

A detailed map of the Treasure Coast region in Florida, showing various towns and their layouts. The map is overlaid with the text of the header.

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

INDIAN RIVER - ST. LUCIE - MARTIN - PALM BEACH

July 13, 2015

Jim Boxold, Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Subject: Pedestrian Safety Requirements for All Aboard Florida Project

Dear Secretary Boxold:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify parties responsible for carrying out required pedestrian safety improvements along the Florida East Coast (FEC) rail corridor for the proposed "All Aboard Florida" (AAF) project. With the introduction of 32 daily high-speed passenger trains into an existing freight corridor, the AAF project will result in a significant change to the railroad operating environment, triggering the need for safety enhancements along the corridor. Local governments have raised concerns regarding the type of pedestrian improvements (e.g., sidewalks, pedestrian gates, barrier fencing) as well as funding for construction, operations and maintenance. Several local governments have been informed by AAF representatives that costs for these safety improvements are local. This appears to be inconsistent with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) guidelines and prior FDOT correspondence.

In its review of the FEC's corridor safety assessments, the FRA acknowledged the need for pedestrian safety improvements, noting "trespassing is an epidemic" along the corridor (see Attachment 1: FRA On-Site Engineering Field Report, Part 1, 3/20/2014). To address the critical safety needs, FRA strongly emphasized the importance for the AAF project to be developed in accordance with FRA's Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Guidelines for High-Speed Passenger Rail (FRA Guidelines). Former FDOT Secretary Prasad confirmed FDOT will require AAF to comply with the FRA Guidelines in a letter to Council dated 6/4/2014 (included as Attachment 2). This FDOT commitment is reflected in a subsequent FRA report, titled "FRA On-Site Engineering Field Report, Part 2," published 9/23/2014 (included as Attachment 3). Further, FRA officials are requiring AAF to "bridge the gap" at all of those respective grade crossing locations where existing sidewalks terminate on each side of the crossing, prior to the railroad right-of-way. It has been Council's understanding that all FRA-required safety improvements (including the construction of sidewalks through railroad property and installation of railroad pedestrian gates and barrier fencing) are part of the AAF project and; therefore, costs for constructing these improvements will not be passed onto local governments.

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Jim Boxold, Secretary
July 13, 2015
Page Two

AAF has recently provided 90 percent design plans and other communications to local governments along the FEC corridor. The design plans and other information provided appear inconsistent with the FRA Guidelines, particularly with respect to pedestrian safety improvements. Several local government officials indicate AAF has informed them that municipalities will be responsible for funding both construction and operations/maintenance of two key pedestrian safety infrastructure components: (a) sidewalks and pedestrian gates, and (b) barrier fencing along the corridor. FRA's HSR Guidelines clearly address the need for pedestrian infrastructure as necessary safety improvements. Under "Pedestrian and Trespass Considerations," the guidelines state:

Pedestrian treatments at vehicular crossings and associated sidewalks, including pedestrian pathways, are an essential safety element (p. 13, highlight added).

Trespassing on railroad property is the single largest cause of deaths associated with railroad operation. High-speed rail corridors should be clearly posted against entry, and consideration should be given to use of **tamper-resistant fencing**, video surveillance, and similar measures in high-traffic areas (p. 14, highlight added).

Given the emphasis on these pedestrian safety improvements in the FRA Guidelines as required safety elements, once again it is the Council's understanding that such enhancements are to be funded by the AAF project as part of the overall package of required safety improvements. Accordingly, these costs are not to be passed on to local governments. Finally, the operations and maintenance of these improvements, especially the "tamper-resistant fencing," appears to also be part of the required on-going safety improvements, to be funded by AAF.

In summary, Council is respectfully seeking clarification regarding the Department's position towards pedestrian-oriented safety improvements, including which entity – AAF or the local governments – will be required to fund construction and on-going operations and maintenance. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Busha, AICP
Executive Director

MJB/KD:kd

Attachments

cc: Tod Mowery, TCRPC Chair



Florida Department of Transportation

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY

June 4, 2014

RECEIVED

JUN 13 2014

TREASURE COAST
REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Michael J. Busha, AICP
Executive Director
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
421 SW Camden Avenue
Stuart, FL 34994

Dear Mr. Busha,

Thank you for expressing the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council's concerns regarding safety improvements for the All Aboard Florida (AAF) project. We value your comments and understand that public and agency involvement will better ensure that the All Aboard Florida (AAF) project provides a service that benefits the communities along the proposed passenger rail corridor. The Florida Department of Transportation (Department), the Federal Railroad Administration, and Florida East Coast Industries will continue to work closely with local communities on the improvements at at-grade crossings and other issues with the AAF project.

