

All Aboard Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Project – Orlando to Miami

Prepared for **Federal Railroad Administration**
Washington, D.C.

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1

Scoping Process

1.1 Introduction

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has initiated a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) evaluation of the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF).

FRA is evaluating the 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system proposed by AAF that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (the Project). The purpose of the NEPA review will be to provide FRA, cooperating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need, to evaluate potential environmental impacts, and to identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

As required by NEPA, FRA conducted a series of scoping meetings to determine the scope and contents of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This document summarizes the scoping process, the meetings held, and the comments received. This report also details public notice for the meetings, the information provided at the meetings, and the attendance.

1.2 Project Description

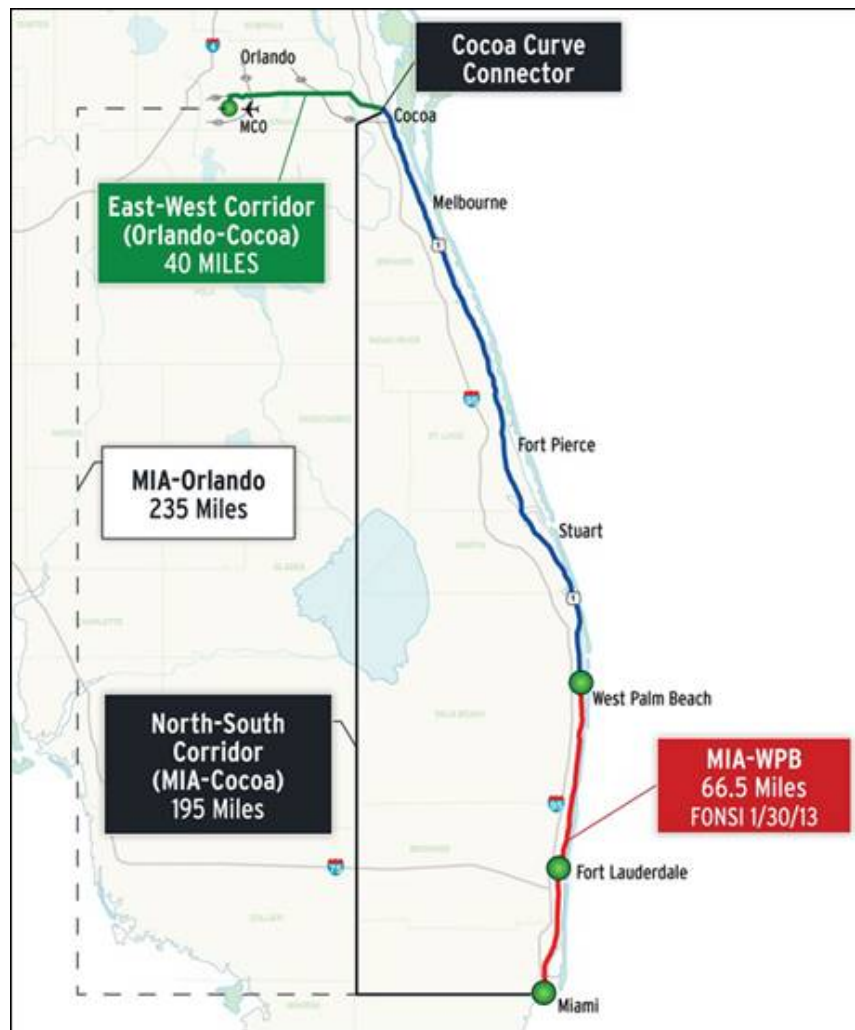
AAF is proposing to construct and operate an intercity passenger rail service between Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale. As AAF intends to apply for a loan under the FRA's Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing Program, the FRA must consider the potential environmental impacts resulting from the project pursuant to NEPA. AAF previously completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 4(f) Evaluation for intercity passenger rail service between Miami and West Palm Beach, Florida (the southernmost segment of the Project). FRA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the EA in January 2013. To the extent that actions in this

corridor have not changed since the EA, these would not be part of the proposed action. As shown in **Figure 1-1**, the proposed Project is composed of two connected corridors:

- A north-south corridor of approximately 195 miles from Cocoa to Miami within an existing, active freight rail right-of-way, and
- An east-west corridor of approximately 40 miles from Orlando International Airport (MCO) to Cocoa, general parallel to existing State Road 528 (Beachline Expressway).

The proposed Orlando to Miami passenger rail project would extend the service evaluated in the EA to MCO, and would use stations developed for the West Palm Beach to Miami service located in the central business districts of West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami. The proposed MCO station is expected to be developed by the Greater Orlando Airport Authority.

Figure 1-1: Proposed Project



Source: AAF, 2013.

1.3 Notice of Intent

On April 15, 2012, the FRA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register (see **Appendix A**). The NOI provided a brief description of the proposed Project. The NOI outlined the environmental review process and the Project background. The notice also included an announcement of the FRA's intent to conduct public and agency scoping meetings.

The NOI sought participation of interested Federal, state, and local governmental agencies, Native American groups, and other concerned private organizations and individuals. The NOI invited comments on the scope of the EIS, including the purpose and need, alternatives to be considered, impacts to be evaluated, and methodologies to be used in the evaluation. The NOI provided the public with e-mail and mailing addresses to submit scoping comments. The NOI requested comments by May 15, 2013.

1.4 Agency Scoping Meeting

Agency representatives were provided the opportunity to comment on the scope of the EIS at the agency scoping meeting. The Agency scoping meeting was held on May 1, 2013 from 10 AM to 12:00 PM in Orlando, FL at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel. An invitation, which included background information, to attend the agency supplemental scoping meeting was mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies and organizations (see **Appendix B**):

Broward County Planning and Environmental Regulation
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Florida State Environmental Management Office
Greater Orlando Airport Authority (GOAA)
Miami-Dade Department of Regulatory & Economic Resources (RER)
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fishery Services
National Park Service (NPS)
Orange County Environmental Protection (OCEP)
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida
South Florida Water Management District
St. John Water Management District (SJWMD)

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Interior - Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance-
Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (FWS)

Representatives from these Federal and state agencies attended the agency scoping meeting:

EPA
FAA
FDEP
FHWA
FWC
FWS
GOAA
Miami-Dade RER
NPS
Orange County, Florida (OCFL)
SJWMD
SHPO
USACE
USCG

At the meeting, FRA provided an introduction to the attendees, provided a Project overview with background information, and outlined the next steps. Presentations were given by FRA and AAF provided the Project overview. The FRA also held a question and answer session and solicited agency comments. Materials from this meeting are included in **Appendix C**.

1.5 Public Scoping Meeting

Following publication of the NOI, five public scoping meetings addressing the Project were held. The public was notified of these meetings through advertisements published in these local newspapers (see **Appendix A**):

Miami Herald, April 17 and 24, 2013
El Nuevo Herald (Spanish), April 17 and 24, 2013
Florida Today, April 17 and 24, 2013
St. Lucie News Tribune, April 17 and 24, 2013

La Vos (Spanish), April 19 and 26, 2013
Palm Beach Post, April 17 and 24, 2013
El Latino Semanal (Spanish), April 19 and 26, 2013
Sun Sentinel, April 17 and 24, 2013 and May 15 and 22, 2013
El Sentinel (Spanish), April 20 and 27, 2013 and May 18 and 25, 2013
Orlando Sentinel, April 17 and 24, 2013
Haiti en Marche (Haitian), April 17 and 24, 2013

Approximately 550 people attended the public scoping meetings. Attendees included: elected officials, local government, members of the business community, and residents from the communities along the Project corridor. **Table 1-1** provides the total number of attendees and comments for each of the meetings.

The scoping meeting room contained displays and information about the Project, including history, purpose and need, alternatives, and the environmental analysis. A continuous loop visual presentation provided attendees with information on the Project, the background, and the NEPA and scoping processes. Representatives of the FRA and AAF team were available to discuss specific concerns or questions with attendees. Materials from this meeting are included in **Appendix C**.

Those attendees wanting to submit a written comment were able to do so by filling out a comment form. Written comments could either be submitted during the public scoping meeting or mailed to the FRA.

Table 1-1: Public Scoping Meeting Attendance

Public Scoping Meeting	Location	Date	Number of Attendees	Number of Comment Forms Received at the Meeting
Orlando	Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel	May 1, 2013	135	61
Miami	Culmer Center	May 6, 2013	125	63
West Palm Beach	Gaines Park Community Center	May 7, 2013	138	67
Fort Pierce	Havert L. Fenn Center	May 9, 2013	75	38
Fort Lauderdale	Holiday Park Social Center	May 29, 2013	<u>80</u>	<u>19</u>
Total			553	248

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Summary of Comments

2.1 Introduction

Nearly 250 comment forms and letters were received at the public meetings. In addition to comments submitted at the public meetings, comment letters and emails were submitted directly to FRA by five agencies, eight municipalities, and more than 100 members of the public during the scoping period. FRA received written comments from agencies as well as residents and municipalities along the Project corridor.

Each comment received was reviewed and analyzed, and summarized in the agency, municipality, and public comment sections that follow. These comments will guide the FRA in its preparation of the EIS.

2.2 Agency Comments

FRA received five letters from agencies regarding the scope of the EIS (**Appendix B**):

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
National Park Service (NPS)
Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

The agency comments are summarized by category in this section. The Seminole Tribe expressed their interest in future updates regarding the Project, but did not have any scoping comments.

2.2.1 Land Use and Planning

FAA commented that the FAA must be notified the Project has the potential to affect navigable airspace. An Obstruction Evaluation and Airport Airspace Analysis would be

required if the Project doesn't meet the minimum criteria outlined in Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 77, Section 77.9.

The FAA also commented that they are concerned about the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ), which enhances the protection of people and property on the ground. AAF should coordinate with the Airport and/or FAA to ensure that the Project does not pass thru an RPZ or other protected surface.

2.2.2 Section 4(f) Resources

NPS commented that this project would require a Section 4(f) Evaluation of the Southport Community Park. This park includes 68 acres of land for park and recreational use and should be evaluated in the EIS.

2.2.3 Surface Transportation

FDOT commented that District 4 (Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties); District 5 (Brevard and Orange Counties); and District 6 (Miami-Dade County) would be affected by the Project. The EIS should determine right-of-way (ROW) impacts, road closures, and/or railway crossing work that may be required. FDOT recommended coordination with each District, as well as with Tri-Rail Coastal Service.

2.2.4 Waterways

Impacts to waterway navigation should be evaluated in the EIS. The USCG determined there are two waterway crossings that would require bridge permits: the proposed railroad bridge across the St. Johns River and the proposed double tracking across the Hillsboro Canal. This will require a navigational and environmental evaluation. The USCG is a cooperating agency, and will work with the FRA to determine the items needed for a bridge permit application.

2.3 Municipality Comments

FRA received eight letters from municipalities regarding the scope of the EIS:

- City of Edgewood
- City of Fort Lauderdale
- City of Stuart
- Martin County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)
- Orange County, Florida (OCFL)
- OCFL, Environmental Protection Division
- Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Town of Jupiter

These comments are summarized by category in this section.

2.3.1 Alternatives

One municipality requested that the EIS clearly define the Project; specifically clarifying the width variability of the Project construction corridor to accommodate the initial line to be constructed, the siting locations for passing two trains on the same single track, and projected build out for double tracks if that is within the future plan. Another municipality requested the EIS evaluate the potential installation of double-tracking through the corridor.

Martin County BOCC inquired where the passing trains will stop, if the railroad bridge in Martin County will not be double tracked like the rest of the corridor. Additionally, Martin County requested that this Project or Amtrak provide passenger rail to their community.

The City of Stuart noted that only three south Florida stations are proposed, which will be unattractive for potential riders on Florida's Research Coast (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie Counties). They recommend a station in downtown Stuart because trains would already need to slow down to cross the St. Lucie River.

Several municipalities requested pedestrian and bicycle improvements at public railroad crossings. A multi-use path along the rail corridor to facilitate bicycle/pedestrian activity is also requested.

2.3.2 Floodplains

The EIS should evaluate whether the Project may disrupt hydrological flow and floodplains, as one municipality stated.

