governments. At the workshop, Tom Drake of FRA reviewed the relevant Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) language regarding quiet zones and indicated it does not refer to liability, and therefore, there was no ability for AAF to transfer liability per the CFR. As requested at the workshop, Council has contacted FRA's grade crossing attorney, Kathy Shelton Gresham, requesting a teleconference with Treasure Coast local government attorneys to further clarify this issue.

Wayside Horns

In lieu of sounding train-mounted horns as trains approach grade crossings, federal code allows train operators to install pole-mounted horns, also referred to as wayside horns, at grade crossings. Instead of horn noise traveling down the railroad track in front of a train, wayside horns redirect the sound down the intersecting roadways. The Final EIS indicates AAF will install wayside horns in all grade crossings as they are considered a method of noise mitigation. While wayside horns can reduce noise in industrial districts, they can provide a negative impact in residential and mixed-use districts. Many local governments have indicated they do not want wayside horns, preferring train-mounted horns to wayside horns which are installed at grade crossings. Council has contacted FRA on this matter, and FRA has indicated the local governments that do not want wayside horns should reach out to AAF informing them they **oppose the installation of wayside horns** at particular grade crossing locations and indicate to AAF the local governments prefer the railroad to continue sounding the train horn whistle. This is not related to quiet zones but rather to prevent the installation of wayside horns. A list of at-grade crossings along the AAF Phase 2 segment where pole-mounted horns will be installed is included in Attachment A. Written correspondence from local governments to AAF regarding opposition to wayside horns should copy two key FRA staff members in the letters to ensure FRA retains the correspondence in its files:

Frank Frey, FRA General Engineer – High Speed Rail
Federal Railroad Administration - USDOT
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
RRS-23 | W33-447
Washington, DC 20590

Michael Johnsen, Lead Environmental Protection Specialist
Federal Railroad Administration - USDOT
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
RDP-13 / W38-117
Washington, DC 20590

AAF Required Grade Crossing Improvements

There is continuing discussion among the region's local governments as to which grade crossing improvements will be installed and paid for by AAF – the list of grade crossing improvements specified in the Final EIS, which delineates minimum grade crossing infrastructure as determined by the FRA Diagnostic Field Review Reports (Part 1 and 2) or a different set of improvements as determined through application of the FRA High Speed Rail Guidelines. Generally, the improvements listed in the Final EIS are more extensive than minimum compliance with the FRA guidelines. Some local governments in the AAF Phase 1 segment (from West Palm Beach north to St Lucie County) have received 90% plans of grade crossing improvements to review, while Indian River County local governments have not yet received similar plans. In particular, local governments are seeking assurance that all appropriate costs of grade crossing infrastructure are paid by AAF, with the highest degree of safety infrastructure at grade crossings, and no costs are inappropriately passed on to local governments. Council has asked FRA to clarify this issue, and a reply from the agency is anticipated in the coming weeks.

Recommendation

For informational purposes only.

Attachment

Attachment A

Appendix 3.3.5-D

At-Grade Crossings Along the Phase II N-S Corridor Where Pole-Mounted Horns Will Be Installed

At-Grade Crossings along the Phase II N-S Corridor where Pole-Mounted Horns will be Installed		
County	Municipality	Street
Brevard	Port St John	KINGS HWY
Brevard	Port St John	FAY BLVD
Brevard	Cocoa	BROADWAY BLVD
Brevard	Cocoa	CAMP RD
Brevard	Cocoa	CANAVERAL GROVES BLVD
Brevard	Cocoa	CROSS RD
Brevard	Cocoa	CIDCO RD
Brevard	Cocoa	BEAU GEST
Brevard	Cocoa	MICHIGAN AVE
Brevard	Cocoa	DIXON BLVD
Brevard	Cocoa	W.HIGHLAND DR.
Brevard	Cocoa	PEACHTREE ST.
Brevard	Cocoa	KING ST.
Brevard	Cocoa	ROSA LIONES BLVD
Brevard	Rockledge	BARTON AVE
Brevard	Rockledge	PRIVATE (RINKER)
Brevard	Rockledge	CARVER RD
Brevard	Rockledge	ANSIN RD
Brevard	Melbourne	SUNTREE BLVD.
Brevard	Melbourne	PINEDA CAUSEWAY
Brevard	Melbourne	POST RD
Brevard	Melbourne	PARKWAY AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	MASTERSON ST.
Brevard	Melbourne	CREEL STREET
Brevard	Melbourne	EAU GALLIE BLVD
Brevard	Melbourne	SARNO RD
Brevard	Melbourne	BABCOCK ST.
Brevard	Melbourne	NASA BLVD
Brevard	Melbourne	SILVER PALM AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	SEMINOLE AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	FEE AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	LINCOLN AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	PALMETTO AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	STRAWBRIDGE AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	NEW HAVEN AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	PROSPECT AVE
Brevard	Melbourne	LINE ST

