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

Permit Context: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Pursuant to $1.6 Billion Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing (RRIF) Application

Lead Agency: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)

Publication Date: September 19, 2014

Comment Deadline: December 3, 2014
Project Summary

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

Service Frequency: 16 hourly trains in each direction (6 AM – 9 PM)

Project Timeframe: Initial Service (2016)

Project Phasing:

Phase 1: West Palm Beach to Miami

Phase 2: West Palm Beach to Orlando

- N-S Corridor (West Palm Beach/Cocoa)
- E-W Corridor (Cocoa/Orlando)
- MCO Segment (Orlando Int’l Airport)
**Project Map**

Phase 1

- WPB-M Corridor
  - 66.5 miles

Phase 2

- E-W Corridor
  - 32.5 miles

- N-S Corridor
  - 128.5 miles

- MCO Segment
  - 2.5 miles
Findings of Draft Council Report

Conclusions

- AAF Project Represents the Potential for Significant Improvements to the FEC Railway and Substantial Impacts on the Region’s Transportation Network, Land Use Patterns; Natural, Physical & Social Environment; and the Economy.

- DEIS Does Not Provide Sufficient Data & Analysis in Several Key Areas for a Thorough Analysis at the Regional & Local Level
Broad Recommendations

1) Address Data Deficiencies

2) Include More Thorough Analysis of Project Costs & Benefits and Mitigation Measures & Alternatives

3) Establish Stronger Measures to Mitigate Local & Regional Impacts to Provide a Better Balance among Competing Forms of Transportation
Land Use

- Include Consistency Analysis of All Relevant Comprehensive Plans & CRA Plans with Additional Mitigation Measures
- Evaluate New Alternative with Stations in Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties
- Confirm Track Dimensions in Downtown Stuart
- Confirm Location of Storage Track near St. Lucie Village
Transportation

• Conduct Revised Transportation Analysis
  • Current Year Traffic Data
  • Emergency Access Routes
  • Expanded Sample of Grade Crossings
  • Roadway Intersections near Grade Crossings
  • Consideration of Additional Vehicular Delays

• Require Pre-Emption at Grade Crossings

• Require Connector Road at West Palm Beach Station
Marine Navigation

- Evaluate New Alternative with Fewer Trains on FEC & Shift of Freight to CSX/Other Corridor

- Conduct Revised Marine Navigational Study
  - Extensive Data Deficiencies: Boater Data, Marina Locations, Number of Slips, Boater Access
  - Safety Issues from Queuing
  - Boating Activity across 24-Hour Spectrum

- Consider Physical Bridge Improvements
  - Taller, Wider Openings; New Mechanics

- Consider Taylor Creek Improvements
Transit Systems

• Include Tri-Rail Service Operations, Access & Accommodation in Stations

• Consider Local Transit Service Delays

Bicycle/Pedestrian Circulation

• Require Bicycle/Pedestrian Infrastructure at all Crossings & One-Mile Spacing in Key Locations

• Require Fencing for Pedestrian Safety & Multi-Use Pathway
Public Safety

• Emergency Response Traffic Analysis
  • Vehicle Trips, Route Data
  • Access to Hospitals, Key Routes

• Provide Real-Time Information For Emergency Dispatch

• Provide 2nd Emergency Vessel at Loxahatchee Bridge
Noise & Vibration

- Evaluate all Historic Buildings & Structures & Raleigh Waves
- Provide Quiet Zone Infrastructure

Hazardous Materials & Solid Waste

- Analyze Impacts & Response for Hazardous Materials Spills near Passenger Trains
- Provide Data for All Transported Chemicals
Historic & Cultural Resources

• Conduct Revised Analysis including All Historic Districts & Structures

Environmental Justice

• Provide Additional Information to Assess Impacts on Environmental Justice Populations
  • Access to Work & School
  • Neighborhood Fragmentation
  • Impact on Transportation Disadvantaged
Economic Conditions

• Conduct Revised Cost/Benefit Analysis
  • Impacts on Local Governments, Businesses, Property Owners & Residents
  • Positive & Negative Impacts on Property Values
  • Impacts to Marine & Related Industries
  • Operations & Maintenance Costs

• Develop Reasonable, Predictable Fee Structure for Grade Crossing Improvements
Council should Approve the Report and Authorize its Transmittal to the Federal Railroad Administration as Part of the Public Record