2.3.3 Hazardous Materials

One municipality stated that the EIS should assess safety and unique environmental concerns for any development within the USACE Pinecastle Jeep Range, a contaminated hazardous materials (former munitions) site, which the Project would cross.

2.3.4 Natural Resources

One municipality requested that the EIS delineate the project corridor of each alternative in reference to protected natural resource areas. Additionally, the EIS should outline the required design considerations, construction, and operational measures to achieve compliance with protection of natural resources and Outstanding Florida Waters.

One municipality requested that the Project maintain the existing landscaping along the right-of-way.

2.3.5 Noise

Several municipalities were concerned with the increased noise impact. The EIS should assess noise impacts on residential neighborhoods, include mitigation measures, and provide information on ancillary transportation improvements and infrastructure upgrades to support development of “Quiet Zones” and associated costs.

2.3.6 Public Outreach

One municipality requested the EIS provide public outreach to neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor to address aesthetic, noise, and safety concerns.

2.3.7 Safety

Several municipalities requested that the EIS include Federal funding to increase the safety ratings of all public railroad crossings. Examples of suggested crossing upgrades include four-quadrant gate systems and installation of medians or channelization devices. One municipality inquired whether crossings need to be inspected every two years; and if so, would the cost of the inspections be billed to the municipalities?

2.3.8 Social, Community, and Economic Impacts

Several municipalities commented that the Project presents an economic opportunity for the state and could help other rail projects, as well as provide other benefits.

2.3.9 Surface Transportation

One municipality requested the EIS quantify the additional delays to roadways as a result of increased grade crossing closures.

2.3.10 Wetlands and Waterways

One municipality requested the EIS assess impacts on highly sensitive habitat wetlands. The municipality also stated that if the Project remains adjacent to the SR 528 right-of-way, it would have an ecological benefit through minimization and avoidance of new wetland, habitat, and hydrological impacts in eastern Orange County.

One municipality stated the EIS should assess marine impacts including 1) the installation of concrete separators as part of potential “Quiet Zones” and whether they impact marine transportation routes; 2) impact to boaters with frequent closing of the

railroad bridge, which takes 17 minutes to open and close; and 3) the safety of boaters when traveling between the Old Roosevelt Bridge and the railroad bridge, which has limited clearance. Another municipality requested that the EIS quantify the impacts to the marine industry, with respect to the flow of goods and cargo within waterways crossed by the alignment, as a result of more frequent bridge opening/closing of the bridge.

One municipality requested that the EIS also consider bridge improvements for the double-tracking of trestle bridge across the St. Lucie River, which could cause transportation impacts. Additional reductions in bridge clearances would impact transport and operations of vessels and vehicles, as well as cause economic impacts on marine industries and recreational boaters, which should also be evaluated in the EIS. The railroad bridge opening at the Okeechobee Waterway is too narrow for standard barges, and one municipality recommended that the bridge be replaced.

One municipality requested the EIS include community outreach to minimize impacts to area boaters.

2.3.11 Wildlife

One municipality is concerned that there is an additional fracture point of the habitat corridors, which should be assessed in the EIS.

2.3.12 Other

Several municipalities request that the EIS include opportunities to improve broadband, communication, and fiber optic improvements within the right-of-way corridor.

One municipality requested FEC lease impacts and new annual lease costs be documented in the EIS. The EIS should include whether utility lines will be relocated, and the resulting financial impacts to cities/municipalities. Another municipality requests the consolidation / waiver of fees for FEC license agreements for all required enhancements along the corridor.

One municipality commented that this Project should provide the opportunity to advance other passenger rail initiatives in the corridor, including commuter rail service, such as Tri-Rail, as well as intercity passenger rail service via Amtrak.

2.4 Public Comments

In addition to the comment forms, FRA received nearly 130 emails/letters from the public regarding the scope of the EIS. The comment forms and emails/letters are summarized in this section by category.

2.4.1 Alternatives

More than 50 commenters requested additional stations. Stations most requested include Cocoa, Fort Pierce, Jacksonville, Melbourne, Port Canaveral, and Tampa. Other locations include Boca Raton, Hollywood, Naples, Riviera Beach, St. Lucie, St. Petersburg, Vero, as well as multiple stations in Miami and other locations along the Project corridor. Several commenters inquired whether more stations would be added in the future.

More than 25 commenters requested coordination with other transit alternatives. This includes Amtrak, Tri-Rail, Sun Rail, local transit alternatives, and last mile connections. Several commenters would like the Project to expand to commuter service in the future.

More than 25 commenters requested that the Project be developed to include rail-with-trail facilities. Members of the public also want to ensure that there are easy transportations options to get to the station. Other respondents requested that stations provide other accommodations such as shops, space for car and bike rentals, car share, business/housing opportunities nearby, etc.

The SR 528 corridor is supported by the public, keeping impacts along the right-of-way; one commenter added that it should not be on Deseret Ranch land. One commenter added that the capability to add capacity to SR 528 should be preserved.

Several commenters requested true high-speed rail or other technologies such as MAGLEV, light rail, or electric trains. Two commenters state that 3 hours for the trip duration was too long.

Two commenters feel the quantity of trains and frequency per hour is too high, and another commenter inquired how frequently the trains would operate.

Other alternatives suggested include moving the corridor away from residential properties; one recommendation is to move tracks west of I-95; two commenters recommended along the Florida Turnpike. One commenter recommended upgrading to dual tracks along 163 Street in North Miami Beach if the Project won't replace commuter service. Another commenter said there is no need to have dual tracks in Stuart's downtown corridor because of the St. Lucie River trestle.

Features recommended for the Project include WIFI onboard, allowing pets, newspaper stands, windows for viewing scenery, nighttime operations (after 9 PM), and partnerships with Zip Car.

2.4.2 Environmental Justice

One commenter voiced concern that this Project would adversely affect environmental justice communities, as the lines pass through historic African American communities, such as Pearl City.

It was requested that this Project conduct a significant amount of public outreach, especially to minority communities.

2.4.3 Noise and Vibration

Nearly 65 commenters expressed concern about noise and vibration. The greatest concern is the sounds of the horns and what mitigation alternatives would be provided. Many of these commenters request noise mitigation, including designated “Quiet Zones” and upgraded crossings, and several inquired who would be responsible for the cost of such mitigation measures. Several commenters are concerned that the increased train trips and noise will decrease the value of their homes.

2.4.4 Purpose and Need

More than 30 commenters stated that transit alternatives, such as this Project, are needed in Florida. Reasons for this support include highways are overcrowded, it reduces environmental impacts (compared to vehicles), and will be good for residents, tourists, businesses, and the State.

Several commenters inquired whether there would be enough demand to support the Project.

2.4.5 Safety

Several commenters were concerned with safety, including pedestrian/road crossings, availability of sidewalks/passageways, and security. Other concerns included what would be done to ensure emergency vehicles are able to access the hospital without waiting at grade crossings and if cities have sufficient emergency vehicles/services on both sides of the tracks to ensure there would be no increase in risk to the public.

One commenter stated the tracks are poorly maintained and that the train could derail.

Two commenters inquired whether trains will slow down as they proceed through small towns. One commenter inquired what provisions would be made to protect pedestrians and motorists from accidents at railroad crossings.

2.4.6 Social, Community, and Economic Impacts

Many commenters believe the Project will have a beneficial economic impact and will serve residents, tourists, businesses, and the state.

Several commenters noted the quality of life benefits, and others provided corridor and station improvement recommendations including landscaping, aesthetic design of stations and fencing, murals/paintings, parks, and other similar attributes. Several people inquired about the station designs. One commenter inquired whether the Miami station would be elevated or at grade.

Some commenters expressed concern municipalities without a station would be adversely affected but would not receive any economic or social benefits. Several commenters noted that installation of high capacity fiber optic networks for local governments along the ROW could help address the lack of benefits.

One commenter inquired what will be done to assure economic prosperity is brought to existing communities through the creation of jobs and contracts to businesses in the community/county that will be affected. Others wanted to know if the fee structure has been determined, and whether it would be cost-prohibitive to persons in need, and how many jobs will be generated.

Additional concerns expressed include financial impacts to the Federal government, taxpayers, and cities.

2.4.7 Surface Transportation

A primary concern of commenters includes the ability for emergency personnel to provide a timely response and not be delayed at grade crossings. Additional concerns include road closures and traffic delays as a result of more frequent rail crossings.

One commenter requested that cities/municipalities receive assistance with identifying funding for crossing improvements. Several commenters requested pedestrian access where streets may be closed.

2.4.8 Water Quality

One commenter is concerned about water quality at rail crossings over the water and suggests that the EIS should outline measures for protecting surface waters from contamination.

2.4.9 Waterways

More than a dozen commenters inquired about the impacts the Project would have on recreational and commercial marine traffic and financial impacts. Concerns include increased wait time for drawbridges, increased boating accidents, compliance with Federal regulations regarding navigation, and overhead bridge clearance. The impacts to boat and marina activity, and associated financial impacts, should be considered in the EIS.

One commenter requested a bascule bridge at the Dania cut off canal, to facilitate future projects with the marine industry. Another commenter requested a new bridge with a minimum 12' clearance over the Loxahatchee River.

2.4.10 Wildlife

Two commenters requested the EIS identify wildlife impacts along the route, and noted that impacts would be minimized by locating the tracks within the existing SR 528 corridor. One commenter also requested that the EIS include studies of organisms along the route as well as a study of vibration impacts on wildlife and marine life.

One commenter was concerned that the increased speeds of the train may cause wildlife mortality. The possibility of installing tunnels or adding wildlife passages was suggested.

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3

How Comments Will Be Addressed in the Scope of the EIS

3.1 Introduction

All comments received during the scoping process will provide guidance to the FRA as it develops the EIS analyses. Agencies, municipalities, and the public provided comments on:

- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives
- Environmental Justice
- Floodplains
- Hazardous Materials
- Natural Resources
- Noise
- Safety
- Section 4(f) Resources
- Social, Community, and Economic Impacts
- Surface Transportation
- Water Quality
- Wetlands and Waterways
- Wildlife
- Cumulative Impacts
- Public Outreach

3.2 Purpose and Need

The EIS will clearly document the purpose of and need for the Project. The Purpose and Need section of the EIS will state the Project purpose, background, need, and consistency with regional transportation goals.

3.3 Alternatives

The EIS will consider a range of alternatives that would meet the Project purpose and need to address current deficiencies of existing transportation alternatives and future demand. The EIS will consider additional/alternative stations, including locating stations closer to city/government center. This may include stations in Cocoa/Port Canaveral, Fort Pierce, Melbourne, Port Canaveral, Stuart, St. Lucie, and other cities along the Project corridor. The EIS will also consider alternative rail alignment locations west of the current corridor, including parallel to the Florida Turnpike. The EIS will determine the frequency of service which would meet the Project purpose and need, and will consider double tracking throughout the corridor.

The EIS will consider alternatives that would reduce impact to the New River and associated marine industry. The alternatives recommended by commenters include alignment along US 27 from the Port of Miami past Palm Beach or to build a tunnel under the New River for all train traffic.

The EIS will consider alternatives that would connect the Project with other rail initiatives in the corridor (Tri-Rail, Amtrak, and SunRail). The EIS will also consider last-mile service by providing options to assist passengers reaching their final destination (e.g., connections to feeder buses, car/bicycle sharing programs, Zipcar).

The EIS will also consider the development of a rail-with-trail as part of the Project. Additionally, the EIS will evaluate pedestrian access alternatives when the Project results in permanent road closures.

The EIS will examine alternate modes of transportation that meet the Project purpose and need and will, through a screening process and with public and agency outreach, determine the appropriate alternatives that will move forward in the EIS evaluation.

3.4 Environmental Consequences

FRA NEPA guidelines, and Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA regulations/guidance, require the EIS to evaluate the Project's potential impacts in the following categories. Impacts for the rail segment between West Palm Beach to Miami were assessed in the previous EA. Impacts to this segment will only be evaluated to the extent that the Project has changed in this corridor. Environmental Justice

The FAA will comply with all Federal guidelines and Executive Order 12898 (EO 12898), Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations. The Environmental Justice analysis will identify these populations within the study corridor, and will identify any potential Project-related disproportionate impacts to minority and low-income populations.

