



Florida **NOT** All Aboard

What's "All Aboard Florida?"

A proposal for 32 passenger trains a day on the existing Florida East Coast tracks between Miami and Cocoa. New track will be built from Cocoa to Orlando along SR 528. Passenger trains will run during the day and share the tracks with the freight trains, which run on a 24-hour schedule. AFF says the passenger trains will be "high-speed", traveling up to 125 mph, but given the number of bridges and road crossings, those high speeds are hard to imagine.

Who owns AAF? Fortress Investment Group, the owner of Florida East Coast Railroad and a publicly traded, New York City-based investment firm.

Will this be privately financed? No, AFF has applied for federal government financing which is reportedly around \$1.5 billion. They will use this, in part, to build a second track on the right-of-way they already own.

Where are the train stations? Orlando, Miami, West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

Will the freight trains continue to operate on the same rail? Freight trains will also travel along the corridor and are expected to stop at several designated locations allowing passenger trains to pass. The combined number of trains is estimated to be greater than 45 per day.

What about Emergency Response times? This is a great concern for many of the communities. More trains and longer freight trains could mean a much slower response time and some communities will be split in half.

What about boat traffic passing under rail bridges? More trains will mean less time for the bridges to open.

What safeguards will be put into place? An environmental impact study is underway for the entire project from Miami to Orlando and mitigation plans have yet to be released. Preliminary EIS is expected this spring, and a comment period will allow concerns to be recorded. Concerns can be recorded during public scheduled meeting and submitted to FRA through using the internet.

How loud are the train horns? Noise pollution from train horns will be 96-110 decibels, which is equivalent to a power saw at three feet. Warning horns must blow at every crossing. Anything done to reduce the noise such as building Quiet Zones must be paid by the local taxpayers.

What are Quiet Zones and who pays for them? Quiet zones are installed at grade crossings and simulate actual train horn sounds, eliminating the need for the train operator to blow the horn. Communities can install quiet zones at the taxpayer's expense at \$100,000's per installation.

Can AAF build new or use the westerly tracks that go between West Palm Beach to Orlando? Yes, but AAF is not considering this option as it does not own them. Nor are they considering building new tracks to the west.

Want to help? Sign the on-line petition and write to your elected officials. The website has sample letters, names and contact information.



Florida NOT All Aboard
Let's stop Big Choo Choo in his tracks.

www.floridanotallaboard.com

Sign the petition! <http://tinyurl.com/floridanotallaboard>