

To: Delray Beach City Commissioners
From: Robert Victorin, President BPOA Board of Trustees
cc: BPOA Membership
Subject: Resolution to oppose All Abroad Florida (AAF) Project

The BPOA Board of Trustees recommends that the Delray Beach City Commissioners pass a resolution to oppose the proposed AAF project. Our recommendation is based on the following major issues that will impact the Barrier Island and the city of Delray Beach with AAF's plan to run 32 high speed passenger trains per day between Miami and Orlando. The passenger trains will be operated as an express service with only two other stops located in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. The rail lines used for this planned service will be the FEC corridor which runs through the heart of our downtown and not the CSX corridor used by Tri-Rail just west of I-95. The current FEC single track in Delray Beach will need to be expanded to a double track to support this project.

The improved track capacity is also anticipated to allow increasing the number of freight trains used along the FEC line. Currently, freight trains longer than two miles run through our downtown all hours of the day and are the source of the loud train horns that can be heard at all times all the way to the beach. A single train can be the source of some two dozen horn blasts as it traverses the numerous street crossings of the city. Although promises have been issued that crossing barriers will be improved to allow quiet zones and eliminate the requirement for horn blasts, this involves an integrated effort and funding between numerous private and public entities and is not yet a sure thing. Information has also appeared in various sources discussing possibly linking the proposed AAF service with commuter services such as Tri-Rail on the more western CSX tracks. The current AAF plans only address the stand-alone system using the FEC tracks with the four express train stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach, and Orlando.

City residents including those on the Barrier Island will be personally affected by the proposed AAF. Specifically, the approximately 2,000 residential units that are in close proximity to the tracks will be inconvenienced most by the loud horns and feel the train vibrations. In addition, every one will experience the effects of major traffic gridlock caused by more frequent gate closings. This in turn will prevent emergency vehicles from properly functioning and providing the necessary emergency services, often times involved with saving a life where every second counts. In the event of a hurricane warning, the Barrier Island would be most vulnerable to extended delays in evacuation.

There is a good possibility that property values and taxes would be reduced as well as income from tourism that would also trickle down to the Barrier Island resulting in reduced property values. These are some of the many

quality of life issues that will potentially occur unless AAF can be shifted from traveling through the highly populated streets of the coastal communities from Miami to Orlando. An important consideration is that the benefit of the proposed passenger trains is not directly available to Delray Beach residents in that we do not have a nearby stop; this is not a local commuter train. In addition, the line runs through the heart of the downtown and residential areas and not through less populated or industrial corridors.

We request the City Commission to protect all residents and respond by passing a resolution to oppose this problematic AAF project.

Florida NOT All Aboard