3.4.1 Floodplains

The EIS will document the existing floodplains and floodways in the study area. The EIS will evaluate the effect of the Project on floodplains and floodways and recommend mitigation measures as necessary.

3.4.2 Hazardous Materials

The EIS will assess any development within the USACE Pinecastle Jeep Range (a former munitions site) for hazardous materials.

3.4.3 Natural Resources

The EIS will outline the required design considerations, construction, and operational measures to achieve compliance with laws and regulations for protection of natural resources.

3.4.4 Noise and Vibration

The EIS will provide an analysis of noise and vibration impacts resulting from the Project, consistent with FRA requirements. This analysis will include changes in ambient noise levels resulting from the Project. Impacts of noise and vibration changes to residents and other sensitive resources will be evaluated. The EIS will also evaluate noise mitigation alternatives, including “Quiet Zones” and other appropriate measures.

3.4.5 Safety

Safety is the highest priority. The Project will be designed with strict specifications to meet all FRA safety standards and design criteria. The EIS will include recommendations to ensure automobile and pedestrian safety, and will consider any impacts to emergency vehicle response times.

3.4.6 Section 4(f) Resources

The EIS will address Section 4(f) compliance, including identifying all publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites of national, state, or local significance that may potentially be affected by land acquisition associated with the Project, or where land acquisition is not required but the normal activity or aesthetic value of a Section 4(f) resource would be affected. FRA will explore mitigation measures in consultation with the party responsible for the land.

3.4.7 Social, Community, and Economic Impacts

The EIS will characterize the social and economic conditions in the area that may be affected by the Project. The EIS will assess the primary and secondary (or induced) social and economic impacts of the Project, which may include relocating residences and businesses, changes in business patterns, employment, local school enrollment, community infrastructure, property values, and tax valuation/revenues. Both local and regional social and economic impacts will be analyzed. The number and type of property acquisitions, if any, will be reported in the EIS. The EIS will evaluate financial impacts to municipalities as a result of relocated utility lines, changes in lease fees, and other financial impacts. Mitigation measures for Project-related impacts will be considered.

3.4.8 Surface Transportation

The EIS will evaluate effects of the Project on surface transportation resources such as local roads; other rail including commuter/intercity rail and freight; local public transportation; roadway and parking; emergency vehicle access; and pedestrian access and flow in the study area, including changes in traffic volumes or traffic patterns. Surface transportation capacity, circulation, safety, transit ridership levels, travel times, changes in parking supply and demand, effects on other passenger rail, roadway level of service, travel patterns and changes in vehicle miles traveled, will be considered in the EIS. Mitigation measures for Project-related impacts will be considered.

3.4.9 Water Quality

The EIS will describe existing surface water and ground water resources in the Project corridor. The quality (physical, chemical, and biological properties) of surface and ground water will also be described. The EIS will address potential impacts of the Project on surface and ground water quality, as well as impacts to Outstanding Florida Waters. FRA will explore mitigation measures to address any adverse impacts in consultation with Federal and state resource agencies.

3.4.10 Wetlands and Waterways

The FRA will conduct a study of wetland and waterway resources potentially affected by the Project. FRA will provide the Federal and state agencies with a detailed methodology and delineation of existing wetlands and waterways (according to USACE definitions) within the Project corridor, and their functions and values. FRA will determine if any practicable alternatives to using the wetland or waterway resources exist. If none do, FRA will explain why. EIS will describe how the Project is designed to minimize unavoidable wetland and waterway effects, and mitigate these effects.

The EIS will include a navigation and environmental evaluation of two waterway crossings that will require USCG bridge permits: the proposed bridge across the

St. Johns River parallel to SR 528 and the double tracking across the Hillsboro Canal near Deerfield Beach. The EIS will also provide the information necessary for the USCG to make a navigational clearance determination for the proposed bridge across the St. Johns River.

The EIS will also identify impacts to marine activity including both recreational and commercial boating as well as the flow of goods and services, impacts of more frequent crossings over drawbridges, safety, and compliance with Federal regulations. Mitigation measures for Project-related impacts will be considered.

3.4.11 Wildlife

The FRA will consult with Federal and state agencies to identify threatened and endangered species, and designated critical habitats and essential fish habitat potentially present within the Project corridor, and the potential impacts. The EIS will determine if there would be habitat fragmentation as a result of the Project, and will also evaluate potential impacts, including but not limited to noise and vibration impacts, to wildlife and marine life. Mitigation measures for Project-related impacts will be considered.

3.4.12 Cumulative Impacts

The EIS will consider cumulative impacts of all resources, to assess the impacts of the Project in conjunction with other rail projects. The cumulative impacts to surface transportation and waterways were specifically commented on during the scoping process.

In addition to the other resources analyzed, the EIS will evaluate the cumulative impacts to surface transportation (traffic impacts) as a result of increased use of crossings.

Use of waterways by boat traffic could be hindered depending on other projects that would increase use of crossing drawbridges. The impacts of freight rail traffic over the New River FEC railroad drawbridge resulting from improved rail connectivity, combined with the impacts of this Project will be considered in the cumulative effects evaluation in the EIS.

3.4.13 Public Outreach

The FRA is committed to producing documents for public review that provide technical information in a manner readily understandable to those without a technical background. An EIS public outreach program will include notifications for any meetings or availability of materials. The outreach will include all communities, including those comprised of “environmental justice” populations (minority or low income), within the Project corridor. The public will have an opportunity to comment at appropriate stages

in the process. The EIS process provides an opportunity for public agencies to review technical materials on the Project's potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures.

Appendices

- Appendix A - Public Notices
- Appendix B - Agency/Tribal Letters
- Appendix C - Scoping Meeting Information

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Appendix A: Public Notices

Appendix A-1

Federal Register Notice

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information, including a list of the exhibit objects, contact Julie Simpson, Attorney-Adviser, Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202-632-6467). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, SA-5, L/PD, Fifth Floor (Suite 5H03), Washington, DC 20522-0505.

Dated: April 9, 2013.

Ann Stock,

Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2013-08789 Filed 4-12-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Environmental Impact Statement for the All Aboard Florida Miami—Orlando Passenger Rail Project

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

SUMMARY: FRA is issuing this notice to advise the public that FRA will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by the private company, All Aboard Florida—Operations LLC (AAF), between Miami and Orlando, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Proposed Action). FRA will evaluate alternatives for construction and operation of the Proposed Action, which would include infrastructure improvements to existing rail corridor right-of-way between Miami and Cocoa, and the development of a new rail corridor between Cocoa and Orlando. FRA will also evaluate a No Action (No Build) Alternative. FRA is issuing this notice to solicit public and agency input into the development of the scope of the EIS and to advise the public that outreach activities conducted by FRA, AAF and its representatives will be considered in the preparation of the EIS. To ensure all significant issues are identified and considered, the public is invited to comment on the scope of the EIS, including the purpose and need, alternatives to be considered, impacts to be evaluated, and methodologies to be used in the evaluation.

DATES: FRA invites the public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties to comment on the

scope of the EIS. All such comments should be provided to FRA, in writing, within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice, at the address listed below. Comments may also be provided orally or in writing at the scoping meetings for the Project. Scoping meeting dates, times and locations, in addition to related Project information can be found online at www.allaboardflorida.com or www.fra.dot.gov.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed within thirty (30) days of the publication of this notice to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ali Soule, Public Affairs Manager, All Aboard Florida—Operations LLC, 2855 LeJeune Road, 4th Floor, Coral Gables, FL 33134, eis@allaboardflorida.com, or Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590, catherine.dobbs@dot.gov. Information and documents regarding the EIS process will also be made available through the FRA Web site at www.fra.dot.gov and the AAF Web site at www.allaboardflorida.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FRA is preparing an EIS for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system proposed by AAF that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The proposed Project is composed of two connected corridors: (1) A north-south corridor of approximately 195 miles from Miami to Cocoa within an existing rail right-of-way, and (2) an east-west corridor of approximately 40 miles from Cocoa to the Orlando International Airport (MCO). The EIS will evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating the Project within these corridors in Florida.

Environmental Review Process

The EIS will be developed in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR part 1500 *et. seq.*) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) (NEPA) and FRA's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (64 FR 28545,

May 26, 1999). In addition to NEPA, the EIS will address other applicable statutes, regulations and executive orders, including the 1980 Clean Air Act Amendments, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, the Endangered Species Act and Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice. The EIS will consider alternatives that could include the use of, or access over, an interstate right-of-way and thus may involve the Federal Highway Administration. The Project's new corridor from Cocoa to MCO may involve alteration and fill of waters of the United States and thus the EIS process will involve the US Army Corps of Engineers, which is expected to serve as a cooperating agency. The Project is proposed to terminate at MCO, the Orlando International Airport, and thus may require review pursuant to the applicable requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration. The purpose of the EIS will be to provide the FRA, reviewing and cooperating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; to evaluate the potential environmental impacts; and to identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

Project Background

Florida has historically experienced major population, employment, and tourism growth, which is expected to continue in the coming decades. Florida's travelers are subject to chronic congestion and delays due to inadequate roadway capacity. The limited capacity results in higher road maintenance costs, increased fuel consumption, greater emissions and increased traffic incidents stemming from the high traffic volume. Significant roadway expansion along the I-95 corridor would be expected to cause a large number of displacements and other substantial environmental impacts while failing to provide an alternative to automobile travel.

As an alternative to additional highway development, this Project would help meet the existing need and demand for safe, convenient, and reliable transportation through the development of a privately-owned, operated and maintained intercity passenger rail service between four stations in Orlando, West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami. Development of passenger rail will also support economic development by generating new revenue and creating

jobs and fulfill several public policy objectives concerning the environment.

AAF is a subsidiary of Florida East Coast Industries, Inc. (FECI), which is a transportation, infrastructure and commercial real estate company based in Coral Gables, Florida. Florida East Coast Railway, L.L.C. (FECR), an affiliate of FECI, owns the right-of-way and existing railroad infrastructure within the corridor between Miami and Jacksonville, over which FECR operates a freight rail service (FEC Corridor). AAF has an exclusive, perpetual easement granted by FECR whereby AAF may develop and operate the proposed passenger service within the FEC Corridor. AAF will operate the proposed passenger rail service within the FEC Corridor in coordination with FECR's continued freight service. AAF is working to secure access to use the right-of-way of State Road 528 between Cocoa and MCO through a combination of passenger rail leases and easements.

FRA issued a finding of no significant impact on January 31, 2013 for passenger rail service and rail and station improvements proposed by AAF between Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. These improvements would return this 66 mile portion of the FEC Corridor to its historic dual-track system, providing fast, dependable and efficient passenger rail service between West Palm Beach and Miami. The proposed Miami to Orlando passenger rail project would expand this initial service to MCO.

The proposed Project would use stations developed for the Miami to West Palm Beach project that will be located in the central business districts of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach, supporting development in these urban centers. The proposed station at MCO is expected to be developed by the Greater Orlando Airport Authority as part of a \$1 billion South Terminal Expansion that will include a 3,500-space parking garage and the development of a multi-modal depot.

As proposed, 195 miles of the Project would operate within an active freight rail corridor that has existed for more than 100 years. Proposed alternatives for the remaining 40 miles connecting Cocoa and Orlando generally parallel the existing State Road 528 right-of-way.

Scoping and Public Involvement

FRA encourages broad participation in the EIS process during scoping and review of the resulting environmental documents. Comments are invited from all interested agencies and the public to ensure the full range of issues related to the Proposed Action are addressed,

reasonable alternatives are considered, and significant issues are identified. In particular, FRA is interested in identifying areas of environmental concern where there might be a potential for significant impacts. Public agencies with jurisdiction are requested to advise FRA and AAF of the applicable permit and environmental review requirements of each agency, and the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed Project. Public agencies are requested to advise FRA if they anticipate taking a major action in connection with the proposed Project and if they wish to cooperate in the preparation of the EIS.