As you indicated, safety is the Department's highest priority with transportation programs and facilities. We will require AAF to comply with the Federal Railroad Administration's guidelines for rail crossing safety as specified for higher speed passenger rail services.

Thank you again for continuing to express your Council's views related to the AAF project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ananth Prasad", written in a cursive style.

Ananth Prasad, P.E.
Secretary

cc: Fred Wise, Director, Florida Rail Enterprise



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Office of Safety RRS-23
Highway Rail Crossing and Trespasser Program Division

ON-SITE ENGINEERING FIELD REPORT - Part 1

— All Aboard Florida —

Background:

FRA Headquarters, in conjunction with the Region 3 office, assisted in the diagnostic safety review of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway grade crossings between Miami-Dade to St. Lucie counties. This is due to High Speed Passenger Rail service being planned between Miami and Orlando, known as "All Aboard Florida". Beginning February 4, 2014 and ending on March 7, 2014, a total of 263 public and private grade crossings were assessed. Participants included officials from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), FEC, All Aboard Florida (AAF); including local city and county officials at some locations.

For the purposes of this report, Part 1 represents the diagnostic review taken place from Miami-Dade to St. Lucie Counties. Part 2 designates the diagnostic review from Indian River County to Cocoa Beach, which is expected to occur in mid-to-late June 2014. There are approximately 90 grade crossings in Part 2. The segment between Cocoa Beach and Orlando will be designed for 125 MPH, however, AAF will not be traversing over any at-grade crossings along that rail corridor.

Scope:

Crossing locations between Miami to north of West Palm Beach are being designed for a maximum authorized speed of 79 MPH. The 110 MPH segment begins/ends at 30th Street in West Palm Beach (milepost 297.40), and continues through the Private Road Crossing in Indrio (milepost 233.90). Within the 110 MPH segment, train speeds are lowered to conventional rail limits where civil constraints exist; such as curves or draw bridges, which are noted on the accompanying field design plans.

Currently the design plans are at 30%. The next reiteration will be at 90%. Therefore, the decisions for the grade crossing signaling equipment and warning devices will be determined fairly soon.

The existing crossing signaling equipment contain a mix of signal cases and relay houses, equipped with either Phase Motion Detectors (PMD-1) or HXP 3R2's highway crossing processors.

Each crossing location will eventually consist of relay houses equipped with GE Transportation's ElectroLogIXS XP4 for constant warning time as part of this project. For 110 MPH, the crossing circuits beyond the 79 MPH standard will utilize a GE device linked through the PTC system for the advanced crossing starts. The technology will diagnose a health check to determine whether or not all roadway/pedestrian gates are in the down position.

Results:

Of the 263 grade crossings in Part 1, there are 57 crossing locations affected for Sealed Corridor treatments within the 110 MPH territory. Officials from All Aboard Florida passenger rail project (herein the "Project") have openly expressed that the proposed 110 MPH segment will NOT 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*). They stated that since these are "guidelines, not regulations" as quoted on page *iii*, in which they are not obligated to incorporate any of the described crossing treatments as illustrated in the document. The Project estimates that in doing so would incur an additional financial burden of about \$47 mil.

In my professional opinion, I respectfully disagree with the Project's approach in that they are not exercising appropriate safety practices and reasonable care when designing for High Speed Passenger Rail service. I explained to the entire diagnostic team how important it was to adopt the principles of the Sealed Corridor approach. However, it was clearly evident that the Project was not pursuing such concept.

As a result, the Project has directed their signaling engineering consultants to design crossings to ONLY accommodate for the additional track while complying with the MUTCD - but not to incorporate any of the Sealed Corridor treatments. Furthermore, since there is a completely different philosophical view towards safety between the Project and I, the accompanying marked-up design plans and field notes are notably different from the Project's design plans; particularly along the 110 MPH segment. The Project has been maintaining a running log noting my Sealed Corridor recommendations.

