

All Aboard Florida (AAF) Roundtable Discussion

APA – TREASURE COAST CHAPTER

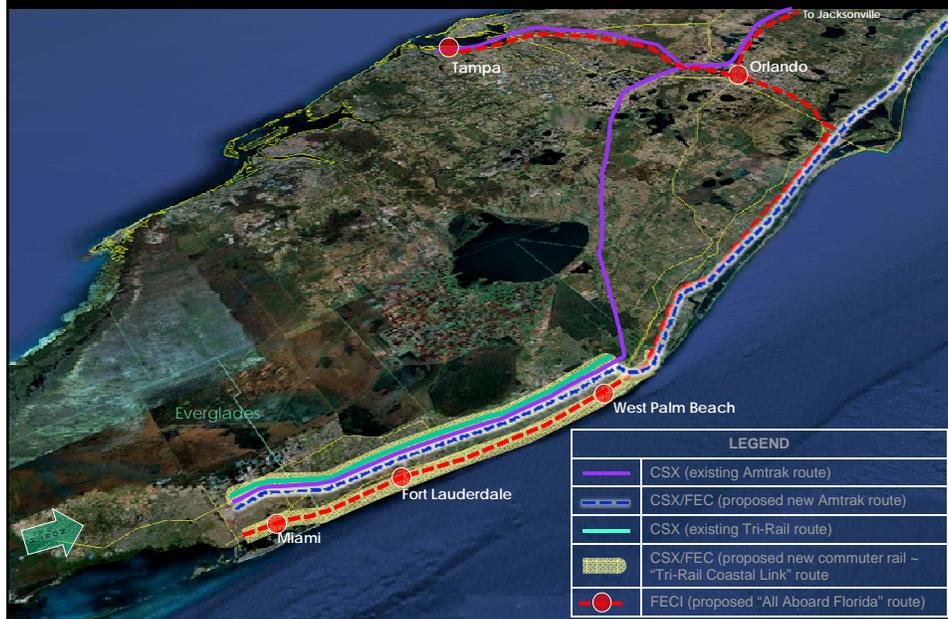
PRESENTED BY:

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TCRPC

AUGUST 22, 2014

SE Florida ~ Passenger Rail Options



All Aboard Florida (AAF) Proposal

Applicant: Florida East Coast Industries (FECI)

Project Proposal: Operation of high-speed express intercity passenger rail service on Florida East Coast (FEC) Rail Corridor & SR 528

Station Locations: Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, Orlando (235-mile route)

Service Frequency & Speeds: 16 hourly trains in each direction (6 AM – 9 PM)
Varies by Segment (up to 79, 110, 125 MPH)

Permit Activity: Environmental Assessment (EA) (completed)
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (pending)

Project Timeframe: Construction (2014)
Initial Service (2016)



AAF Project History

ACTION	TIMEFRAME
FECI: Announced “All Aboard Florida” Project	March 2012
FECI/AAF: Submittal of “RRIF” Loan Application* to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	2012
FECI/AAF: Submittal of EA Documentation (Southern “Initial” Segment)	October 2012
FECI/AAF: Received EA Approval (Southern Segment) <i>(West Palm Beach/Miami - track improvements & sidings; station platforms; grade crossings)</i>	January 2013
FRA: Conducted EIS “Scoping Meetings” (Northern Segment) <i>(West Palm Beach/Orlando - track improvements; Miami/Orlando – bridges, stations, grade crossings)</i>	May 2013

RRIF = Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program (under FRA)
EA = Environmental Assessment; EIS = Environmental Impact Statement

Minimum Considerations of an EIS

14. Contents of an Environmental Impact Statement (n): Analysis should be focused on areas of significant impact: beneficial and adverse; direct, indirect, and cumulative; and both long and short-term. There should be evidence of consultation with appropriate Federal, State and local officials. At a minimum, the following areas should be considered in the environmental analysis ...

