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

Legend:
- CSX (existing Amtrak route)
- CSX/FEC (proposed new Amtrak route)
- CSX (existing Tri-Rail route)
- CSX/FEC (proposed new commuter rail – Tri-Rail Coastal Link route)
- FECI (proposed “All Aboard Florida” route)
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: 16 hourly trains in each direction (6 AM – 9 PM)
& Speeds: 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

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

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Air quality.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Water quality</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Noise and vibration.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Solid waste disposal.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Natural ecological systems.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Wetlands.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Endangered species.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Flood hazard evaluation &amp; floodplain management.</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Coastal zone management.</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Production &amp; consumption of energy.</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>Use of natural resources other than energy, such as water, minerals, or timber.</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Aesthetic environment &amp; scenic resources.</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Transportation.</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Land use.</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Socioeconomic environment.</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Public health.</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Public safety.</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Recreation areas &amp; opportunities</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Sites of historical, archeological, architectural, or cultural significance.</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Construction impacts.</td>
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## Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Approval Process by FRA

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<th>ACTION</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRA Publication of “Draft EIS”</td>
<td>May/June 2014 (per FRA estimate)</td>
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</table>
| FRA Public Comment Period & FRA Public Meetings | 75 days  
*FRA to conduct one public meeting per county; 8 total* |
| FRA Publication of “Final EIS” | TBD |
| FRA Public Comment Period | 30 days  
*FRA has discretion to extend* |
| FRA Issuance of “Record of Decision” | TBD |
Council’s Involvement in Project

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Public Hearings</td>
<td>41</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Workshops</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Briefings with Elected Officials</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Neighborhood &amp; Town Hall Meetings)</td>
<td>10</td>
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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

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](image1)
![Loxahatchee River FEC RR Bridge](image2)
**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)

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**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

- 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)
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
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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