Public scoping opportunities and meetings will be scheduled as described above and are an important component of the scoping process for Federal environmental review. FRA is seeking participation and input of interested Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American groups, and other concerned private organizations and individuals on the scope of the EIS. The Project may affect historic properties and may be subject to the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470(f)). In accordance with regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR part 800), FRA intends to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA with the preparation of the EIS, beginning with the identification of consulting parties through the scoping process, in a manner consistent with the standards set out in 36 CFR 800.8.

Issued in Washington, DC, on April 5, 2013.

Corey Hill,

Director, Passenger and Freight Programs.

[FR Doc. 2013-08745 Filed 4-12-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket Number FRA-2011-0069]

Petition for Waiver of Compliance

In accordance with Part 211 of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), this document provides the public notice that by a document dated January 24, 2013, Steam Into History, Inc. (Steam) has petitioned the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for a waiver of compliance from certain provisions of the Federal railroad safety

regulations contained at 49 CFR part 223, Safety Glazing Standards—Locomotives, Passenger Cars and Caboose. FRA assigned the petition Docket Number FRA-2011-0069.

Kloke Locomotive Works is constructing for Steam a newly built (2013) replica of a steam locomotive that was originally built in the 1800s. York #17, the locomotive that is the subject of Steam's waiver petition, is a replica of Union Pacific #119, which was constructed in 1979 from the same blueprints and tooling that is being used for the construction of York #17. Union Pacific #119 is owned and operated by the U.S. National Park Service at the Golden Spike National Historic Site in Promontory Summit, UT. Steam intends to operate York #17 with its replica Civil War-era train on the former Northern Central Railway in York County, PA.

Steam asks that FRA determine that 49 CFR part 223 not apply to York #17 because of the language in 49 CFR 223.3, *Application*, which provides an exemption for "locomotives * * * that are historical or antiquated equipment and are used only for excursion, educational, recreational purposes or private transportation purposes." Steam states that York #17 is an accurate, historical design locomotive and will be used primarily for educational purposes. It will also be used for excursions, primarily in an historical, educational context. Steam submits that, because of the historic nature and primarily educational mission of York #17, 49 CFR part 223 should not apply to it.

In the event that FRA determines that York #17 does not qualify for an exemption pursuant to 49 CFR 223.3, Steam requests relief from 49 CFR 223.9, *Requirements for new or rebuilt equipment*, due to its mitigating use of tempered automotive safety-type glazing in the locomotive cab and the open nature of the wooden cab on the locomotive. Additionally, Steam asserts that the historical appearance of York #17 would be unrecognizable with the installation of 49 CFR part 223 glazing.

Steam submitted a similar waiver petition to FRA on July 28, 2011, but FRA dismissed the petition without prejudice on February 3, 2012, because the design of York #17 was not finalized and a sample car (locomotive) inspection could not be performed.

A copy of the petition, as well as any written communications concerning the petition, is available for review online at www.regulations.gov and in person at the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Docket Operations Facility, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., W12-140,

Appendix A-2

Newspaper Advertisements

All Aboard Florida - Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce a series of Public Scoping Meetings/Open Houses concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meetings.

Wednesday, May 1, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel -
Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center -
Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Monday, May 6, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Culmer Center - Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, FL 33136

Thursday, May 9, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Havert L. Fenn Center - Room 5
2000 Virginia Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

There will be identical information provided at each of these meetings. Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of these meetings. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed by May 15, 2013 to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce a series of Public Scoping Meetings/Open Houses concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

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All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una serie de Reuniones Públicas/Sesiones de Puertas Abiertas acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extenderá entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

Miércoles, 1 de mayo del 2013 De 3:30 a 7 p.m. Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel – Milan Ballroom 5445 Forbes Place Orlando, FL 32812	Martes, 7 de mayo del 2013 De 3:30 a 7 p.m. Gaines Park Community Center – Addie Greene Hall East 1505 N. Australian Avenue West Palm Beach, FL 33401
Lunes, 6 de mayo del 2013 De 3:30 a 7 p.m. Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room 1600 NW 3rd Avenue Miami, FL 33136	Jueves, 9 de mayo del 2013 De 3:30 a 7 p.m. Havert L. Fenn Center – Salón 5 2000 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982

La información que se presentará en cada reunión será idéntica. Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con AAF al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a eis@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

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El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de construcción y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e idear posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

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El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

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Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a eis@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

Alt Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una serie de Reuniones Públicas/Sesiones de Puertas Abiertas acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extendería entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

Miércoles, 1 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel – Milan Ballroom

5445 Forbes Place

Orlando, FL 32812

Lunes, 6 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Culmar Center – Multipurpose Room

1600 NW 3rd Avenue

Miami, FL 33136

Martes, 7 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Gaines Park Community Center – Addie Greene Hall East

1505 N. Australian Avenue

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Jueves, 9 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Havert L. Fann Center – Salón 5

2000 Virginia Avenue

Fort Pierce, FL 34982

La información que se presentará en cada reunión será idéntica. Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a: Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a aso@altboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AltAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

At All-Florida Transportation (AT) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) agencies in order of public meeting. The AT/FTA agencies are currently in the process of preparing a public meeting agenda for the public to provide input on the proposed project. The public meeting agenda will be posted on the AT/FTA website and the public will be able to provide input on the proposed project. The public meeting agenda will be posted on the AT/FTA website and the public will be able to provide input on the proposed project.

The public, government agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the AT/FTA project. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following public meetings.

Wednesday, May 1, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Kissimmee Orlando Airport Hotel - Miller Ballroom
3445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Monday, May 6, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Culver Center - Multipurpose Room
1400 22nd Ave
Miami, FL 33134

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Golfview Park Community Center - Adina Grasso Hall East
1805 N. Australian Ave
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Thursday, May 9, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Haworth Park Center - Room 5
2600 Virginia Ave
Fort Pierce, FL 34941

There will be a public meeting on May 15, 2013, at the same location as the previous meeting. The public is invited to attend any time during the hours of the meeting. Comments on the scope of the AT/FTA project may be provided at any time during the hours of the meeting. Comments on the scope of the AT/FTA project may be provided at any time during the hours of the meeting.

Public participation is a critical part of the project. The public is invited to provide input on the proposed project. The public is invited to provide input on the proposed project. The public is invited to provide input on the proposed project.

For more information, visit www.ATAboardFlorida.com or contact AT/FTA at 305-570-2105.

All About Florida - Operations LLC (AOF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce a series of Public Scoping Meetings/Open House concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service provided by AOF for a 213-mile, privately-financed rail line from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida. The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, depending on participating agencies, and the public with information to assist in decisions that will move the Project's progress and build and to evaluate the project's environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, government agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meetings:

Wednesday, May 1, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Tallahassee Orlando Airport Hotel - Palm Solaryn
1445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Monday, May 6, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Cultural Center - Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 1st Ave.
Miami, FL 33126

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center - Addison Hall Bar
1503 N. Australia Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Thursday, May 9, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Hawaii's Tuna Canner - Room 5
2000 Virginia Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34932

There will be limited information provided at each of these meetings. Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of these meetings. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed by May 15, 2013 to Catherine Dobbie, Transportation Scoping Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590, or submitted electronically.

Public participation is a valued and free right to voice, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require non-emergency services (free of charge) should contact AOF at 206.570.2100 to schedule their comments at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AFAsouthflorida.com or contact AOF by email at AOF@afasouthflorida.com or 206.570.2100.

All Aboard Florida -- Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una serie de Reuniones Públicas/Sesiones de Puertas Abiertas acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extendería entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

Miércoles, 1 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel -- Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Lunes, 6 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Culmer Center -- Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33136

Martes, 7 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Gaines Park Community Center -- Adde Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Jueves, 9 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Havert L. Fern Center -- Salón 5
2000 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

La información que se presentará en cada reunión será idéntica. Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a: Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a ais@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una serie de Reuniones Públicas/Sesiones de Puertas Abiertas acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extendería entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermediarias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

Miércoles, 1 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel – Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Lunes, 6 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33136

Martes, 7 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Gaines Park Community Center – Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Jueves, 9 de mayo del 2013

De 3:30 a 7 p.m.

Havert L. Fenn Center – Salón 5
2000 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

La información que se presentará en cada reunión será idéntica. Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a: Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a eis@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

Sun Sentinel April 17, 2013

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce an additional Public Scoping Meeting/Open House concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meeting.

Wednesday, May 29, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Holiday Park Social Center
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of the meeting. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact All Aboard Florida Public Affairs Manager Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Public Affairs Manager Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

Sun Sentinel April 24, 2013

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce an additional Public Scoping Meeting/Open House concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meeting.

Wednesday, May 29, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Holiday Park Social Center
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of the meeting. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact All Aboard Florida Public Affairs Manager Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Public Affairs Manager Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce a series of Public Scoping Meetings/Open Houses concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meetings.

Wednesday, May 1, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel –
Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center –
Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Monday, May 6, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, FL 33136

Thursday, May 9, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Havert L. Fenn Center – Room 5
2000 Virginia Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

There will be identical information provided at each of these meetings. Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of these meetings. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed by May 15, 2013 to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

Sun Sentinel May 22, 2013

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce an additional Public Scoping Meeting/Open House concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meeting.

Wednesday, May 29, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Holiday Park Social Center
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of the meeting. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact All Aboard Florida Public Affairs Manager Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Public Affairs Manager Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

Ali Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una serie de Reuniones Públicas/Sesiones de Puertas Abiertas acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extendería entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

Miércoles, 1 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel –
Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Lunes, 6 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33136

Marles, 7 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center –
Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Jueves, 9 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Havert L. Fenn Center – Salón 5
2000 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

La información que se presentará en cada reunión será idéntica. Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a: Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a eis@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

Alli Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una serie de Reuniones Públicas/Sesiones de Puertas Abiertas acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extenderá entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en las siguientes reuniones:

Miércoles, 1 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel –
Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Lunes, 6 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Avenue
Miami, FL 33136

Martes, 7 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center –
Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Jueves, 9 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Havert L. Fenn Center – Salón 5
2000 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

La información que se presentará en cada reunión será idéntica. Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a: Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a eis@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AlliAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule al 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una Reunión Pública/Sesión de Puertas Abiertas adicional, acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extendería entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en la siguiente reunión:

Miércoles, 29 de mayo del 2013
De 3:30 a 7 p.m.
Holiday Park Social Center
1150 G. Harold Martin Drive
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Le animamos a participar y a proporcionar sus comentarios. El público tendrá la oportunidad de llegar en cualquier momento entre las 3:30 p.m. y las 7 p.m. Los comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS también pueden ser enviados a: Catherine Dobbs, Analista del Sector del Transporte, Departamento de Normas y Desarrollo, Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, o por correo electrónico a: catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Se solicita la participación del público sin distinción de raza, color, origen nacional, edad, sexo, religión, discapacidad o estado familiar. Las personas que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de 1990 para Americanos con Impedimentos, o las personas que requieran servicio de traducción (gratuito), deberán comunicarse al menos siete días antes de la audiencia pública, con Ali Soule, Gerente de Asuntos Públicos para AAF, al 305-520-2105 o enviando un correo electrónico a eis@allaboardflorida.com.

Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o úniquese con Ali Soule, Gerente de Asuntos Públicos, al 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) y la Administración Federal de Ferrocarriles (FRA, por sus siglas en inglés) anuncian una Reunión Pública/Sesión de Puertas Abiertas adicional, acerca de la Declaración del Impacto Ambiental (EIS, por sus siglas en inglés) que se está elaborando para evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales y otros impactos relacionados a la construcción y operación del servicio ferroviario interurbano de pasajeros propuesto por AAF (Proyecto). El sistema ferroviario interurbano de 235 millas de largo se extendería entre Orlando y Miami, Florida, con paradas intermedias en Fort Lauderdale y West Palm Beach, Florida.

El propósito de la EIS es proporcionar a la FRA y a las agencias participantes, tanto como al público en general, toda la información pertinente para la evaluación de las alternativas de acuerdo al propósito y la necesidad del Proyecto; evaluar los posibles impactos ambientales; e identificar las posibles medidas de prevención/mitigación relacionadas con las alternativas.

