

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 13

From: Staff

Date: July 15, 2016 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.

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

Construction of Phase 1 Improvements & Establishment of Quiet Zones: AAF construction activity continues on the Phase 1 corridor, between 15th Street in West Palm Beach and Miami. Periodic grade crossing closures will occur for the installation of railroad track, safety and quiet zone improvements, sidewalks, and related infrastructure. All necessary steps have been taken by local governments to enable the establishment of quiet zones following the completion of construction, which is anticipated in the Fall of 2016.

Recommendation

For information only.