Officials from FDOT's Rail Office are not taking a position, one way or the other, at this time.

Safety Recommendations:

The following are recommendations made to the Project based upon my on-site field assessments during the diagnostic safety review:

- A. Pedestrian gates** – there are certain locations along the corridor in which sidewalks are present on both sides of the railroad right-of-way, but do not follow through. Some of these sidewalks do not comply with today’s ADA’s standards, however pedestrian travel is evident due to the worn foot path on the surface, and general witnessing of usage. Typically the roadway gate covers the entrance side of the adjacent sidewalk, but there are no pedestrian gates on the opposite quadrants. The Project stated if there is no agreement with the city or county for the service and maintenance of a pedestrian gate assembly, they will not install them.

Trespassing is an epidemic along this corridor. Rather than encourage it, it is recommended per my field notes at those particular locations to equip sidewalk approaches with a visual and gated barrier. This is to provide safe passage of pedestrians through a very active rail line and prevents those from walking into an open railway corridor; or directing them onto the street – irrespective if there is an agreement or not.

- B. Vehicle Presence Detection** – for those public and private crossings between 80-110 MPH in Part 1 to be equipped with a Vehicle Presence Detection (“VPD”) system. The entire FEC corridor is equipped with Cab Signaling control. Presence detection will serve as a long term obstacle system, where the presence of a vehicle within the crossing area for a fixed length of time would be reported as an alarm through the remote monitoring system, irrespective of the approach of a train. Subsequently, for those 3-Quadrant and 4-Quadrant gated grade crossings between 80-110 MPH (as identified further below), it is recommended that either through the activation of a loop detector and/or a vertical exit gate (indicating a roadway vehicle is occupying the crossing) that a vehicle is detected by the train as a “feedback loop” of information; resulting in a loss of cab-signals, thus placing the train in an automatic speed restriction.

Motor vehicles stalled, or trapped on a crossing due to queuing, present a derailment hazard; and in multiple track territory or where freight equipment is standing on adjacent sidings or industry tracks, derailments can result in catastrophic secondary collisions. Therefore, presence detection providing feedback to the train control system to high speed

trains traveling along this FEC corridor be active in order to minimize the possibility of derailments as well.

Recommending a VPD system is due to the following safety reasons:

1. Field observations with vehicular traffic stopping on tracks
2. Safety concerns expressed by city, county and FDOT officials
3. Several crossings with reduced or no vehicle clearance at roadway T-intersections
4. Vehicles yielding to oncoming traffic while on tracks at non-signalized T-intersections
5. Motorists / Commercial Vehicles queuing over tracks due to 4-way stop intersection, and vehicles entering adjacent driveways and parking lots
6. The multiple track surfaces enables motorists to make U-turns or cut thru's easier
7. Severely skewed crossings
8. Acute-angled crossings with main gates perpendicular to the vehicular roadway

C. Sealed Corridor Treatments - the following grade crossing locations are the recommended Sealed Corridor Treatments required by the Project to install:

Four-Quadrant Gates (also referred as exit gates) (41)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
30 th Street	West Palm Beach	297.40	272 406 J
Inlet Blvd.	Rivera Beach	295.45	272 400 T
Flagler Street	Rivera Beach	295.15	272 399 B
Silver Beach Road	Lake Park	293.75	272 389 V
Park Ave	Lake Park	293.30	272 387 G
Richard Road	Palm Beach Gardens	292.20	272 385 T
Lighthouse Drive	Palm Beach Gardens	291.70	272 384 L
RCA Blvd.	Palm Beach Gardens	290.30	272 382 X
Fred Small Road	Jupiter	286.20	273 020 P
Toney Penna Dr. *	Jupiter	284.20	272 378 H
Gleason Street	Hobe Sound	274.50	272 367 V
Bridge Road	Hobe Sound	274.10	272 366 N
Pettway Street	Hobe Sound	272.70	272 365 G
Crossrip Street	Salerno	271.40	272 362 L
Osprey Street	Salerno	270.90	272 934 K
Cove Road	Salerno	267.14	272 359 D
Broward Street	Salerno	266.80	272 358 W
Salerno Road	Salerno	266.60	272 357 P
Seaward Street **	Salerno	266.50	272 356 H

