TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

INDIAN RIVER – ST. LUCIE – MARTIN – PALM BEACH

MEMORANDUM

To: Governor Rick Scott
Secretary Prasad, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Gray Swoope, President & CEO Enterprise Florida, Inc.
Mr. Jesse Panuccio, Executive Director, Department of Economic Opportunity
City/County Elected Officials
Life Sciences South Florida
Interested Parties

From: Michael J. Busha, Executive Director

Date: July 23, 2013

Subject: Expansion of Fiber Optic Cable for Public Use

At its July meeting, Council unanimously passed the attached resolution to support the installation of fiber optic cable for public use in the Florida East Coast rail corridor. The initiative to expand broadband connectivity seeks to provide an expansive, competitive, high capacity network that becomes available to all local governments, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, and non-profit biomedical institutions. The goal of this effort is to provide fiber optic cable at the time work is performed on major regional infrastructure systems. This will allow for a complex network, fundamental to ensure reliability, speed, and strength in communications.

The first and most significant opportunity to expand broadband connectivity in the region is with the All Aboard Florida project, which is a proposal by Florida East Coast Industries to introduce express passenger rail service between Miami and Orlando. A significant portion of the route follows the Florida East Coast rail corridor. This is an ideal location for the colocation of fiber technology infrastructure because it links most of the urban areas along the east coast of Florida.

Council encourages all local governments, agencies, and organizations located along the rail corridor and involved in the All Aboard Florida project to support the effort to install fiber optic cable for public use in the Florida East Coast rail corridor. We are offering the attached resolution as a model for your organization to support this unique opportunity to enhance communication capabilities throughout Florida.

Attachment

RESOLUTION #13-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REPRESENTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF INDIAN RIVER, MARTIN, PALM BEACH, AND ST. LUCIE COUNTIES, FLORIDA SUPPORTING THE INSTALLATION OF FIBER OPTIC CABLE FOR PUBLIC USE IN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAIL CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, Fiber optic technology provides a high speed broadband communication system that is a catalyst to enhance job creation, economic development, healthcare, and education; and

WHEREAS, Southeast Florida does not have fiber optic infrastructure available for public use throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the proposed All Aboard Florida project in the Florida East Coast rail corridor provides significant opportunity to expand fiber optic infrastructure in the region; and

WHEREAS, the Florida East Coast rail corridor is an ideal location for the colocation of fiber optic infrastructure because it links most of the urban areas in Southeast Florida; and

WHEREAS, fiber optic technology infrastructure could be installed in the Florida East Coast rail corridor in conjunction with planning and construction of the All Aboard Florida project; and

WHEREAS, high-speed fiber optic infrastructure and connectivity is: vital to maintain competitive schools, colleges, and universities; an important factor to attract and retain the research and biotech industry; is critical to significant job growth in the region; and

WHEREAS, Martin County has led the effort to secure installation of fiber optic cable for public use in the Florida East Coast rail corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Seven50 Southeast Florida Prosperity Plan planning process is considering the installation of fiber optic cable as a critical project to improve the economy and communications capacity in Southeast Florida.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL SUPPORTS THE INSTALLATION OF FIBER OPTIC CABLE FOR PUBLIC USE IN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAIL CORRIDOR

DULY ADOPTED by the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council this 19th day of July 2013.

Peter O'Bryan
TCRPC Chairman

Michael J. Busha
Executive Director