At-Grade Crossings along the Phase II N-S Corridor where Pole-Mounted Horns will be Installed		
County	Municipality	Street
Brevard	Melbourne	JERNIGAN AVE
Brevard	Palm Bay	HESSEY AVE
Brevard	Palm Bay	NORTHEAST PALM BAY ROAD
Brevard	Palm Bay	NORTHEAST PORT MALABAR BLVD
Brevard	Malabar	MALABAR RD
Brevard	Malabar	VALKARIA RD
Brevard	Grant-Valkaria	1ST ST
Brevard	Grant-Valkaria	SHELL PIT RD
Brevard	Grant-Valkaria	SENNE RD
Brevard	Micco	BAREFOOT BLVD
Brevard	Micco	MICCO RD
Indian River	Sebastian	HOLLY ST/Azalea Ln
Indian River	Sebastian	ROSELAND RD
Indian River	Sebastian	MAIN ST
Indian River	Sebastian	SEBASTIAN BLVD, WESTBOUND
Indian River	Sebastian	SEBASTIAN BLVD, EASTBOUND
Indian River	Sebastian	OLD DIXIE HWY
Indian River	Sebastian	SCHUMANN DR
Indian River	Sebastian	VICKERS RD 99TH S
Indian River	Vero Beach	W. WABASSO RD
Indian River	Vero Beach	HOBART RD (77TH)
Indian River	Vero Beach	CEMETARY RD (71ST)
Indian River	Vero Beach	N. WINTER BEACH (69TH)
Indian River	Vero Beach	S. WINTER BEACH (65TH)
Indian River	Vero Beach	53RD ST
Indian River	Vero Beach	49TH ST/LINDSAY RD
Indian River	Vero Beach	45TH ST
Indian River	Vero Beach	43 ST
Indian River	Vero Beach	41ST ST/SO GIFFORD RD
Indian River	Vero Beach	19TH PL
Indian River	Vero Beach	GLENDALE RD (4TH)
Indian River	Vero Beach	FOURTH ST,
Indian River	Vero Beach	FIRST ST. S.W.
Indian River	Vero Beach	20TH PL S.W.
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	PRIVATE
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	ROUSE RD
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	TORPEY RD

At-Grade Crossings along the Phase II N-S Corridor where Pole-Mounted Horns will be Installed		
County	Municipality	Street
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	MILTON RD
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	CHAMBERLIN BLVD
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	ST. LUCIE LANE / HUNT AVE
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	TARMAC (PRIVATE)
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	SHI MONEX LN
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	CITY CAUSEWAY (HWY A1A)
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	PRIVATE
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	FISHERMANS WHARF
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	SEAWAY DRIVE (HWY A1A)
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	AVE "D" AVE
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	AVE "A" AVE
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	ORANGE AVE
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	SAVANNAH RD
St Lucie	Fort Pierce	MIDWAY AVE
St Lucie	Port St Lucie	WALTON RD
Martin	Jensen Beach	RIVERVIEW DR
Martin	Jensen Beach	COUNTYLINE RD
Martin	Jensen Beach	SKYLINE DR.
Martin	Jensen Beach	R. M. PITCHFORD
Martin	Jensen Beach	OCEAN BREEZE PARK
Martin	Jensen Beach	PALMETTO AVE.
Martin	Jensen Beach	SR-A1A
Martin	Jensen Beach	ALICE ST.
Martin	Stuart	FERN ST.
Martin	Stuart	W. 7TH ST / PI NEWOOD
Martin	Stuart	FLORIDA AVE
Martin	Stuart	SR-A1A
Martin	Stuart	S. E. SEAWARD ST.
Martin	Stuart	SALERNO RD
Martin	Stuart	BROWARD ST.
Martin	Stuart	COVE RD
Martin	Hobe Sound	OSPREY ST
Martin	Hobe Sound	SEVENTH ST / CROSSRIP
Martin	Hobe Sound	PETTWAY AVE
Martin	Hobe Sound	BRIDGE RD
Martin	Hobe Sound	GLEASON ST.
Palm Beach	Jupiter	COUNTY LINE RD

At-Grade Crossings along the Phase II N-S Corridor where Pole-Mounted Horns will be Installed		
County	Municipality	Street
Palm Beach	Jupiter	RIVERSIDE DR.
Palm Beach	Jupiter	CENTER ST.
Palm Beach	Beach Gardens	LIGHTHOUSE DRIVE
Palm Beach	Beach Gardens	RICHARD RD
Palm Beach	Lake Park	LAKE PARK RD
Palm Beach	Riviera Beach	BLUE HERON BLVD
Palm Beach	Riviera Beach	FLAGLER ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	49TH ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	45TH ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	36TH ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	30TH ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	25TH ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	23RD ST.
Palm Beach	West Palm Beach	15TH ST.