

RESOLUTION 2014-5

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF ST. LUCIE VILLAGE, FLORIDA, REQUESTING THAT THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION REQUIRE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA TO FUND, WITH NO GOVERNMENTAL ASSISTANCE, ALL COSTS RELATED TO THE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA PROJECT, AND TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES AND VISITORS OF THE TOWN OF ST. LUCIE VILLAGE.

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Lucie Village, Florida, is a small residential community that was first settled in 1843; and

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Lucie Village is bisected by the FEC Railway and there are five public and one private at grade railroad crossings located within the Town of St. Lucie Village; and

WHEREAS, the All Aboard Florida Project, a high speed rail project, with plans for an additional 32 trains daily, is proposed for this railway; and

WHEREAS, the All Aboard Florida project currently includes plans for not just two rail lines through the Town of St. Lucie village, but also a third line so freight trains can move aside to allow high speed trains to pass; and

WHEREAS, ingress to and egress from all portions of the Town of St. Lucie Village lying East of the FEC railway will be severely impacted by increased railroad traffic and use of the third rail line; and

WHEREAS, three of the five public railroad crossings in the Village represent the only means of access to and from the neighborhoods they serve so that any delay in transit through the area, which is known to happen, directly and substantially inconveniences residents and prevents emergency access or egress; and

WHEREAS, All Aboard Florida trains are proposed to travel in close proximity to the oldest portion of the Village which is a National Register Historic District with more than 30 contributing homes and structures, a number of which have been restored at great expense; and

WHEREAS, the FEC track runs close to the environmentally sensitive Indian River Lagoon, the most diverse estuary in North America; and

WHEREAS, the FEC track passes immediately adjacent to the 70 acre Village Heritage Preserve which is used both for recreation and

preservation of environmental resources and is unique in containing a number of diverse ecological communities and threatened and endangered species; and

WHEREAS, the project endangers gopher tortoises, panthers, bobcats, native plants, historic oaks and vegetation now living along the right-of-way in St. Lucie Village; and

WHEREAS, all higher density residential zoning within the Town of St. Lucie Village, lies in a strip immediately West of Old Dixie Highway and the FEC Railway, so All Aboard Florida will disproportionately impact those minority, low income and elderly populations in that zoning district, including social, economic, environmental and health impacts, thereby raising issues of demographic and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, the On-Site Engineering Field Report done on behalf of the Office of Safety, Highway Rail Crossing and Trespasser Program Division, of the Federal Railroad Administration identifies various safety deficiencies in the project as proposed by All Aboard Florida; and

WHEREAS, those safety deficiencies include:

(a) The failure to incorporate the "sealed corridor" concept as outlined in FRA's Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Guidelines for High-Speed Passenger Rail, Version 1.0 [November 2009] which, according to the report, is a failure to exercise appropriate safety practices and reasonable care when designing for high speed passenger rail service.

(b) The failure to provide safe passage for pedestrians.

(c) The failure to make adequate provision for vehicle presence detection; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Aldermen recognizes additional safety hazards presented to Town residents, businesses and visitors by crossing gate locations in such proximity to Old Dixie Highway that east-bound vehicles will be backed up into that roadway's lanes of travel, creating an unsafe condition on the heavily traveled roadway.

WHEREAS, Village residents have expressed serious concerns regarding the project's negative impact on the value of their homes, particularly with the impact of a third line constituting a center side rail; and

WHEREAS, the FEC has required license agreements that impose certain costs of maintaining the railroad crossings on St. Lucie Village and St. Lucie County; and

WHEREAS, no specific information is available concerning the additional maintenance costs that might be imposed on local governments because of the project; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the quality of life in the Town of St. Lucie Village will depend on All Aboard Florida improving the rail crossings to maximize safety and minimize noise and disruption; and

WHEREAS, quiet zones are needed at all affected railroad crossings in order to mitigate the impacts of increased railroad traffic and railroad noise and to protect the health, safety and quality of life of all Village residents, businesses and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the cost of upgrading the infrastructure at crossings to meet quiet zone standards and maximum safety requirements, as well as any significant increase in maintenance cost, would be beyond the funding ability of the Town of St. Lucie Village, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Town of St. Lucie Village, Florida, requires assistance for infrastructure improvements and other related construction to keep our citizens safe and out jurisdiction solvent.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of St. Lucie Village, Florida as follows:

1. The Town of St. Lucie Village, Florida, formally requests that any donor agency, including the Federal Railroad Administration, other Federal agencies, the State of Florida, and any State agencies, require All Aboard Florida to privately fund all costs of All Aboard Florida, including all quiet zones/corridor improvements, increased periodic maintenance costs associated with railroad crossings, terminal connections, and mitigation of above-stated negative impacts; without any governmental assistance, be it in the form of loans or infrastructure and right-of-way improvements at less than market rates, as such support would put the risk and expense of All Aboard Florida on the backs of the taxpayers.

2. The Town of St. Lucie Village encourages the State to financially assist the Town of St. Lucie Village and other communities for the necessary infrastructure for safety and quiet zones if All Aboard Florida is not required to pay those costs.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of St.
Lucie Village on this 20th day of May, 2014.



APPROVED:
BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE TOWN OF
ST. LUCIE VILLAGE, FLORIDA

By: William G. Thiess
William G. Thiess, Mayor

ATTESTED:
By: Diane C. Orme
Diane C. Orme, Clerk

I, DIANE C. ORME, Clerk of the TOWN OF ST. LUCIE VILLAGE, FLORIDA,
do hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of Resolution
2014-5 which was duly introduced, read and adopted at the meeting of the
Board of Aldermen of the TOWN OF ST. LUCIE VILLAGE, FLORIDA, held this
20th day of May, 2014.

Diane C Orme
DIANE C. ORME, CLERK