Se invita al público en general, a los organismos gubernamentales, y otras partes interesadas, a proporcionar comentarios acerca del alcance de la EIS, ya sea verbalmente o por escrito, en la siguiente reunión:

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Para más información, por favor visite la página Web, www.AllAboardFlorida.com, o comuníquese con Ali Soule, Gerente de Asuntos Públicos, al 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce a series of Public Scoping Meetings/Open Houses concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose, and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

The public, governmental agencies, and all other interested parties are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Comments may be provided orally or in writing at the following scoping meetings.

Wednesday, May 1, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel –
Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Monday, May 6, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room
1600 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, FL 33136

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center –
Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Thursday, May 9, 2013
3:30 to 7 p.m.
Havert L. Fenn Center – Room 5
2000 Virginia Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

There will be identical information provided at each of these meetings. Please come and share your thoughts. The public is invited to attend at any time during the hours of these meetings. Comments on the scope of the EIS may be mailed or emailed by May 15, 2013 to Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590, or catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF) and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announce a series of Public Scoping Meetings/Open Houses concerning the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by AAF for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project). The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating and participating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need; and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts, and identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures, associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

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Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105 or eis@allaboardflorida.com at least seven days prior to the meeting.

For more information, visit www.AllAboardFlorida.com or contact Ali Soule at 305-520-2105.

Biwo "All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF)" ak Administrasyon Federal sou kesyon Tren (Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)) ap anonse yon seri reyinyon piblik yo pral fè pou diskite preparasyon konsènan yon deklarasyon sou ki efè pwojè transpò sa a kapab fè sou anviwònman an ak lòt kalite efè konstriksyon an ka fè epi ki efè tou sa kab fè lè tren yo kòmanse mache sot nan yon vil al nan yon lòt, ki efè yo kab fè sou tout bagay. Sistèm tren sa a AAF pwopoze a pral pase sou 378 kilomèt epi l ap konekte Olanndo ak Miyami nan Eta Florid epi tren an ap fè eskal nan West Palm Beach ak Fort Lauderdale. Rezon ki fè y ap prepare dosye konsènan efè pwojè a pral fè sou anviwònman an se pou yo kapab bay Administrasyon federal ki okipe afè tren an, lòt ajans k ap kolabore yo, ak sa k ap pran pa nan pwojè a, ak popilasyon an tout enfòmasyon konsènan pwojè a, kon sa y ap kapab analize lòt chwa k ap bon pou pwojè a ak sa pwojè a bezwen; epi tou y ap kab evalye ki efè altènatif yo pwopoze yo kab fè sou anviwònman an epi y ap kapab wè kouman pou yo evite efè sa yo epi pran desizyon sou yo.

Yo envite popilasyon an, ajans gouvènman, ak tout lòt moun ki enterese, vin pataje lide yo sou deklarasyon konsènan efè pwojè transpò sa a pral fè sou anviwònman an. Tout moun kab swa vin nan reyinyon yo pou di sa yo panse oubyen ekri lide yo genyen epi remèt yo nan reyinyon yo.

Mèkredi premye me, 2013
3:30 pou 7 p.m.
Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel
– Milan Ballroom
5445 Forbes Place
Orlando, FL 32812

Madi 7 me, 2013
3:30 pou 7 p.m.
Gaines Park Community Center –
Addie Greene Hall East
1505 N. Australian Ave.
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Lendi 6 me, 2013
3:30 pou 7 p.m.
Culmer Center – Multipurpose
Room
1600 NW 3rd Ave.
Miami, FL 33136

Jedi 9 me, 2013
3:30 pou 7 p.m.
Havert L. Fenn Center – Room 5
2000 Virginia Ave.
Fort Pierce, FL 34982

Nan chak rankont sa yo y ap bay menm enfòmasyon yo. Tanpri vin di nou sa ou panse. Nou envite tout moun pase nan reyinyon sa yo nenpòt lè pandan y ap fèt. Tout moun kapab fè kòmantè sou preparasyon dosye konsènan efè pwojè a swa pa lapòs swa pa imel jiska 15 me, 2013. Voye yo bay Catherine Dobbs, Analis nan afè Biznis Transpò (Transportation Industry Analyst), nan biwo sa a "Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590", oubyen nan imel sa a catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

Nou mande patisipasyon popilasyon an san patipri pou kesyon ras, koulè po, peyi kote yon moun fèt, laj yon moun, si l se fi oswa gason, relijyon li, si l andikape oubyen si l marye oswa li pa marye. Dapre Lwa Ameriken pou moun ki andikape, moun ki bezwen aranjman espesyal pou yo vin nan reyinyon sa a oubyen moun ki bezwen sèvis tradiksyon (gratis) dwe kontakte Ali Soule nan 305-520-2105 oubyen nan imel eis@allaboardflorida.com omwen 7 jou anvan reyinyon an.

Si w bezwen plis ransèyman, al sou sit sa a: www.AllAboardFlorida.com oubyen kontakte Ali Soule nan 305-520-2105.

Biwo "All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF)" ak Administrasyon Federal sou kesyon Tren (Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)) ap anonse yon seri reyinyon piblik yo pral fè pou diskite preparasyon konsènan yon deklarasyon sou ki efè pwojè transpò sa a kapab fè sou anviwònman an ak lòt kalite efè konstriksyon an ka fè epi ki efè tou sa kab fè lè tren yo kòmanse mache sot nan yon vil al nan yon lòt, ki efè yo kab fè sou tout bagay. Sistèm tren sa a AAF pwopoze a pral pase sou 378 kilomèt epi l ap konekte Olanndo ak Miyami nan Eta Florid epi tren an ap fè eskal nan West Palm Beach ak Fort Lauderdale. Rezon ki fè y ap prepare dosye konsènan efè pwojè a pral fè sou anviwònman an se pou yo kapab bay Administrasyon federal ki okipe afè tren an, lòt ajans k ap kolabore yo, ak sa k ap pran pa nan pwojè a, ak popilasyon an tou enfòmasyon konsènan pwojè a, kon sa y ap kapab analize lòt chwa k ap bon pou pwojè a ak sa pwojè a bezwen; epi tou y ap kab evalye ki efè altènatif yo pwopoze yo kab fè sou anviwònman an epi y ap kapab wè kouman pou yo evite efè sa yo epi pran desizyon sou yo.

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Nou mande patisipasyon popilasyon an san patipri pou kesyon ras, koulè po, peyi kole yon moun fèt, laj yon moun, si l se fi oswa gason, relijyon li, si l andikape oubyen si l marye oswa li pa marye. Dapre Lwa Ameriken pou moun ki andikape, moun ki bezwen aranjman espesyal pou yo vin nan reyinyon sa a oubyen moun ki bezwen sèvis tradiksyon (gratis) dwe kontakte Ali Soule nan 305-520-2105 oubyen nan imel ais@allaboardflorida.com omwen 7 jou anvan reyinyon an.

Si w bezwen plis ransèyman, al sou sit sa a: www.AllAboardFlorida.com oubyen kontakte Ali Soule nan 305-520-2105.



Appendix B: Agency/Tribal Letters

Appendix B-1
Agency/Tribal Mailing List

These Federal, state, and local agencies and organizations were invited to attend the agency scoping meeting:

Broward County Planning and Environmental Regulation
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
Florida State Environmental Management Office
Greater Orlando Airport Authority (GOAA)
Miami-Dade Department of Regulatory & Economic Resources (RER)
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Marine Fishery Services
National Park Service (NPS)
Orange County Environmental Protection (OCEP)
Poarch Band of Creek Indians of Alabama
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribe of Florida
South Florida Water Management District
St. John Water Management District (SJWMD)
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Interior - Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance- Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (FWS)

Appendix B-2

Letters Sent to Agencies/Tribes



**U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration**

April 23, 2013

Ref: 61827

«Salutation» «First» «Last»
«Title»
«GovernmentGovernment_Agencies»
«Address»
«City»

Re: All Aboard Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Service Scoping Invitation

Dear «Salutation» «Last»:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is initiating the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental and related impacts of constructing and operating an intercity passenger rail service proposed by the private company, All Aboard Florida – Operations LLC (AAF). Specifically, FRA is preparing an EIS for a 235-mile intercity passenger railroad system proposed by AAF that will connect Orlando and Miami, Florida, with intermediate stops in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, Florida (Project).

The purpose of the EIS will be to provide FRA, cooperating agencies, and the public with information to assess alternatives that will meet the Project's purpose and need, to evaluate potential environmental impacts, and to identify potential avoidance/mitigation measures associated with the proposed Project alternatives.

As shown on the attached area map, the proposed Project is composed of two connected corridors:

- (1) a north-south corridor of approximately 195 miles from Miami to Cocoa within an existing, active freight rail right-of-way, and
- (2) an east-west corridor of approximately 40 miles from Cocoa to the Orlando International Airport (MCO), general parallel to existing State Road 528.

FRA issued a finding of no significant impact on January 31, 2013, for passenger rail service and rail and station improvements proposed by AAF between Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. The proposed Miami to Orlando passenger rail project would extend this service to MCO, and would use stations developed for the Miami to West Palm Beach service located in the central business districts of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach. The proposed MCO station is expected to be developed by the Greater Orlando Airport Authority.

FRA has identified your agency as having a potential interest in this Project. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. 1501.6, FRA will be separately requesting agencies with major actions regarding the project to serve as a cooperating agency.

A series of scoping meetings will be held for this Project, and representatives from your agency are encouraged to attend. An open meeting specifically for Agency/Tribal personnel will be held on **May 1, 2013** from 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in Orlando, FL at the Renaissance Orlando Airport

Hotel – Milan Ballroom, 5445 Forbes Place. In addition, open house style public scoping meetings will be held on:

- **May 1, 2013** from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Orlando at the Renaissance Orlando Airport Hotel,
- **May 6, 2013** from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Miami at the Culmer Center – Multipurpose Room, 1600 NW 3rd Ave.,
- **May 7, 2013** from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. in West Palm Beach at the Gaines Park Community Center – Addie Greene Hall East, 1505 N. Australian Ave., and
- **May 9, 2013** from 3:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Fort Pierce at the Havert L. Fenn Center – Room 5, 2000 Virginia Ave.

You and/or a delegate of your choice are invited to represent your agency at any of these meetings. A Webex and teleconference will also be offered for the May 1 Agency/Tribal meeting if you prefer not to travel. Details are listed below:

1. Join the meeting by clicking on the link: <http://e-meetings.verizonbusiness.com/nc/join.php?sigKey=mymeetings&i=447069224&p=&t=c>
2. Enter the required fields including contact information:
 - a. Meeting Number: 447069224
 - b. Passcode: No passcode is required
3. Click Proceed

Teleconference Info:

Conference call-in phone number- 877-972-6055

Participant passcode: 7185887

If you have questions or would like to discuss your agency's respective role in the preparation of this EIS, please contact Catherine Dobbs at Catherine.dobbs@dot.gov or (202) 493-6347 or Lisa Standley (lstandley@vhb.com, 617-924-1770). VHB, Inc. is a third-party consultant assisting the FRA with preparing the EIS.

