



PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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October 2, 2014

To: MPO Board Members and City Managers

Thank you for your continued support of the quiet zone process. The MPO has been working for more than two years – since the announcement of the All Aboard Florida project – to position Palm Beach County to establish quiet zones along the Florida East Coast (FEC) rail corridor in conjunction with the All Aboard Florida (AAF) project. The past several months have been very productive towards the MPO's goal of establishing quiet zones in Palm Beach County. Through the collective effort of local governments, FDOT, and the MPO, Palm Beach County is positioned to secure the establishment of quiet zones along the initial phase of the All Aboard Florida project (from 15th Street in West Palm Beach to Boca Raton). This letter summarizes several key items and details next steps towards that outcome.

As you are aware, the Palm Beach MPO began coordinating with local governments, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and AAF in 2012. The MPO provided funding for FDOT to conduct a preliminary quiet zone assessment for the entire county, and in 2013, hosted an FRA Quiet Zone workshop for the region. Following the September 2013 AAF announcement that it would be funding all required safety improvements, the MPO allocated \$6.6 Million towards any additional improvements at FEC corridor grade crossings to establish quiet-zone eligibility and improve safety.

In mid-2014, the Palm Beach and Broward MPOs applied for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant for \$22 Million of Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) along the FEC rail corridor. In September 2014, the MPOs learned that our TIGER grant application was not awarded in this funding cycle. We have been advised by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to reapply next year. The only TIGER grant award in Florida was to the Tamiami Trail/Everglades Restoration Project.

Fortunately, the MPO's leadership in allocating funding will enable all necessary quiet zone infrastructure to be constructed in conjunction with the first phase of the AAF project. AAF was crucial in this process as they offered both financial and technical assistance that otherwise would not have otherwise been available. This partnership allows us to install SSMs within the initial phase of the AAF project to establish a continuous quiet zone. The MPO has identified all necessary quiet zone infrastructure as well as additional sidewalk improvements to produce a corridor safe for both non-motorized travelers and

vehicles. As a result of these efficiencies, the MPO has expanded the methodology used to determine which crossings will receive treatments.

As you may recall, the MPOs first step to establish a Quiet Zone was to account for street closures at crossings to be effected by the AAF project. The only closures are at Datura and Evernia Streets in West Palm Beach, which accommodate the planned AAF station. The next step was to consider crossings where the municipalities preferred the placement of medians due to their cost-effectiveness and benefits as quiet zone measures. Lastly, four quadrant gates were added, taking into account a geographic distribution of the crossings with the highest risk index, to reach the quiet zone Risk Index with Horns (RIWH) threshold. The resulting quiet zone far exceeds the RIWH threshold minimum standards.

In the coming weeks, the Palm Beach MPO will be reaching out to our partner local governments along the FEC corridor to arrange a joint meeting regarding the construction of the railroad improvements, including the quiet zone SSM treatments and sidewalk improvements. The Palm Beach MPO will also participate with AAF's engineering team to conduct field diagnostics of all crossings. We look forward to our continued coordination with all of our partners to accomplish this local and MPO priority.

Attached you will find the SSMs and the pedestrian improvement locations which will be installed barring any unforeseen engineering issues. Again, thank you for your continued support of the Quiet Zone process. If you have any questions please contact me at (561) 684-4170 or via e-mail at nuhren@PalmBeachMPO.org.

Sincerely,



Nick Uhren, P.E.
Executive Director

Attachments: List of SSMs and Sidewalk Improvements, Summary Table

cc: MPO Advisory Committee Members (w/ attachments)

File: Q:\MPO\RAIL\Quiet Zones\LTR (MPO Board) FEC Quiet Zone.docx

The list below identifies the SSMs and sidewalk improvements that will be installed in conjunction with the Phase 1 portion of the AAF project along the FEC corridor, barring any unforeseen engineering issues:

Palm Beach County Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs)

CLOSINGS:

- DATURA STREET
- EVERNIA STREET

MEDIANS:

- EAST OCEAN AVENUE

FOUR QUADRANT GATES:

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15th STREET • 3rd STREET • 1st STREET/BANYAN • CLEMATIS STREET • FERN STREET • GARDENIA STREET • HIBISCUS STREET • NOTTINGHAM BLVD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUNKER RD • FOREST HILL BLVD • GREGORY RD • LANTANA RD • HYPOLUXO RD • MINER RD • NE 22ND STREET / GATEWAY BLVD • N.E 10TH (M L KING) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.E. 2ND AVE / BOYNTON BEACH • S.E. 15TH / WOOLBRIGHT • S.E. 36TH AVE/ GULFSTREAM • N.E. 8TH STREET • N.E. 2ND STREET • N.E. 1ST STREET • ATLANTIC AVE • S.E. 2ND STREET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S.E. 4TH STREET • S.E. 10TH STREET • LINTON BLVD • LINDELL BLVD • N.W. 10TH STREET • GLADES RD • PALMETTO PARK • S.W. 18TH STREET |
|--|--|--|--|

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PALM STREET • PARK PLACE • FLAMINGO DRIVE • CLAREMORE DRIVE • ARDMORE RD • WESTWOOD RD • MONCEAUX RD • ROSELAND DRIVE • BUNKER RD • HUNTER AVE • GREGORY RD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22ND AVE N / WORTHMORE • 17TH AVE N. • 13TH AVE N. • 3RD AVE N. • 2ND AVE N. • 12TH AVE S. • PINE STREET • CENTRAL BLVD • NE 22ND STREET / GATEWAY BLVD • N. E. 15TH AVE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N.E. 10TH STREET (M L KING) • S.E. 5TH AVE • S.E. 12TH AVE • S.E. 23RD AVE • S.E. 36TH AVE / GULFSTREAM • N.E. 14TH STREET • N.E. 8TH STREET • N.E. 4TH STREET • N.E. 2ND STREET • N.E. 1ST STREET | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATLANTIC AVE • S.E. 1ST STREET • S.E. 2ND STREET • S.E. 4TH STREET • S.E. 10TH STREET • LINDELL BLVD • HIDDEN VALLEY • N.W. 28TH STREET • N.E. 2ND STREET • S. W. 18TH STREET |
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Palm Beach County Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs) by City

	Total Crossings	Supplemental Safety Measures (SSMs)				% of Grade Crossings with SSMs	Sidewalk Improvements
		Closings	Medians	4-Quadrant Gates	Total SSMs		
West Palm Beach	29	2	-	11	13	45%	11
Lake Worth	14	-	-	-	0	0%	6
Lantana	4	-	-	1	1	25%	2
Lantana/Hypoluxo	1	-	-	1	1	100%	-
Hypoluxo	1	-	-	1	1	100%	-
Boynton Beach	11	-	1	5	6	55%	7
Delray Beach	12	-	-	9	9	75%	11
Boca Raton	10	-	-	4	4	40%	4
Private	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	83	2	1	32	35	43%	41