Monterey Road	Stuart	263.30	272 353 M
SR A1A	Stuart	262.50	272 350 S
Florida Street	Stuart	262.30	272 349 X
Palmetto Drive	Rio	257.40	272 342 A
Jenson Beach Blvd.	Rio	256.80	272 340 L
Pitchford Land***	Rio	256.20	272 338 K
Skyline Drive	Rio	255.50	272 337 D
County Line Road	Rio	255.30	272 336 W
Walton Road	Walton	252.50	272 332 U
Midway Road	Walton	246.30	272 331 M
Savannah Road	Fort Pierce	243.80	272 330 F
No. Bch. Causeway	Indrio	239.80	272 218 U
Shimoner Ln. ***	Indrio	239.50	272 217 M
Tarmac Road***	Indrio	239.20	272 215 Y
St. Lucie Lane	Indrio	238.80	272 214 S
Chamberlain Blvd.	Indrio	238.40	272 213 K
Milton Road	Indrio	237.80	272 211 W
Torpey Road	Indrio	237.10	272 210 P
Rouse Road	Indrio	236.70	272 209 V
Michigan Street	Indrio	236.10	272 208 N
Wilcox Road	Indrio	235.60	272 207 G
Harbor Branch Rd	Indrio	235.10	272 206 A

* - Last crossing location (northbound) for proposed Tri-Rail service

** - Recommend to be CLOSED

*** - Private Crossing

100-foot Non-traversable Medians * (7)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
36 th Street	West Palm Beach	297.10	272 405 C
45 th Street	West Palm Beach	296.65	272 403 N
49 th Street	West Palm Beach	296.30	272 240 G
County Line Road	Hobe Sound	280.90	272 372 S
Park Road	Hobe Sound	277.70	272 370 D
SR A1A **	Salerno	268.65	272 360 X
Avenue A	Fort Pierce	241.30	272 238 F

* **Please note:** if for any reason the Project and the respective municipality cannot agree on the median treatment, then those location(s) be equipped with exit gates.

** Medians to be at least 150-feet each approach due to severe roadway skew.

Three-Quadrant Gates (due to a median present on the opposite side) (6)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
Blue Heron Blvd.	Rivera Beach	294.90	272 390 P
Burns Road	Palm Beach Gardens	290.80	272 383 E
Hood Road	Palm Beach Gardens	288.50	272 380 J
Donald Ross Road	Palm Beach Gardens	287.20	272 379 P
Indiantown Road	Jupiter	283.60	272 377 B
Orange Avenue	Fort Pierce	241.50	272 239 M

Private (6 locations within 110 MPH)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
Miracle Way *	Rio	257.10	272 341 T
Pitchford Lnd **	Rio	256.20	272 338 K
Shimoner Ln **	Indrio	239.50	272 217 M
Tarmac Road **	Indrio	239.20	272 215 Y
Private Road *	Indrio	234.50	272 205 T
Private Road *	Indrio	233.90	272 204 L

* - Recommend locked gate with procedures seeking permission from R.R. dispatch to cross.

** - Recommend the Project to equip with Four-Quadrant Gates (including VPD)

Closed (17) <i>Please note: Officials from the city or county are not taking a position, one way or the other, at this time.</i>			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
179 th Street	Aventura	353.60	272 602 R
141 st Street *	North Miami Beach	356.12	272 609 N
Third Street	Hallandale	350.30	272 591 F
Monroe Street	Hollywood	349.03	272 588 X
Fillmore Street	Hollywood	348.52	272 585 C
Garfield Street	Hollywood	348.07	272 582 G
Dania Blvd *	Dania Beach	345.94	272 574 P
First Street *	Dania Beach	345.81	272 573 H
22 nd Street	Fort Lauderdale	342.96	272 566 X
9 th Street	Fort Lauderdale	341.80	272 661 N
6 th Street *	Fort Lauderdale	341.56	272 559 M
5 th Street *	Fort Lauderdale	341.45	272 558 F
2 nd Street	Pompano Beach	333.31	272 534 S
4 th Street	Deerfield Beach	327.41	272 513 Y
2 nd Street	Deerfield Beach	326.81	272 511 K
Hunter Street	West Palm Beach	303.18	272 450 W
Seaward Street **	Salerno	266.50	272 356 H