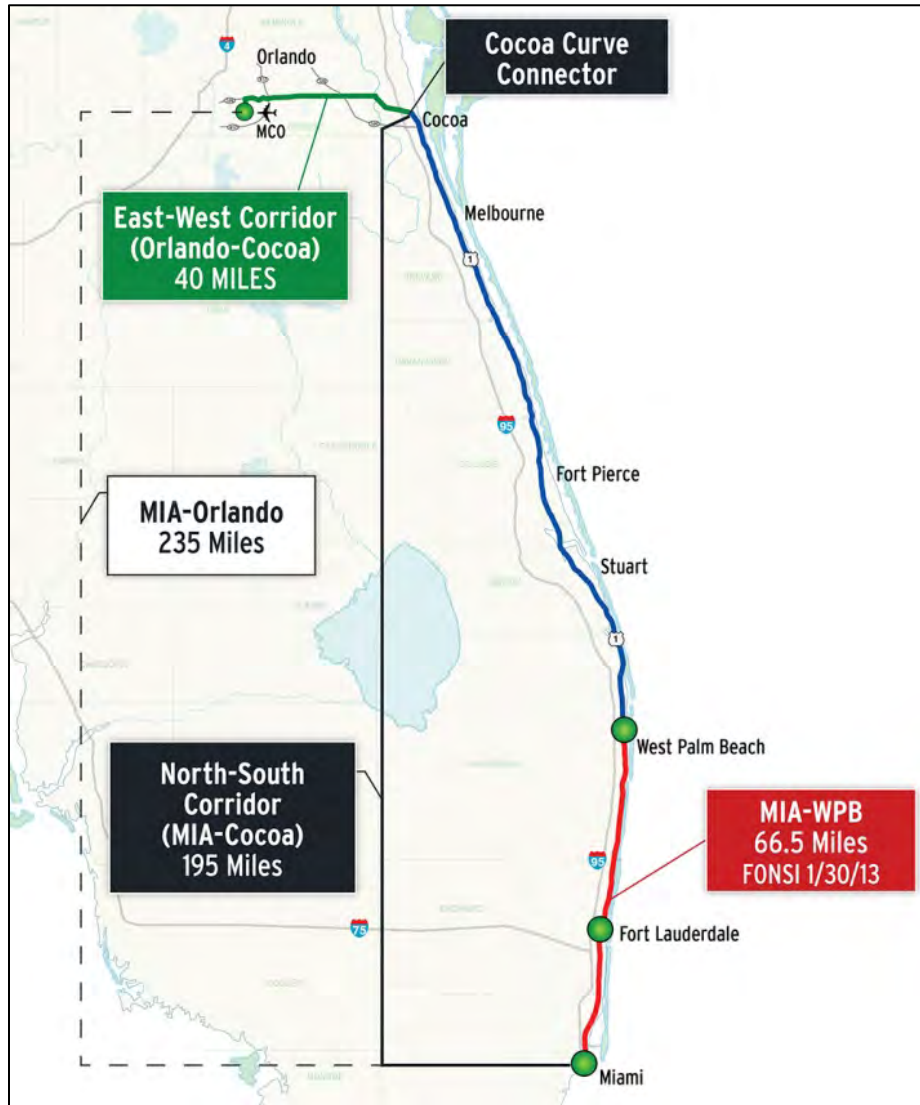
Very truly yours,



Catherine Dobbs
Transportation Industry Analyst
Office of Railroad Policy and Development

Enclosure: Project Map

Project Location Map



Appendix B-3

Comment Letters Received from Agencies

Orlando Airports District Office Comments

6/19/13

Jennifer Ganley

While this project appears to be in the planning stage, and rather conceptual in nature, I have two comments that address the FAA Airport's Division concerns:

1. Per Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77, the FAA must be notified of any development that has the potential to affect navigable airspace. The requirements are listed in FAR Part 77 Section 77.9. Should you be required to file notice, please do so on our Obstruction Evaluation and Airport Airspace Analysis (OEAAA) website: oeaaa.faa.gov

Questions pertaining to filing notice to the FAA for off airport development may be addressed to Mr. Darrin Clipper at darrin.clipper@faa.gov, or 404-305-7084

2. The FAA has defined surfaces surrounding each runway. Of particular concern is the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ). The RPZ is a trapezoidal surface centered on the extended runway centerline whose function is to enhance the protection of people and property on the ground. The RPZ should be kept clear. Should any future development be located near an airport, please contact that airport and/or this office to ensure that future rail lines do not pass thru an RPZ or any other protected surface.



Florida Department of Transportation

**RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR**

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

**ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY**

DATE: May 15, 2013

TO: Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst, Office of Railroad Policy and Development, Federal Railroad Administration

FROM: Shereen Yee Fong, Florida Department of Transportation, Central Environmental Management Office, Tallahassee, FL (submitted via email)

COPIES: Lauren Milligan, Lois Bush, Andrew Riddle, Susan Sadighi, Judy Pizzo, Heather Garcia, Aileen Boucle, Curlene Thomas, Bob Romig, Brian Blanchard, Fred Wise, Andre Goins, Hector Hartmann, Dick Kane, Marjorie Bixby, Xavier Pagan

SUBJECT: US Department of Transportation – Federal Railroad Administration’s Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the All Aboard Florida – Passenger Rail Project from Miami to Orlando, FL

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has reviewed Notice of Intent (NOI) issued by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the All Aboard Florida (AAF) proposed Passenger Rail Project.

The affected FDOT Districts and respective counties are; District 4 (Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St Lucie, and Indian River), District 5 (Brevard and Orange) and District 6 (Miami-Dade). The FDOT offers the following comments to this NOI:

1. Please continue to coordinate with the FDOT Central Office in Tallahassee.
2. It is also important to coordinate with the respective FDOT District(s) when activities are identified within our right-of-way. For proposed activities located within SR 528 right-of-way please coordinate with District 5.
3. Should the need for lane closures, railroad crossing work or channelization on FDOT facilities be needed, Maintenance of Traffic Plans will be necessary. Coordination with the appropriate District’s Traffic Operations Office will be required.
4. Our Districts 4, 5 and 6 are in support of this project and have provided some helpful contact information. Please see the contact list provided by our Districts below.
5. This proposed project is tied into the future Tri-Rail Coastal Link Service, which is currently in the planning stage. We recommend coordination with the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project as it progresses to the scoping and agency involvement stage. The Project Manager for this effort is Amie Goddeau, District 4. Her contact information is listed below.
6. If the proposed action includes the crossing of a navigable water body, FDOT recommends the crossings be included in this EIS study.

Thank you for providing FDOT with the opportunity to comment. Should you have any questions please Shereen Yee Fong at (850) 414-5259.

District Contact Information:

District 4:

Contact: Hector Hartmann – District 4 Rail,
Email: hector.hartmann@dot.state.fl.us
Phone: (954) 777-4401
Amie Goddeau – Project Manager, Tri-Rail Coastal Link Service
Email: amie.goddeau@dot.state.fl.us
Phone: (954) 777-4343

District 5:

Contact: Mike McPhail – District 5 Right-of-Way
Jim Ganey – District 5 Railroad Coordinator

District 6:

Contacts: Aileen Boucle – District 6 Intermodal Systems Planning Administrator
Ali Al-Said – District 6 Permit Engineer
Dionne Richardson – District 6 Aviation Rail and Seaport Administrator



United States Department of the Interior



IN REPLY REFER TO:
CODE
SER-PC

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

MAY 20 2013

Catherine Dobbs
Office of Railroad Policy and Development
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Dobbs:

The National Park Service has reviewed ER-13/0229 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the All Aboard Florida Miami—Orlando Passenger Rail Project in Florida. The Southport Community Park is within the area of potential affect and is in the Federal Lands to Parks Program(FPL). A Section 4(f) Evaluation will be required if you plan to affect these properties.

The National Park Service's FPL Program help communities create new parks and recreation areas by transferring surplus Federal land to state and local governments with deed conditions. This program helps ensure public access to properties and stewardship of the properties' natural, cultural and recreational resources. Land acquired through the FLP Program, as a public benefit conveyance, must be used for Public Park and recreational use in perpetuity. It may be developed for single or multiple recreational activities, such as hiking, biking, camping, picnicking, hunting, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, swimming, boating, tennis, golf, and playing organized sports. If appropriate, the land may remain undeveloped for passive recreational use as long as it is open to the public.

Southport Park includes former federal property that was part of the Naval Training Center, McCoy Annex. In 2000, 68 acres were conveyed to the City of Orlando under FLP for park and recreational use to be developed as part of the larger McCoy Parks Master Plan. The FLP conveyance included discontiguous parcels. The 52-acre northern portion is completely developed with multiple athletic fields, covered and open air picnic areas, playgrounds, walking paths and other amenities. The southern parcel is currently largely wooded conservation land with walking trails.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments. If you have any questions please contact Anita Barnett at 404-507-5706.

Ben West
Chief, Planning and Compliance Division
Southeast Region

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM
30290 JOSIE BILLIE HWY
PMB 1004
CLEWISTON, FL 33440
PHONE: (863) 983-6549
FAX: (863) 902-1117



TRIBAL OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN
JAMES E. BILLIE

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MICHAEL D. TIGER

June 6, 2013

Catherine Dobbs
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration

THPO#: 0011849

Re: All Aboard Florida Intercity Passenger Rail Service

Dear Ms. Dobbs,

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) received the U.S. Department of Transportation scoping meeting invitation regarding the above mentioned project on May 6, 2013. Although we were not able to attend the scoping meeting, the STOF-THPO is interested in receiving future updates about this project, including the draft EIS when it is completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the information that has been sent to date regarding this project. Please reference **THPO-0011849** for all future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Alison E. Swing, MS
Compliance Analyst
Seminole Tribe of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, Florida 33440
863.983.6549 ext. 12217

U.S. Department
of Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard**



Commander
Seventh Coast Guard District

909 S.E. 1st Avenue – Rm 432
Miami, FL 33131
Staff Symbol: (dpb)
Phone: (305) 415-6989
Fax: (305) 415-6763
Email: Evelyn.Smart@uscg.mil

16591/FL - FECRR
3 May 2013

From: Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District (dpb), Director, Bridge Branch
To: Federal Railroad Administration, Catherine Dobbs, Transportation Industry Analyst
Subj: PREPARATION OF A DRAFT EIS FOR THE ALL ABOARD FLORIDA PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN ORLANDO AND MIAMI, FLORIDA

1. This letter is in response to Federal Register article Vol. 78, No. 72 dated Monday, 15 April 2013 announcing that the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA -federal lead agency) intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed subject project across Navigable Waters of the United States.
2. Except as provided for in 33 U.S.C. 525, the Coast Guard (CG) must issue a permit for the location and plans for bridges crossing navigable waters of the United States. We have identified two waterway crossings of the passenger rail service between Orlando and Miami, Florida that will require CG bridge permits (proposed FEC RR Bridge across the St. Johns River parallel to the Martin Anderson Beach Line Expressway (toll road – State Road. 528) and the proposed double tracking across the Hillsboro Canal, FEC Milepost 326.58 near Deerfield Beach, Broward County, FL). This Federal action requires a navigational and environmental evaluation under NEPA, as implemented by the CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), DOT Order 5610.1C, applicable parts of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) and CG directives (such as 64 CFR 28545 - 28556 and Commandant Instruction M16475.1d), and other federal environmental statutes and orders.
3. As cooperating agency, the CG will work with the FRA to identify items needed for a complete bridge permit application. The DOT and the CG will collectively determine at the earliest time practicable what navigational information each agency will provide, in accordance with the CG Reasonable Needs of Navigation White Paper, in order for the CG to make a navigational clearance determination for the proposed bridge across the St. Johns River. The CG shall provide to the FRA readily available navigational information and points of contact for waterway associations and users to assist in the collection of navigational information by the FRA.
4. The CG will comment on environmental and navigational documentation within the DEIS, concentrating on the bridges and approaches, with particular emphasis on adequacy of proposed clearances. When the environmental and navigational impacts are adequately addressed in DEIS, the CG will adopt bridge related portions of the DEIS, and issue a Record of Decision. Miss Evelyn Smart of the CG field bridge staff will attend all coordination meetings, cooperate with FRA to ensure environmental and navigational impacts are adequately addressed, and will review the permit application for completeness and issue a formal public notice. Miss Smart will seek to expedite the review process where possible. If disagreements arise over vertical and/or horizontal clearance (St. Johns River crossing), the CG will elevate the reasonable needs of navigation discussion (clearance determination) to CG headquarters for consideration of a balanced approach in its decision-making.
5. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Miss Smart at (305) 415-6989 or by e-mail at Evelyn.Smart@uscg.mil.


