FEC CORRIDOR QUIET ZONES IN PALM BEACH COUNTY

HYPOLUXO TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTATION
- OCTOBER 2015

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL
on behalf of the Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization

“All Aboard Florida” Proposed Service

ALL ABOARD FLORIDA

- ALL ABOARD FLORIDA’s roots trace back to Florida East Coast’s historic Purple Train. Its revival to met modern rail travel standards is a major initiative for Palm Beach County.

100% PRIVATE

6,000 CONSTRUCTION JOBS FOR FLORIDANS

50 MILLION TRAVELERS

56+ BILLION

3 MILLION CARS OFF THE ROAD

- This new rail service will provide a highly efficient and affordable alternative to current travel options.

- Expected benefits include reduced traffic congestion, improved air quality, and enhanced economic opportunities.

- Estimated annual economic impact: $56 billion.
What is a Quiet Zone?

• Established in accordance with the regulatory provisions contained in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 222 and 229 Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings

• Defined as a segment of rail line within which is situated one or a number of consecutive at grade roadway rail crossings at which locomotive horns are not routinely sounded.

Train Horn Regulations (CFR)

• Sound train horns at least 15 seconds – and not more than 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings.

• For trains traveling faster than 60 mph, no train horn sounded within ¼ mile of the crossing, even if the advance warning is less than 15 seconds.

• "Good faith" exceptions.

• Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern of 2 long, 1 short and 1 long blasts – pattern repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing.

• Maximum volume level for the train horn is 110 decibels (a new requirement). The minimum sound level remains 96 decibels.
When can there be a Quiet Zone?

- 2005 Federal Railroad administration (FRA) rule allows horns not to sound if certain safety measures are in place at crossings.
- Operator can still sound horn at their discretion if they see a dangerous situation.
- No minimum or maximum number of crossings and must be at least ½ mile long.
- Crossing must have active warning systems, and modern features like constant warning time & power-out indicators.

Steps To Establish a Quiet Zone

- Diagnostic Field Review
- Quiet Zone Evaluation
  - Notice of Intent by Local Jurisdiction
  - Installation of Improvements
  - Notice of Establishment by Local Jurisdictions
Lantana/Hypoluxo Quiet Zone

NEW INFRASTRUCTURE (funded by PB MPO):

• Installation of “Exit Gates” at Lantana Road, Hypoluxo Road & Miner Road

• All are County Roads and managed (funded) by Palm Beach County

Example of Four-Quadrant Gates