* - or possible one-way

** - only crossing to be closed along 110 MPH segment

Conclusion:

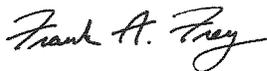
Based upon my professional background and experience in regards to grade crossing safety, I strongly recommend officials from All Aboard Florida to adhere to the principles as outlined in the FRA's guidelines for Emerging High-Speed Rail (80-110 MPH). In doing so incorporates the optimum safety practices in the engineering and design of their crossing locations for the following reasons:

- I. The operating dynamics are significantly changing within the existing environment of the grade crossings, along with an already an active freight operation that will include:
 - The addition of 16 round-trip trains (32 total) at 110 MPH
 - The eventual inclusion of Tri-rail Commuter Rail service, which will add 74 trains.
 - Changing from single track to multiple track configurations.
- II. Densely settled neighborhoods with congested roadways
- III. As many as 5 traffic lanes in the oncoming direction at T-intersections

In summary, as the travelling public begins to assimilate to a substantial increase in railroad operations – by incorporating enhanced railroad signaling technology and increased active highway warning devices are paramount to ensuring safety awareness as both entities interact with one another. Therefore, equipping crossing locations with the recommended actions, as outlined above in this report, will dramatically reduce potential safety hazards and catastrophic events.

Report Respectfully Submitted By:

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March 20, 2014



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

Office of Railroad Safety RRS-23
Highway Rail Crossing and Trespasser Program Division

ON-SITE ENGINEERING FIELD REPORT - Part 2

— All Aboard Florida —

Background:

This diagnostic safety review of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway corridor, in Brevard and Indian River counties, is the second segment that completes the territory of at-grade crossing locations for this high-speed passenger rail project known as “All Aboard Florida”. This report is a subsequent to that of Part 1, dated March 20, 2014.

The onsite assessment began on July 15, 2014 and concluded on July 18, 2014. A total of eighty-six (86) public and private grade crossings were evaluated. Participants included officials from Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), FEC, All Aboard Florida (AAF), and local city and county officials.

As the AAF passenger rail service route traverses through its grade crossing locations, it will begin/end at the Michigan Avenue grade crossing (milepost 170.56) in Cocoa¹. As the route heads northward, it splits from the FEC corridor and veers along Route 528 towards Orlando on a dedicated railroad right-of-way yet to be built. On the existing FEC corridor, there are four additional grade crossings north of the split that will be part of the signaling enhancement program for this project.

Scope:

Train speeds through Brevard and Indian River counties are being designed for 110 MPH. Beginning/ending at Dixon Boulevard² in Cocoa (milepost 171.52), the 110 MPH segment continues through Highland Drive SE in Vero Beach (milepost 232.86). There are two areas along this segment where train speeds are lowered to conventional rail limits due to civil constraints of railroad bridge structures.

As in previous onsite assessments, all of the existing crossing signaling equipment along this segment will be upgraded to the newest technology as described in the Part 1 Report.

¹ The Part 1 report incorrectly references “Cocoa Beach”, where it should have stated **Cocoa** instead. Cocoa and Cocoa Beach are two separate municipalities. The FEC corridor traverses through Cocoa, not Cocoa Beach.

² Although Michigan Ave is the last grade crossing along the AAF route, its maximum speed is 60 MPH due to the train slowing down and transitioning to and from the Route 528 corridor.

Currently the engineering design plans are at 30%. The next iteration for this segment will be at 90%, which is anticipated to be furnished within six months. Accordingly, FRA looks forward to reviewing the revised design plans at that time.

Results:

Of all the 86 grade crossings assessed in Brevard and Indian River counties, there are 64 crossing locations affected for Sealed Corridor treatments within the 110 MPH territory. The remaining crossings already have Sealed Corridor design elements in place; such as existing one-way streets, divided roadways, or have medians. In addition to accommodations for the second track, the remaining crossings would require their medians to be adjusted in length and be equipped with a minimum of 100-feet of non-traversable curbing for each approach.

