

Realtor Association of Martin County is NOT All Aboard!

Not on Board with All Aboard Florida

In Case You Missed It: This article was previously published by RAMC in the Sunday Real Estate Section of the Stuart News Sunday, May 4, 2014

After carefully studying as much of the available information as possible, the members of the REALTOR® Association of Martin County must express our serious concerns about the proposed high-speed rail plan All Aboard Florida.

Moreover, we're especially concerned about impending increases in freight-train traffic—which can stretch as long as 2 miles—running through our county on Florida East Coast Industries' eastern tracks. Many of these concerns have already been addressed by the residents of Martin County, as well as by the Martin County Board of County Commissioners and our neighbors to the north and south.

As REALTORS® we are strong proponents of private-property rights. Yet when the rights of one corporation—potentially supported by billions in tax dollars—infringe upon the rights and values of many property owners in our cherished community, we are compelled to speak up.

The proposal from Florida East Coast Industries—the parent company of All Aboard Florida—has prompted many news-agency and citizen investigations. Overwhelmingly, those reports conclude that passenger rail service may not be the only goal of FECCI. It seems that the widening of the Panama Canal and the doubling of FECCI's freight yard in Hialeah—with tracks leading straight to the Port of Miami—is causing many to conclude that accommodating the increasing number of freight trains is the actual intent of All Aboard Florida.

By FECCI's own account, the amount of freight that will come through the Port of Miami will increase 30% upon the completion of the widening of the Panama Canal.

Although FECCI markets All Aboard Florida as a privately funded enterprise, the community is now well aware that the project is pursuing a grant from the Federal Railroad Administration to the tune of \$1.5 - \$2.5 billion dollars.

Without question, All Aboard Florida will significantly transform life in Martin County. The project bisects our county, which has 28 rail crossings of roadways. The proposal adds 32 daily trains to the existing corridor.
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