BARRY DRAGON



Appendix C: Scoping Meeting Information

Appendix C-1
Agency Scoping Meeting Presentation



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

All Aboard Florida Environmental Impact Statement

Agency Scoping Meeting

Agency Scoping Meeting



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

- ▶ Project Overview
- ▶ Roles and Responsibilities
 - ▶ FRA
 - ▶ VHB– 3rd Party Consultant
 - ▶ AAF Team
- ▶ Agency Scoping Comments
 - ▶ Issues to be addressed in EIS
 - ▶ Cooperating Agencies



Consultant Role



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

- ▶ Support FRA with
 - ▶ Scoping
 - ▶ DEIS
 - ▶ FEIS
 - ▶ ROD
 - ▶ Administrative Record
 - ▶ Public Participation
 - ▶ Agency Coordination



Review Proponent Technical Studies and Supporting Documents

- ▶ Project Goals and Objectives
- ▶ Alternatives
- ▶ For Each Resource
 - ▶ Methodology
 - ▶ Technical Analysis
 - ▶ Impact Evaluation
 - ▶ Direct
 - ▶ Indirect
 - ▶ Temporary
 - ▶ Cumulative



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**



Prepare FRA EIS

- ▶ Draft EIS
- ▶ Final EIS



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**



Review Comments

- ▶ Scoping
- ▶ DEIS
- ▶ FEIS

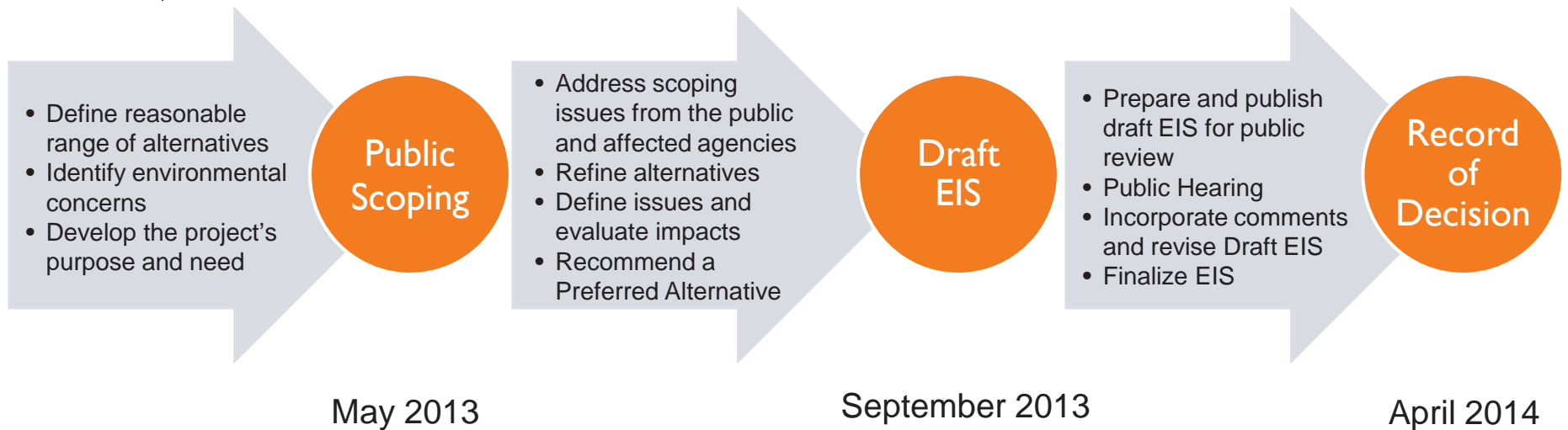


U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**



NEPA Timeline

We are here



Key Environmental Concerns

- ▶ **Miami to Cocoa – Existing Rail Alignment**
 - ▶ Adding 2nd track
 - ▶ Widening bridges
 - ▶ Increased rail operations
- ▶ **Cocoa to Orlando – New Alignment**
 - ▶ Route 528 corridor
 - ▶ Alignment alternatives
 - ▶ New bridges
 - ▶ Track construction



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**



Questions?



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**



Appendix C-2

Public Scoping Meeting Presentation



Public Scoping Meetings Proposed Intercity Passenger Rail Service Orlando to Miami



Why conduct these meetings?



- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) welcomes comments and input, both in support as well as to identify any potential issues that can reasonably be addressed as the project advances.
- This meeting is part of the **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** requirements as described in the **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)**.

What is the format of this scoping meeting?



- Open house format
- Visitors invited to arrive and stay as convenient
- Spanish interpreters available
- Questions and comments welcomed



What is All Aboard Florida?

- AAF is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Florida East Coast Industries, Inc. – one of Florida's oldest and largest transportation, infrastructure and commercial real estate companies.
- AAF is proposing to restore passenger rail service in Florida through a privately owned, operated and maintained system.
- The project will connect Miami and Orlando with intermediate stations in West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale.

What is All Aboard Florida?

- Train service is planned to run hourly in each direction with a total travel time of approximately three hours.
- Trains will travel
 - Up to 79 mph between Miami and West Palm Beach
 - Up to 110 mph between West Palm Beach and Cocoa
 - Up to 125 mph between Cocoa and Orlando



Why intercity passenger rail?

- Florida has seen major population growth, which is expected to increase.
- The State's existing transportation network is congested.
- Efficient and safe travel options are needed to remove cars from roads.
- Rail presents an efficient and reliable travel alternative that will create jobs, support economic development and reduce both greenhouse gas emissions and America's dependence on fossil fuels.



What is the NEPA Process?

- NEPA is a decision-making process that requires federal agencies to consider the impacts of actions on the human and natural environment and to disclose such impacts in a public document.
- Over 30 categories are evaluated, including the potential impacts to Economic and Social Environments, Cultural Resources, Environmental Justice, Noise and Vibration, Air and Water Quality and Protected Species and Essential Habitats.



What major issues will be addressed in this NEPA Process?



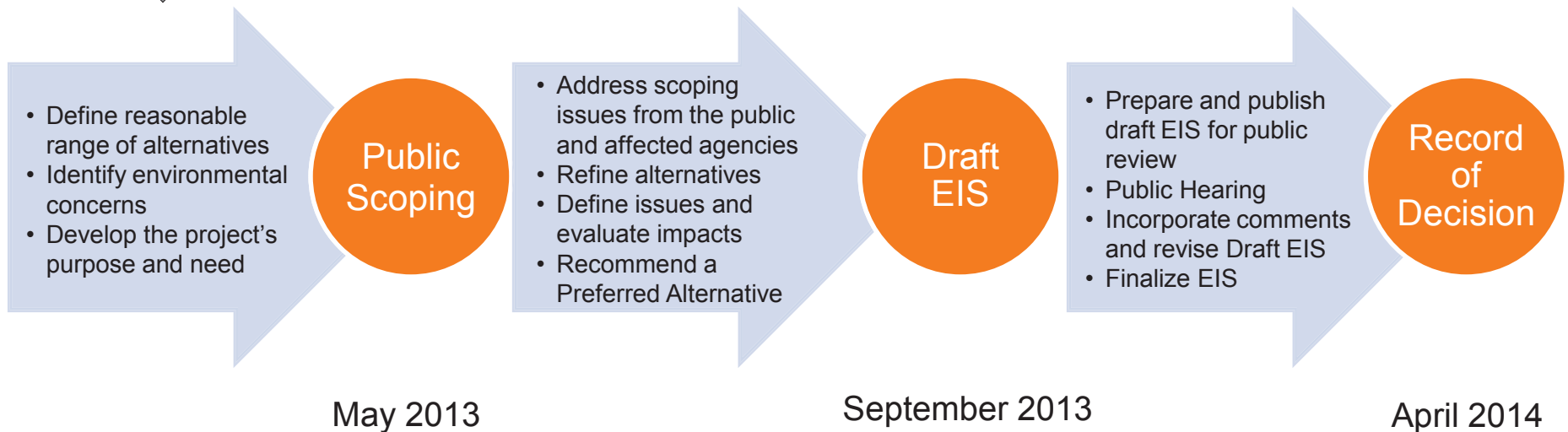
- Through this process, an EIS will be developed and made public to:
 - Describe the purpose and need for the project
 - Review a reasonable range of alternatives
 - Identify a preferred alternative for the project
 - Address the impacts of the preferred alternative



What are the opportunities for involvement?



You are here

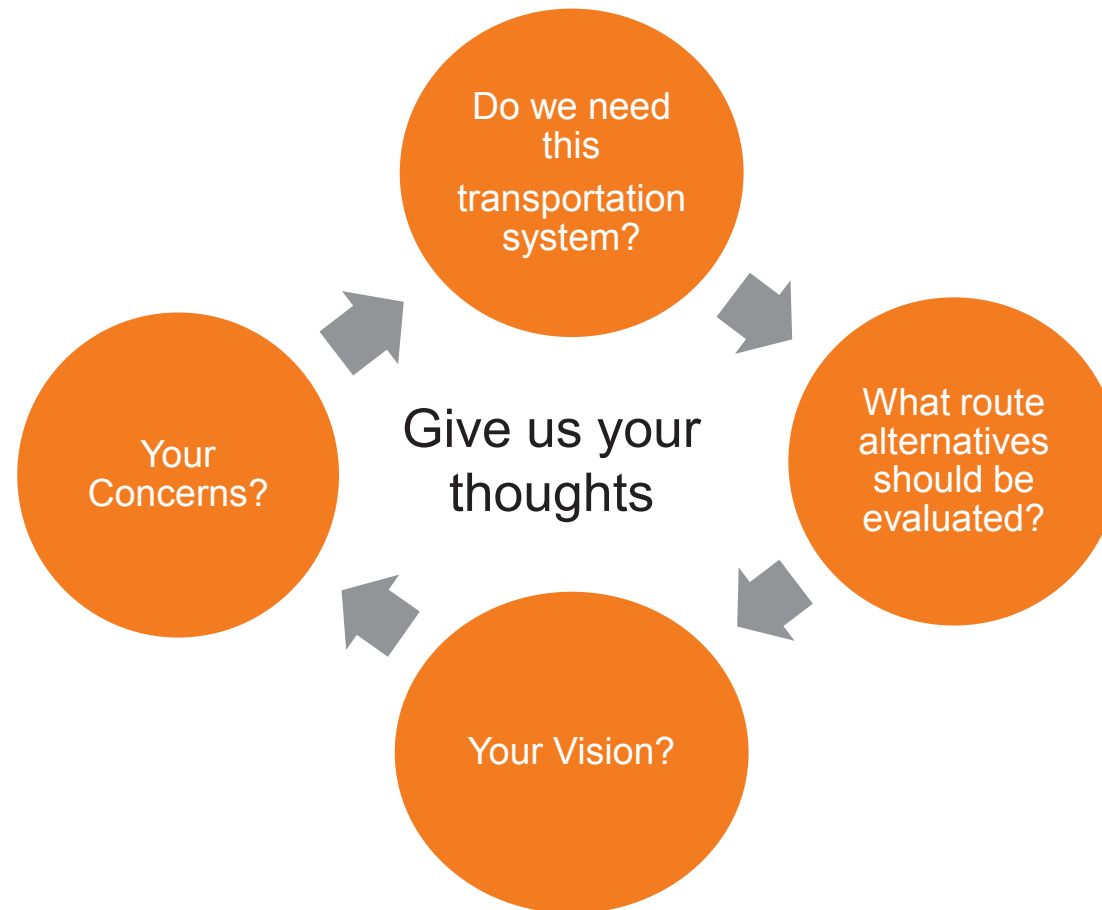


What are the goals of this public scoping process?