As mentioned in the Part 1 Report, officials from All Aboard Florida passenger rail project (herein the "Project") did not initially adopt the "Sealed Corridor" concept as outlined in FRA's Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Guidelines for High-Speed Passenger Rail, Version 1.0 (November 2009). However, in a letter dated June 4, 2014 to the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, Florida Secretary of Transportation Ananth Prasad, P.E., stated that AAF will be required *"to comply with the Federal Railroad Administration's guidelines for rail crossing safety as specified for higher speed passenger rail services."* As a result of Secretary Prasad's letter, the Project has since directed its signals consultants to incorporate all of the Sealed Corridor design treatments where applicable along the entire AAF service route. The diagnostic team may have to re-visit the previous 57 grade crossings identified in the Part 1 Report to validate and verify compliance.

Safety Recommendations:

The following are recommendations made to the Project as a result of the on-site field assessments during the diagnostic safety review:

- A. Pedestrian gates** – there are several locations along the corridor at which sidewalks are present on both sides of the railroad right-of-way, but do not continue through the grade crossing. However, there is active collaboration between the Project and the respective municipality within Brevard and Indian River counties to correct the sidewalk continuity problems. There is a commitment on both sides to equip the existing sidewalks with pedestrian gate assemblies. Their partnership will also target existing and planned roadway

enhancement projects with adjacent sidewalks, including to pre-wire quadrants for roadway projects commencing at a later date.

FRA suggests that consideration be given to the installation of pedestrian swing gates. This would enable pedestrians on the crossing a means of egress to exit the crossing. In order to increase the effectiveness of pedestrian gates, the installation of fencing or other means of channelization should also be considered to deter pedestrians from circumventing the gates. At Four-Quadrant Gate locations, utilizing the vehicular exiting gate as a pedestrian function for sidewalks is not recommended. Separate pedestrian gates should be installed at those respective quadrants, and lowered simultaneously with the entrance gates.

- B. Vehicle Presence Detection** – as referenced in the Part 1 Report, Vehicle Presence Detection (“VPD”) is a critical safety component for those Three-Quadrant and Four-Quadrant gated grade crossings for train speeds between 80-110 MPH. Recommending the installation of a VPD system along the FEC Railway corridor in Brevard and Indian River counties is necessary for the same safety reasons as outlined in the Part 1 Report.
- C. Traffic Signal Preemption** – throughout the entire diagnostic safety review for this corridor, it has been noted that Traffic Signal Preemption (*herein* “Preemption”) will require extensive study prior to finalization of the railroad’s signal plans for this project. Preemption has become an issue of significant concern to FRA resulting in the publication of Safety Advisory SA-2010-02 and Technical Bulletin S-12-01. The following is quoted from the Technical Bulletin:

*“Highway traffic signal pre-emption interconnections play a critical role in the overall proper functioning of a highway-rail grade crossing active warning system where such interconnections exist. There are two basic types of preemption: **Simultaneous and Advanced. Simultaneous Preemption** is that which results in the initiation of the traffic signal cycle at the same time the highway-rail grade crossing warning system is activated. **Advanced Preemption** results in initiation of the traffic signal cycle prior to the grade crossing warning system being activated. The type of pre-emption installed, and any additional time required for pre-emption operation, will be determined and specified by the public agency responsible for the highway traffic signal in accordance with Section 8C.09 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.”*

In addition to the requisite for the proper design of both the crossing warning signal system and the traffic signal in terms of Preemption provisions, the FRA Safety Advisory states the need for on-going monitoring and review of grade crossings with Preemption. The Safety Advisory is grounded by two recommendations made by the National Transportation Safety Board, identified as I-96-10 and I-96-11, regarding a collision between a commuter train and a school bus in Fox River Grove, IL in 1995. The Safety Advisory makes four specific recommendations to provide for safety at Preempted locations, which can be found accompanying this report.

Due to the fact that a number of grade crossings along the corridor are proposed to be equipped with Four-Quadrant Gate warning systems, it is important to point out that the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) sets forth additional requirements for Preemption where Four-Quadrant Gates are installed. As outlined in Part 8C.06 of the MUTCD, it states the following:

"If a Four-Quadrant Gate system is used at a location that is adjacent to an intersection that could cause highway vehicles to queue within the minimum track clearance distance, the Dynamic Exit Gate Operating Mode should be used unless an engineering study indicates otherwise."

