

RESOLUTION NO. 15-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF GULF STREAM, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR THE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA BUSINESS PLAN; ASKING LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO ASSIST THE TOWN IN MITIGATING SAID CONCERNS; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, All Aboard Florida (AAF), a subsidiary of Florida East Coast Industries (FEC) plans to add 32 daily high speed passenger train trips between Miami/Orlando on current and expanded freight train tracks passing through densely populated downtown areas from Miami to West Palm Beach, and is forecasting future increases in existing 20 daily freight train trips on these same tracks, due to an improving global economy and expansion of intermodal freight cargo capacity in Port Miami and Port Everglades, and

WHEREAS, to ameliorate the impact of this increase in railroad traffic on public safety and quality of life, certain gate, median, and pedestrian sidewalk improvements are proposed and tentatively funded for 83 total FEC railroad crossings between Boca Raton and West Palm Beach in Palm Beach County, as well as the establishment of continuous "quiet zones" at crossings from one end of the country to the other, and

WHEREAS, the cities of Delray Beach and Boynton Beach directly bordering the Town of Gulf Stream have a total of 23 such crossings, one of which is approximately 200 yards from Town's western border on Gulf Stream Boulevard, a well-traveled public route to local daycare centers, schools, and the area's only nearby hospital, and

WHEREAS, the cities of Delray Beach and Boynton Beach provide essential services to residents of the Town of Gulf Stream, such as Fire/EMS, water, sanitary sewer, hospital, commercial and recreational enterprises, all of which may be affected by substantial impacts on public safety, quality of life, pollution, and possibly property value as rail traffic increases through their town corridor, and

WHEREAS, residents of Delray Beach, Boynton Beach and the Town of Gulf Stream will see virtually no tangible benefit from increased freight traffic and proposed new passenger traffic, other than more secure crossing gates and "quiet zones", and

WHEREAS, residents of northern Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast Counties are similarly impacted, particularly with respect to road and marine traffic at or near sensitive bridge crossings, and

WHEREAS, a broad swath of citizen and professional organizations have questioned the need for, and economic viability of a high speed railroad passenger train with only two stops between Miami and Orlando, and are further concerned that taxpayers will bear the burden if the system fails to meet commercial objectives;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF GULF STREAM, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS;

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are acknowledged and incorporated into the body of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Town Commission of the Town of Gulf Stream supports safety and calming measures for at-grade crossings to reduce or eliminate the need for train horns when approaching public highway easements, as well as four quadrant gates and other measures to deter motorists from being stranded in the path of approaching trains. These improvements will benefit the community whether or not All Aboard Florida or any other passenger train service will utilize FEC tracks in Palm Beach County.

Section 3. The Town Commission of the Town of Gulf Stream urges all governmental bodies, including the Federal Railroad Administration and other regulatory and policy agencies who review All Aboard Florida plans, to assure that (1) all environmental impact analyses have been conducted and ruled upon for the entire passenger route from West Palm Beach to Orlando; (2) no taxpayer funds are at risk should the AAF project be privately financed and later become worthless, or AAF is unable to continue as a going business; (3) local Metropolitan Planning Organizations should continue to seek alternative solutions for sharing existing FEC and CSX track capacity between freight, high speed passenger, and short haul commuter trains, particularly in Palm Beach County.

Section 4. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Approved, passed and adopted by the Town Commission of the Town of Gulf Stream, Palm Beach County, Florida, in a regular session assembled this 10th day of April 2015.

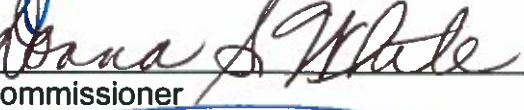
TOWN OF GULF STREAM



Mayor



Commissioner



Commissioner

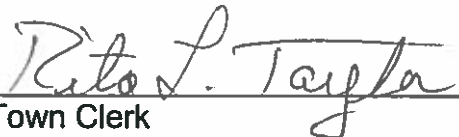


Commissioner



Commissioner

ATTEST



Town Clerk

P:\DOCS\13147\00001\DOC\1DL4258.DOC