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Air quality. | 12. Aesthetic environment & scenic resources. |
| 2. Water quality | 13. Transportation. |
| 3. Noise and vibration. | 14. Elderly & handicapped. |
| 4. Solid waste disposal. | 15. Land use. |
| 5. Natural ecological systems. | 16. Socioeconomic environment. |
| 6. Wetlands. | 17. Public health. |
| 7. Endangered species. | 18. Public safety. |
| 8. Flood hazard evaluation & floodplain management. | 19. Recreation areas & opportunities |
| 9. Coastal zone management. | 20. Environmental Justice. |
| 10. Production & consumption of energy. | 21. Sites of historical, archeological, architectural, or cultural significance. |
| 11. Use of natural resources other than energy, such as water, minerals, or timber. | 22. Construction impacts. |

FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION - PROCEDURES FOR CONSIDERING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

28554 Federal Register / Vol. 64, No. 101 / Wednesday, May 26, 1999 / Notices

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Approval Process by FRA

ACTION	TIMEFRAME
FRA Publication of "Draft EIS"	May/June 2014 <i>(per FRA estimate)</i>
FRA Public Comment Period & FRA Public Meetings	75 days <i>FRA to conduct one public meeting per county; 8 total</i>
FRA Publication of "Final EIS"	TBD
FRA Public Comment Period	30 days <i>FRA has discretion to extend</i>
FRA Issuance of "Record of Decision"	TBD

Council's Involvement in Project

Since AAF project announcement in March 2012,
Council has participated in:

Public Hearings	41
Public Workshops	29
Briefings with Elected Officials	53
Other (Neighborhood & Town Hall Meetings)	10

Council's role (in advance of the EIS): Deliver &
Collect Information to/from All Interested Parties

Council's role (after publication of Draft EIS):
Distribute, Review, Collect & Provide Comments

REV 6/3/2014

TCRPC Action on AAF (3/21/2014)

(1) Request FRA Address Key Issues in EIS

- Passenger Rail Stations
- Grade Crossings & Quiet Zones
- Bridge & Marine Navigation Conflicts
- Access to Broadband Capacity
- Freight Rationalization
- Land Use & Transportation
- Tri-Rail Coastal Link Access Negotiations
- Wildlife Impacts

(2) Extend Public Comment Period to 90 Days

(3) Request FRA "EIS Workshop" in Region for Local Governments & Agencies

Passenger Rail Stations

- Advance Amtrak/FEC Corridor Service
- Add AAF Stops in Treasure Coast
 - Stations - Stuart, Fort Pierce & Vero Beach

Grade Crossings & Quiet Zones

- Quiet Zone Funding (FECI, FDOT, TIGER Grants)
- Pedestrian Pathways at all Grade Crossings
- Consistent, Predictable & Reasonable FECI Grade Crossing Fee Schedule



Bridge & Marine Navigation Conflicts

- Reduce Impacts to Bridges
 - Synchronize trains to reduce # of closures
 - Establish limits on maximum bridge closure time
- Modernize Bridge Mechanisms & Structures
 - Establish limits on maximum bridge closure time
- Improve Safety – On-Site Bridge Tender & Add 2nd (western) Police Boat & Dock in Tequesta



St. Lucie River FEC RR Bridge



Loxahatchee River FEC RR Bridge

Access to Broadband Capacity

- Discounted Broadband Access Rate for Public & Not-for-Profit Institutions
 - Local Governments, Agencies, Educational Users, Hospitals & BioTech/BioMed Users