"If a Four-Quadrant Gate system is interconnected with a highway traffic signal, backup or standby power should be considered for the highway traffic signal. Also, circuitry should be installed to prevent the highway traffic signal from leaving the track clearance green interval until all of the gates are lowered."

"Four-Quadrant Gate systems should include remote health (status) monitoring capable of automatically notifying railroad or LRT signal maintenance personnel when anomalies have occurred within the system."

FRA encourages reference to Part 3.1.10 of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-Way Association (AREMA) guidelines. The information provides recommended design practices of interconnection between highway traffic signals and grade crossing warning systems. This is especially important where station stops or railroad interlockings exist within the approaches to Preempted locations.

FRA recognizes that the design and operation of preemption interconnections, from a traffic signal perspective, are outside the scope of the railroad's direct responsibility. Yet, the safety of the railroad, its employees, and the public both on the roadway and on the train are directly impacted by these systems and their potential failure to provide sufficient time to permit a vehicle or pedestrian to clear the path of an approaching train. Therefore, FRA recommends that thorough coordination take place between the public authority responsible for the operation of the traffic signals and the railroad (which in this case is FEC/AAF).

In summary, due to the inclusion of additional tracks, increase in train speeds, station stops and restarts from sidings within approaches to traffic signal interconnected grade crossings; it is recommended that a thorough evaluation be made of the Preemption needs to determine whether Simultaneous or Advanced Preemption is required at each grade crossing location along the entire AAF service route (Miami through Cocoa). FRA also recommends that an independent consulting firm with extensive expertise in the field of Preemption be part of the assessment in all of the Preempted grade crossing locations. The consultant should have expertise in both traffic signal design and operation, as well as grade crossing signal design and operation. The consultant must also be knowledgeable in the evolving changes to both the MUTCD, and the AREMA Communication & Signal Manual of Recommended Practice.

D. 100-foot Non-traversable Medians – for the purposes of the overall diagnostic assessment, non-traversable medians are also referred as FDOT'S “non-mountable traffic separators”. In particular, there are two State design standards; Type F which channelizes storm water runoff, and Type D which has no gutter function. Either design is acceptable as long as the curb meets the State's minimum 6” vertical profile design to prevent motorists from driving over the median. The 100-foot minimum length is measured from the tip of the railroad gate arm and extends along the vehicular travel lane. It is recommended that “no left turn” signs (or other means of notification) are posted to advise motorists that are exiting driveways, parking lots or streets within 100 feet of the gate arm not to travel against the flow of traffic to circumvent the purpose of the median and drive around lowered gates.

E. Sealed Corridor Treatments - the following grade crossing recommended Sealed Corridor treatments were collectively agreed upon by the Diagnostic Team. Please note that further engineering may require a Four-Quadrant location become a Three-Quadrant layout with a median (and *vice-versa*); however, the Sealed Corridor design element will remain.

Four-Quadrant Gates (also referred as exit gates) (22)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
4 th Street	Vero Beach	229.75	272 198 K
Glendale Road	Vero Beach	229.19	272 197 D
12 th Street	Vero Beach	228.66	272 196 W
23 rd Street	Vero Beach	227.31	272 191 M
26 th Street	Vero Beach	227.06	272 189 L
43 rd Street	Vero Beach	225.12	272 179 F
49 th Street	Vero Beach	224.42	272 177 S
69 th Street	Winter Beach	221.80	272 172 H
Hobart Road	Winter Beach	220.70	272 170 U
Old Dixie Hwy	Sebastian	216.00	272 163 J
Malabar Road	Malabar	199.94	272 149 N
Palm Bay Road	Palm Bay	197.46	272 147 A
Lincoln Avenue *	Melbourne	194.07	272 136 M
Silver Palm Ave	Melbourne	193.83	272 133 S
Eau Galle Blvd.	Melbourne	190.10	272 112 T
Creel Street **	Melbourne	189.92	272 123 L
Aurora Road	Melbourne	189.68	272 122 E
Masterson Street	Melbourne	189.32	272 121 X
Lake Washington	Melbourne	188.70	272 926 T
Post Road	Pineda	186.86	272 117 H
Eyster Blvd.	Rockledge	175.57	272 908 V
Peachtree Street	Cocoa	172.90	272 096 S

* - Possible one-way street, to be determined by the city's re-evaluation of a traffic study.

