CSX ~ FEC
A Public Charrette to Evaluate the CSX~FEC Connection and Design Station Locations in West Palm Beach

January 9, 2010
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

A Multi-Agency Process...

Florida Department of Transportation
City of West Palm Beach
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council
RTA
CRA

... that includes the Community!
Charrette Steering Committee

James Drayton
Dr. Karl Foose
Glen Harvie
James Irving
Gail Levine
Phil Materio
Neil Merin
Penny Payne
Nancy Pullum
Jose Rodriguez
Rick Rose
Ulysses Smith

Brenda Kelly and Alex Hansen

Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Fun Facts

• One of eleven RPC’s
• Four counties
• 50 Municipalities
• 1.8 million people
• 3700 square miles
Our Objective Today:

Clarify the Rail Transit Discussion;
Get Public Input on 2 Key Transit Components:

1. Station Locations and Design
2. Railway “Connector” Location

The “Father” of the Florida East Coast Railroad (FEC)

Henry Flagler
Established in 1987
Runs on CSX
Miami to Mangonia Park

Current Condition

**Tri-Rail**
(Miami-Mangonia Park on the CSX)

**Amtrak**
(Miami-Jacksonville on the CSX)

No Passenger Service on the FEC
40 Years Without Passenger Transit on the FEC

Congestion or Mobility
52 extra hours per year are spent stuck in traffic by the average S. Fla. Commuter (up from 30 hours in 1990)
The South Florida East Coast Corridor Study
SFECC Overview

- Began September 2005
- Focus on **NORTH-SOUTH** mobility issues
- 85-mile study area centered on the FEC Alignment
  - Encompasses Tri-Rail and future FEC alternatives
  - Addresses EAST-WEST and other feeder connections
  - An integrated network

Florida East Coast Railway

- Mostly a 100-Foot Corridor
  - One or Two Main Line Tracks
  - 26 Daily Freight Trains
- Links Regional CBDs
  - Miami
  - Fort Lauderdale
  - West Palm Beach
- Traverses Core of Communities East of the Interstate Corridor
  - Re-establishing the link around which they were formed
**SFECC Service Concepts**

- An integrated network
  - Tri-Rail, local transit and new SFECC services working in unison

- Combination of local & express services
  - Balance travel speed with local access

- Regional services converge at downtown West Palm Beach

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**Passenger Transit Service IS Coming to the FEC**

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**SFECC Core Concepts**

1. Restore Passenger Transit Service to FEC Corridor (*Flagler’s Old Line*)
2. Extend Existing Tri-Rail Service North to Jupiter (*on FEC Corridor*)
A Bird’s Eye View of Florida

Amtrak
POTENTIAL NEW STATIONS (East Coast)
- St Augustine
- Daytona Beach
- Titusville
- Melbourne
- Cocoa Beach/Port Canaveral
- Vero Beach
- Fort Pierce
- Stuart

EXISTING STATIONS (East Coast)
Jacksonville ... West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Miami

Other Existing Stations include Orlando, Tampa, Winter Park, Sanford, Lakeland, and more.

KEY COMPONENTS
(SF ECC + Amtrak)
Future N-S Service on FEC
Extend Tri-Rail Service North of WPB
Provide New Amtrak Service From Jacksonville to Miami Through WPB
Create Required Connector
It Takes More Than Just Tracks and Stations

Well Designed and Appropriate Land Uses are Critical

TOD vs. TAD

• Transit Oriented Development vs.
• Transit Adjacent Development
  – Auto-oriented uses
  – Large surface parking lots
  – Suburban office campuses
  – Big-box format retail
  – Pedestrian unfriendly
Earlier TOD Planning Efforts

West Palm Beach ~ TOD

Jupiter ~ TOD

Lake Worth ~ TOD

What is a TOD?

An Urban Neighborhood
Elements Of Competitive And Livable Urban Neighborhoods

- Public spaces, parks and plazas
- A variety of quality housing opportunities
- Great neighborhoods/great streets
- Transportation and mobility
- Civic and Cultural institutions
- Educational Opportunities
- Convenient shopping and entertainment
- Proper parking strategies
- Commitment to Good Design

“Livability is an economic imperative”
Robert Solow
Nobel prize-winning economist

Public Spaces, Parks, and Plazas

Already Many Great Examples

Without them, Cities would Not be livable
A Variety of Housing Opportunities

Great Streets

Need to be Walkable and Valuable
A Commitment to Good Design

3 Primary Goals of This Charrette...

1. Identify and Design Up-To 8 Stations on FEC

2. Identify and Design “Connector” Location Between CSX/FEC

3. ENGAGE THE PUBLIC
Potential Station Locations on FEC

- 45th Street
- Northwood
- Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.
- Downtown
- Okeechobee Blvd.
- Belvedere Road
- Southern Blvd.
- Forest Hill Blvd.

