



May 23, 2014

Ananth Prasad, P.E.
Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Subject: Safety Recommendations for the All Aboard Florida Project

Dear Secretary Prasad:

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council has consistently raised concerns regarding safety impacts upon our communities from the proposed All Aboard Florida project. The land uses along the corridor are densely developed, with substantial residential and commercial activity, significant vehicular and pedestrian traffic, hundreds of grade crossings, and a history of rail-related accidents for vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Existing safety conditions are precarious, and there is no precedent for the volume of trains proposed by FECI nor the high-speed nature of the proposed All Aboard Florida service.

Accordingly, at its May 16, 2014 meeting, Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council voted unanimously to request the Florida Department of Transportation implement the safety recommendations as described in the Federal Railroad Administration *Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Guidelines for High-Speed Passenger Rail* published in November of 2009. This document was cited by the Federal Railroad Administration in its *On-Site Engineering Field Report – Part 1*, released on March 20, 2014. The report further documents the highly urbanized nature of the corridor, noting clear evidence of pedestrian trespassing.

With the introduction of high-speed passenger rail service, there is a need to clearly specify the state's commitment to implement the FRA guidelines to ensure the highest level of safety compliance. Council knows that safety is the Department's highest priority regarding transportation. Council shares that priority as well as the concerns of all the local governments and citizens in the region.

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Thank you for consideration of Council's request.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Busha, AICP
Executive Director

cc: All Treasure Coast Local Governments
Treasure Coast Legislative Delegation
Treasure Coast Congressional Delegation
Commissioner Peter O'Bryan, Chairman TCRPC
Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
Fred Wise, Manager, FDOT Rail Office
Jim Wolfe, Secretary, FDOT District IV