** - Possible Closure

100-foot Non-traversable Medians * (15)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
Highlands Drive SE	Vero Beach	232.86	272 201 R
Oslo Road	Vero Beach	231.31	272 200 J
16 th Street	Vero Beach	228.02	272 195 P
Barber Street	Sebastian	218.03	272 974 H
Senne Road	Grant Valkaria	208.13	272 154 K
Valkaria Road	Grant Valkaria	203.00	272 151 P
Jordan Blvd.	Malabar	201.50	272 150 H

University Blvd.	Melbourne	195.34	272 144 E
Strawbridge Ave	Melbourne	194.19	272 138 B
Palmetto Ave	Melbourne	194.13	272 137 U
Hibiscus Ave	Melbourne	193.75	272 132 K
So. Babcock St.	Melbourne	192.39	272 128 V
Parkway Avenue	Melbourne	187.91	272 118 P
Suntree Blvd.	Pineda	182.65	272 115 U
Rosa Jones Blvd.	Cocoa	173.51	272 099 M

*** Please note:** if for any reason the Project and the respective municipality cannot agree on the median treatment, then those location(s) are to be equipped with either a Three-Quadrant Gate with Median or a Four Quadrant Gate system.

Three-Quadrant Gates (due to a median present on the opposite side) (26)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
1 st Street	Vero Beach	230.15	272 199 S
21 st Street *	Vero Beach	227.48	272 192 U
32 nd Street	Vero Beach	226.65	273 047 Y
41 st Street	Vero Beach	225.46	272 180 A
45 th Street	Vero Beach	224.94	272 178 Y
53 rd Street	Vero Beach	223.90	273 108 M
Winter Beach Rd.	Winter Beach	222.32	272 173 P
Wabasso Road	Winter Beach	219.58	272 168 T
99 th Street	Sebastian	217.61	272 165 X
Schumann Drive	Sebastian	216.59	272 164 R
Main Street	Sebastian	214.42	272 161 V
Micco Road	Micco	209.23	272 156 Y
Barefoot Blvd.	Micco	208.99	272 155 S
Shell Pit Road	Grant Valkaria	207.13	272 153 D
1 st Street	Grant Valkaria	205.61	272 152 W
Hessey Avenue *	Palm Bay	197.36	272 146 T
East Fee Avenue	Melbourne	194.00	272 135 F
Seminole Ave **	Melbourne	193.89	272 134 Y
Sarno Road	Melbourne	190.58	272 125 A
Viera Blvd.	Bonaventure	180.28	272 976 W
Ansin Road	Bonaventure	179.40	272 110 K
Carver Road	Bonaventure	179.14	272 109 R
Gus Hipp Blvd	Rockledge	177.13	272 926 T
Barton Blvd.	Rockledge	175.02	272 101 L
Highland Drive	Cocoa	172.45	272 866 L
Dixon Blvd.	Cocoa	171.52	272 095 K

* - Possible Closure

** - Possible one-way street, to be determined by the city's re-evaluation of a traffic study.

Closed (5) Please note: Officials from the city and county are considering closure.			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
21 st Street *	Vero Beach	227.48	272 192 U
14 th Avenue	Vero Beach	227.14	272 190 F
Hessey Avenue *	Palm Bay	197.36	272 146 T
Jernigan Avenue	Melbourne	195.02	272 143 X
Creel Street **	Melbourne	189.92	272 123 L

- * - Three-Quadrant Gate with Median if unable to close
- ** - Four-Quadrant Gate layout if unable to close

Private (2 locations within 110 MPH)			
Street Name	City/Town	Milepost	DOT #
Hawks Nest	Vero Beach	223.18	272 175 D
Rinker Way *	Rockledge	176.10	272 908 V

- * - Recommend locked gate with procedures seeking permission from the railroad's Operations Dispatcher to enter.

Conclusion:

Once the construction of the grade crossings are completed, FEC and FDOT must immediately update the existing U.S. DOT Crossing Inventory record for each location to reflect the updated train counts, increased train speeds, additional signage, new ADDT numbers, etc., where applicable. FRA will continue to provide ongoing support and guidance while the Project looks towards achieving its goals relating to safe and reliable high-speed passenger rail service.

Report Respectfully Submitted By:

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