Important to Make the Most of this Investment

Station Locations on FEC

45th Street
Station Locations on FEC

Northwood

Station Locations on FEC

Palm Beach Lakes Boulevard
Station Locations on FEC

Downtown/Okeechobee

Station Locations on FEC

Belvedere Road
Station Locations on FEC

Southern Boulevard

Station Locations on FEC

Forest Hill Boulevard
Station Locations on FEC

Forest Hill Boulevard

SFECC Station “Typology”

City Center

Town Center

Neighborhood Station

Employment Center Station
SFECC Station “Typology”

Local Park-n-Ride

Regional Park-n-Ride

Airport / Seaport

Special Event Venue

Potential CSX/FEC “Connector” Locations

CSX

Northwood

Banyan Blvd.

Multi-Modal

WPB Golf Course

FEC
Potential CSX/FEC “Connector” Locations

CSX

Northwood

Banyan Blvd.

FEC

45th Street

Northwood

Banyan Boulevard

Potential CSX/FEC “Connector” Locations

FEC

45th Street

CSX
Potential CSX/FEC “Connector” Locations

At this time, the Northwood location seems most feasible

~ Preserves Seaboard Station
~ Area is older, industrial uses
~ No direct neighborhood impacts
~ Within NW/P C CRA
Potential CSX/FEC “Crossover” Locations

The Northwood location also poses design challenges.
Who Benefits from Enhanced Passenger Rail Service in West Palm Beach?
Residents & Special Events

Bringing Patrons into the City & Providing Regional Access for Residents

Lodging & Hospitality
Educational and Cultural Institutions

A Diversified Regional Economy
Successful Economic Regions

Have Successful Transit

Local Employers

Seattle

Research Triangle
Who Benefits From Transit?

They Do!

A Paradigm Shift
Going Green

Taking Transit to Work is the Best Way to Reduce Household Carbon Footprint
Science Applications International Corporation (2007)

A Paradigm Shift

Region fuming over gas prices

In August, 72 percent of statewide price-gouging complaints to Attorney General Charlie Crist were registered from people on the Treasure Coast.
By Nadia Gorga staff writer

Soaring gasoline prices have inflamed Treasure Coast motorists and sparked a rash of complaints to state officials.

In 2002 it was estimated that because of congestion in South Florida, 221 Million Gallons of excess fuel was consumed.
Texas Trans. Inst., 2004 Urban Mobility Study

TOD’s Help to Provide a 30% Reduction in Overall Energy Consumption
A Paradigm Shift

Bicycling in U.S. is Risky Business

The U.S. has never encouraged cycling as a practical mode of travel, and as a result, biking to work is a rare and hazardous activity, with four times the fatality rate of some European countries. A Rutgers University study shows how that can change.

Tri-Rail Improvements

Ridership Just Keeps Climbing!

3 million ride Tri-Rail for second straight year

Since the completion of a second track on the 72-mile South Florida rail corridor in March 2006, Tri-Rail ridership is up more than 31 percent.

The highest single ridership day as private vehicles.

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The highest single ridership day as private vehicles.
"Let our advance worrying become advance thinking and planning."
-- Winston Churchill

Why Transit?

For Every $1 Spent on Transit, There is an $8 Return.

(in increased productivity, reduction of fuel consumption, increased land values, and reduced road construction)

SOURCE: Cambridge-Systematics
Each New Station & TOD is Unique to its Context

Different Sizes
Different Scales
Varying Uses

What Will Yours Be?
(and how will it connect to destinations and influence land uses in the area?)

The Public Process
What to Expect Today…

Controlled Chaos

The Public Process: Planning for the Future
DAY 1: 10 am – 3 pm
The Citizens’ Ideas

Kids have some of the best ideas
DAYS 2 through 7: Public Design Studio
CityPlace (on Rosemary across from Macy’s)

TWO NEW
WEST PALM BEACH - CSX-FEC CONNECTOR
CHARRETTE PRESENTATIONS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010
Harriet Himmel Theater
700 S Rosemary Avenue
CityPlace, West Palm Beach

TRAIN NOISE IMPACT DEMONSTRATION
6:30 pm
Come experience the noise levels of different train technologies.
Presentation by Ahmed A. El-Askar, Ph.D., INCE, ASA, Environmental Acoustics
Incorporated.

URBAN RETAILING TECHNIQUES AND TRENDS
7:15 pm
Internationally recognized retail expert Bob Gibbs of Gibbs Planning Group will present.

And please visit the Design Studio on Rosemary Avenue across from Macy’s.
We work all day ...

... and into the night
DAY 7 (Friday) - 6:00 pm: Presentation of “Work in Progress” at WPB Commission Chambers
Charrette Rules

• Sign Your Name
• No Speeches
• Argue With Your Pencils
• No Idea is a Bad Idea
• Assign a Presenter
• Do Not Think About Money (just for today!)
• HAVE FUN!!!
The CSX/FEC Charrette timeline…

~ Approve Resolutions to proceed

~ Establish Charrette Steering Committee (completed by August 26th)

~ Begin Steering Committee Meetings/Charrette Logistics (1st week of September)

~ Charrette Week (October 17th through October 23rd)
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Thank You

August 10, 2009
Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council

Why Is All of this Important?