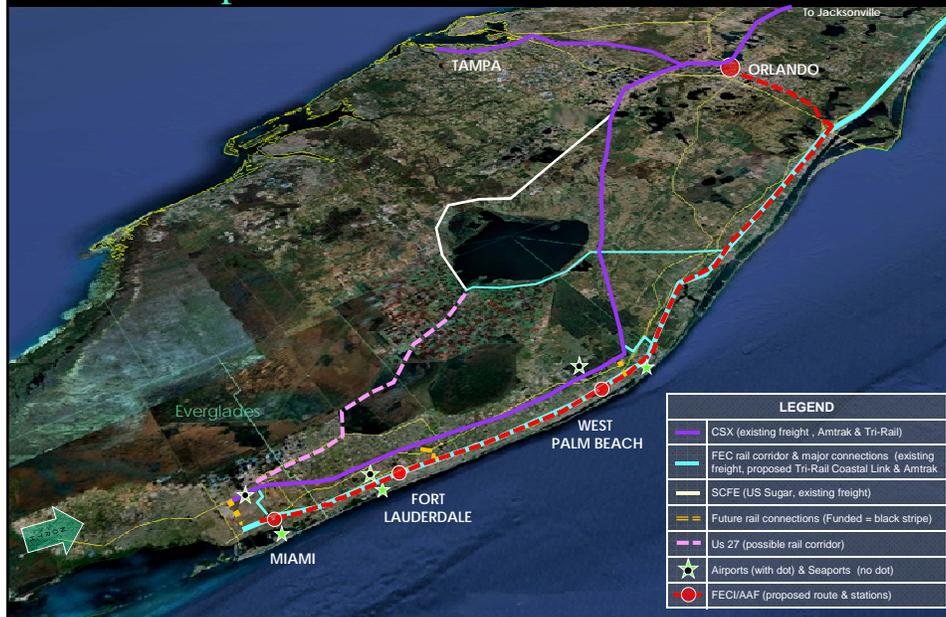


Freight Rationalization

- Balance Rail Activity on Rail Network
 - Freight & passenger on both FEC & CSX rail corridors
- Create Future Rail Demand Model (passenger & freight; CSX & FEC)



Southeast Florida Rail Network & Proposed "All Aboard Florida" Route



Land Use & Transportation Impacts

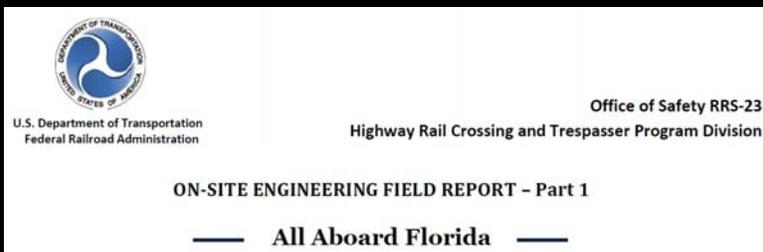
- Impacts in Historic Downtowns
 - Downtown parking, landscaping, transportation
- Impacts to Property Values
- Impacts to Traffic & Emergency Response



Other Issues

- Impacts on Wildlife & Listed Species
- Benefit/Cost Analysis
- Extend Public Comment Period to 90 Days

FRA Safety Report (4/8/2014)



- Focus of Report: West Palm Beach to St. Lucie County
- Trespassing is an “epidemic” along the corridor
- AAF should install pedestrian gates for sidewalks
- AAF should follow “sealed corridor” guidelines

AAF “Clearinghouse” on TCRPC Website

- Establish Central Location for Project-Related Documents & Reports

- EA & EIS Documents
- Agency Reports
- Local Government Comments

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL
PLANNING COUNCIL
www.tcrpc.org

- Project Status & Timeline

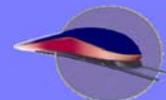
- Project-Related Contact Information

- Federal Railroad Administration
- US Department of Transportation
- U.S. Coast Guard
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Congressional Delegation
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Water Management Districts
- MPOs, TPOs
- Local Governments in the Region
- Legislative Delegation

“Sealed Corridor” Requirement

- FDOT is the State Authority for Rail Safety
- No State HSR Guidelines, Only FRA
- FDOT Requirement for AAF to Comply with “Emerging HSR Guidelines”
- Safety Report Pending
 - Part 1 – WPB/St. Lucie (March 2014)
 - Part 2 – Indian River/Brevard (Aug 2014)

Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Guidelines
for High-Speed Passenger Rail



Office of Railroad Safety
Office of Railroad Development

Latest Actions

- PBC/Broward Quiet Zones:
 - Workshop with FRA & AAF (Aug 2014)
 - Support for 2 County-scale quiet zones
 - Sufficient MPO \$ to cover costs
 - Concurrent with AAF Phase 1
 - TIGER Grant Application Pending
- FDOT to Require Compliance with HSR Guidelines:
 - Sealed Corridor Requirement (WPB/Cocoa)
 - Safety Report Part II Pending

Latest Actions

- FDOT Quiet Zone Grant Program:
 - \$10 Million total (50/50 matching)
 - Match must be local \$
 - Letters of Interest due September
- Tri-Rail Coastal Link Implications:
 - Rail Connection at Miami Station
 - Delayed Negotiations for Access Terms
 - Project Development Stage
- Amtrak/FEC Project:
 - Project Funding Remains in FDOT Budget
 - Project on Hold Pending AAF Decisions

