



St. Lucie

Transportation
Planning
Organization

Coco Vista Centre
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December 4, 2013

Mr. Vincent Signorello
President and CEO
Florida East Coast Industries (FECI)
2855 Le Jeune Road, 4th Floor
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Re: All Aboard Florida Project Preliminary Concerns

Dear Mr. Signorello:

The St. Lucie Transportation Planning Organization (St. Lucie TPO) understands that the Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) All Aboard Florida Project will consist of at least 32 passenger trains traveling through the St. Lucie TPO area at speeds in excess of 100 miles per hour. In addition, it is further understood that the rail capacity improvements associated with the All Aboard Florida Project and the improvements being completed by FECI at PortMiami and Port Everglades will result in significant additional freight train traffic, which will include two-mile-long trains, that also will travel through the St. Lucie TPO area.

The St Lucie TPO area, with a population of over 280,000 people, features a number of National and State-Registered Historic Structures as well as locally-designated Historic Neighborhoods along the FECI corridor. In addition, the FECI corridor extends through the heart of Downtown Fort Pierce, a Historic District, and along the environmentally-sensitive Indian River Lagoon which are the economic lifeblood of the St. Lucie TPO area. Therefore, there are significant preliminary concerns with the potential impacts from the **noise, vibration, and pollutants**, including particulates, that will be generated by the new additional rail traffic. The potential impacts include physical impacts to the Historic Structures, environmental impacts to the sensitive Indian River Lagoon, financial impacts to the local economy, and the health and safety impacts to the residents.

As a stop in St. Lucie TPO area is not planned as part of the All Aboard Florida Project, the St. Lucie TPO area will receive no benefits while suffering all of the significant impacts of this additional rail traffic. It is anticipated that the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project will identify how these significant impacts will be quantified, addressed, and mitigated. The FECI is urged to explore extending the direct benefits of passenger rail service to the St. Lucie TPO area, provide funding for crossing enhancements and corridor improvements, and to explore other partnerships from which the area may benefit directly to offset and/or mitigate these potentially very damaging impacts.

We look forward to continuing to address the transportation needs and enhance the economic vitality of our area in partnership with FECI. Please contact me or Peter Buchwald, the Executive Director of the St. Lucie TPO, should you require any additional information or clarification regarding these preliminary concerns.

Sincerely,



for Commissioner Frannie Hutchinson
Chairwoman

cc: Catherine Dobbs, Federal Railroad Administration
Ananth Prasad, P.E. FDOT Secretary
James Wolfe, P.E., FDOT District 4 Secretary
St. Lucie TPO Board Members
Peter Buchwald, St. Lucie TPO Executive Director