- Identify and meet interested stakeholders
- Listen to project neighbors
- Gather information/data to be evaluated
- Consider issues and concerns
- Define the project's purpose and need
- Develop alternatives for further evaluation



Things to consider



Things to know

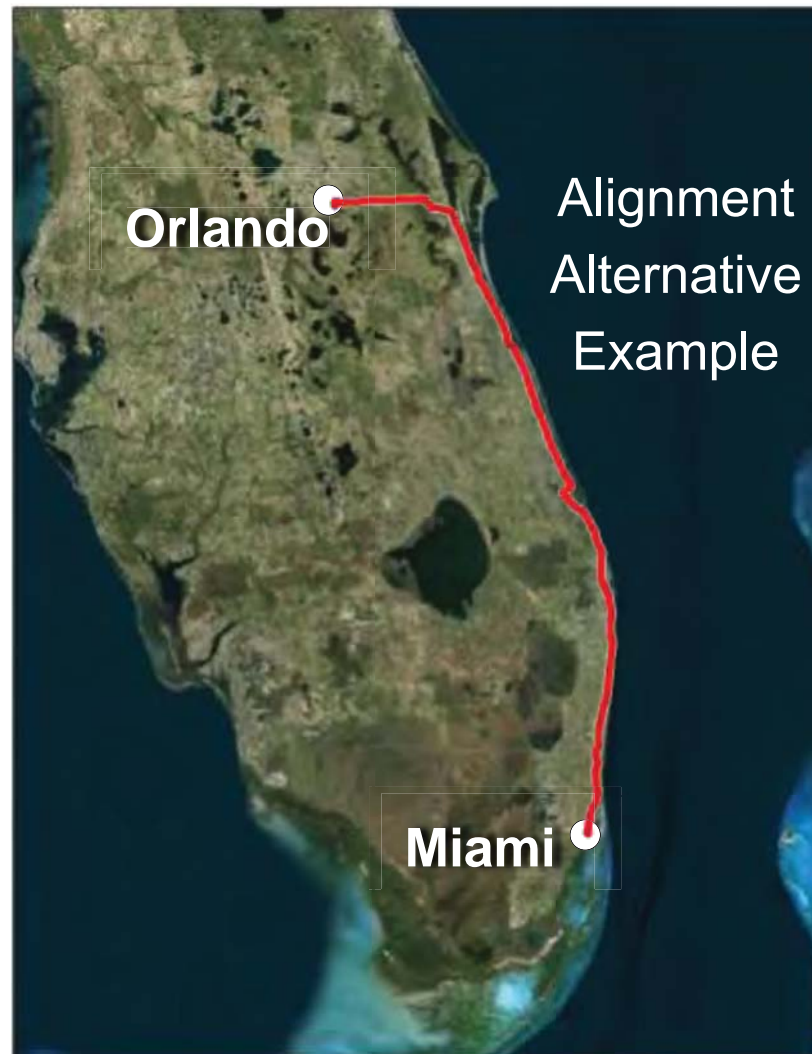
- AAF plans to complete the project within an existing north-south rail corridor for 195 miles and within an existing east-west transportation corridor for 40 miles.
- The NEPA process for the 66-mile intercity passenger rail service between Miami and West Palm Beach has been completed and a Finding of No Significant Impact was issued in January 2013 by the FRA.

Things to know



- AAF is in negotiations with Florida Department of Transportation and Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority to lease part of the SR 528 right-of-way to complete the east-west corridor of the project.
- AAF is in negotiations with the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority to obtain a rail easement to access the Orlando International Airport. AAF will also enter into a lease for a passenger rail station and vehicle maintenance facility.

Alternative to consider



With your help, alternatives may be developed and evaluated during this process.

Please share your thoughts

- In a letter
- By completing and submitting comment cards at this meeting
- By completing and postmarking comment cards by May 15, 2013



Please stay informed



- Sign-in list for mailings or emails
- Check the AAF website and Facebook page
- Follow AAF on Twitter
- Attend future meetings as advertised in your local papers

www.allaboardflorida.com



FRA contact information



Written comments on the scope of the EIS may be postmarked or emailed on or before May 15, 2013 to:

Catherine Dobbs
Transportation Industry Analyst
Office of Railroad Policy and Development
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
catherine.dobbs@dot.gov

AAF contact information



For further information contact:

Ali Soule

Public Affairs Manager

All Aboard Florida – Operations, LLC

2855 Le Jeune Road | 4th Floor

Coral Gables, FL 33134

eis@allaboardflorida.com

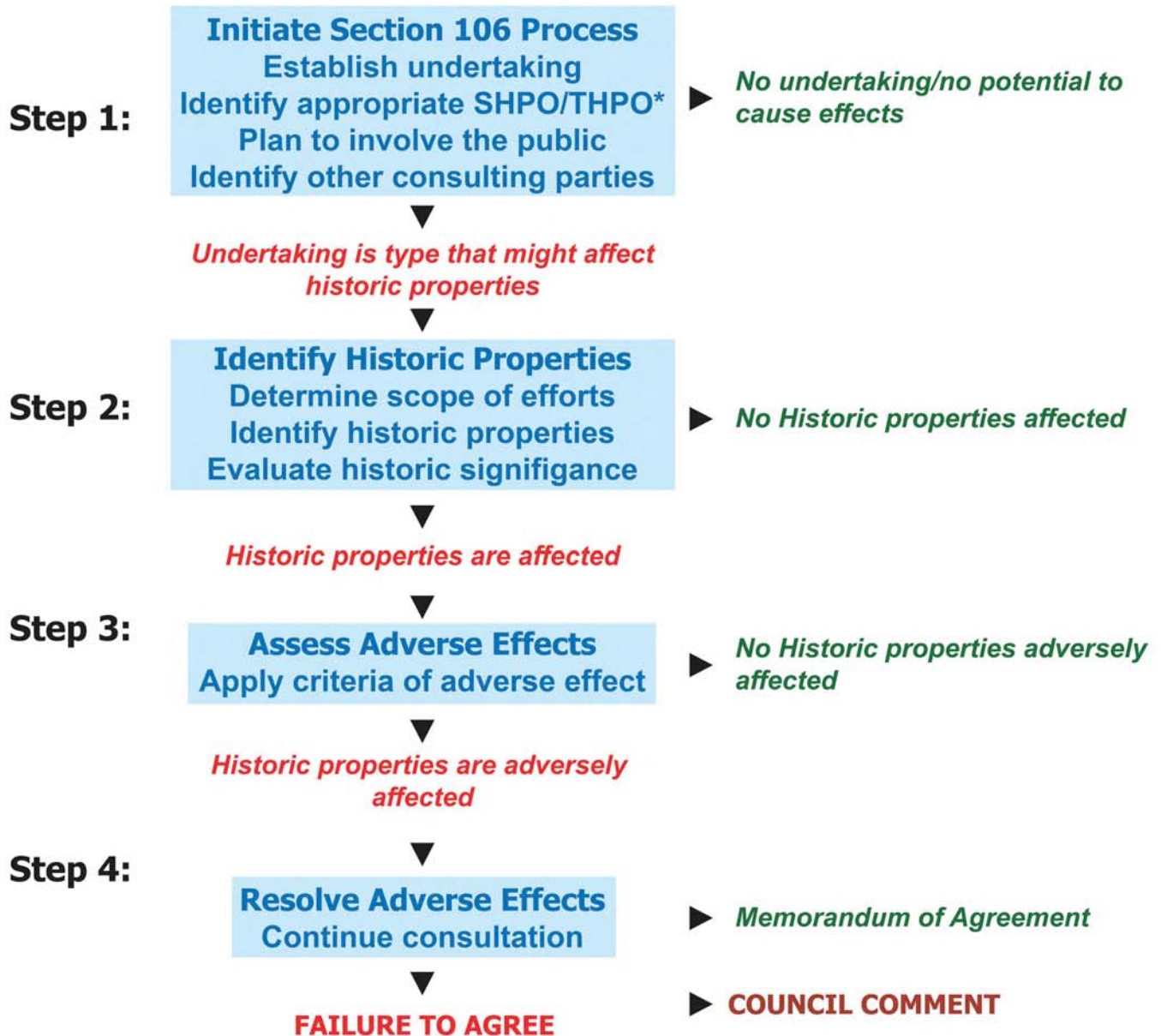
www.allaboardflorida.com

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION**

Appendix C-3

Public Scoping Meeting Boards

Section 106 Process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 Procedure for the Protection of Historical and Archaeological Resources

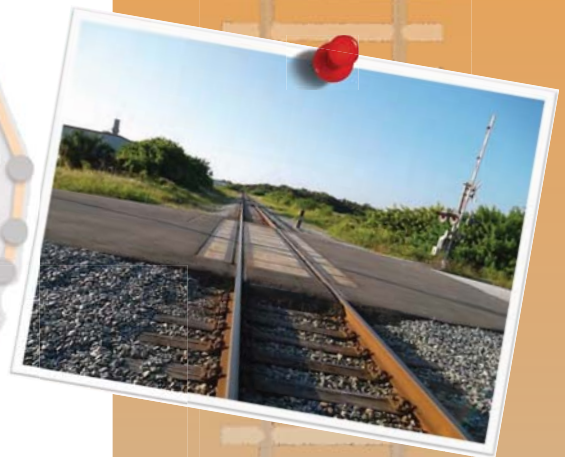


How should Florida meet its future transportation needs?



Does Florida need intercity passenger rail?

For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com



All Aboard Florida's passenger trains will:

- Be shorter, faster and lighter than the freight trains that currently operate in the existing rail corridor
- Clear the intersections in less than a minute
- Start operating in the morning and end in the evening



Differences Between Freight and Passenger Trains in the Existing Rail Corridor

	Freight Current Conditions	Passenger Expected Conditions
Average train length	7,800 feet	900 feet
Trains per day	18	32
Average speed	38 – 52 mph	79 – 125 mph

For more information about this
project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com



Where should the project be located?



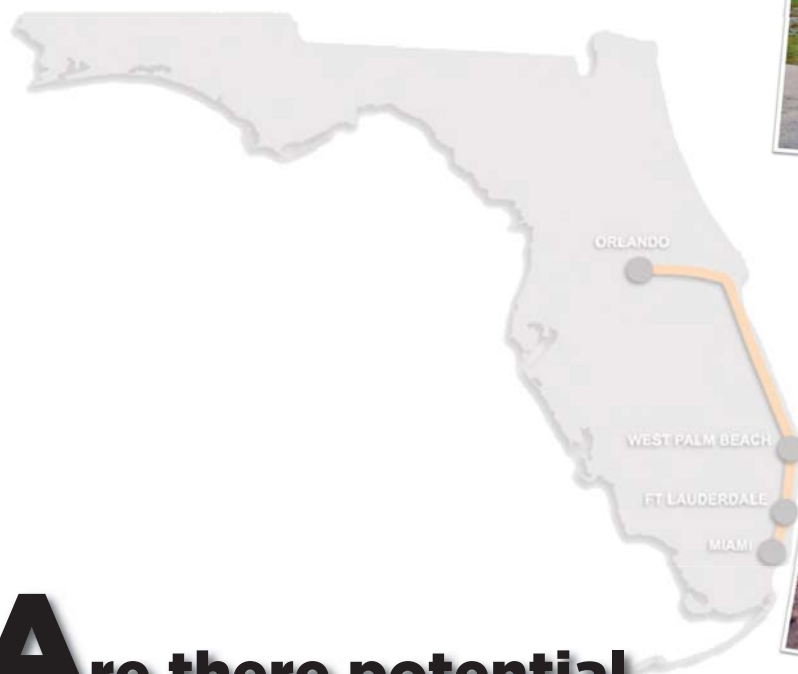
What alternatives should be considered?

For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com





What do you think
about the project?



Are there potential
environmental impacts
that should be analyzed?

For more information about this
project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com





**Thank you
for your interest**

**Did you submit a
comment?**

Please share your ideas and thoughts for the project scoping phase on or before May 15, 2013, by submitting them to catherine.dobbs@dot.gov.

**Did you sign up to
be on our mailing list?**

Please speak with a project team member to receive more information on AAF.

For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com





What does Title VI mean to you?

Title VI prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin. This ensures that no one will be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under this project. We encourage everyone's comments and participation.



This project will proceed in full compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act (U.S.C. 200d-1) and related regulations.

For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com



This project complements state and local adopted plans

- Intercity passenger rail is part of the State's Transportation Plan
- Passenger rail is supported by many of the local governments, transportation planning organizations and regional planning councils in Southeast and Central Florida
- A passenger rail station at the Orlando International Airport is part of its master plan

As a result of the Environmental Assessment/FONSI issued by the FRA in January 2013, All Aboard Florida is planning

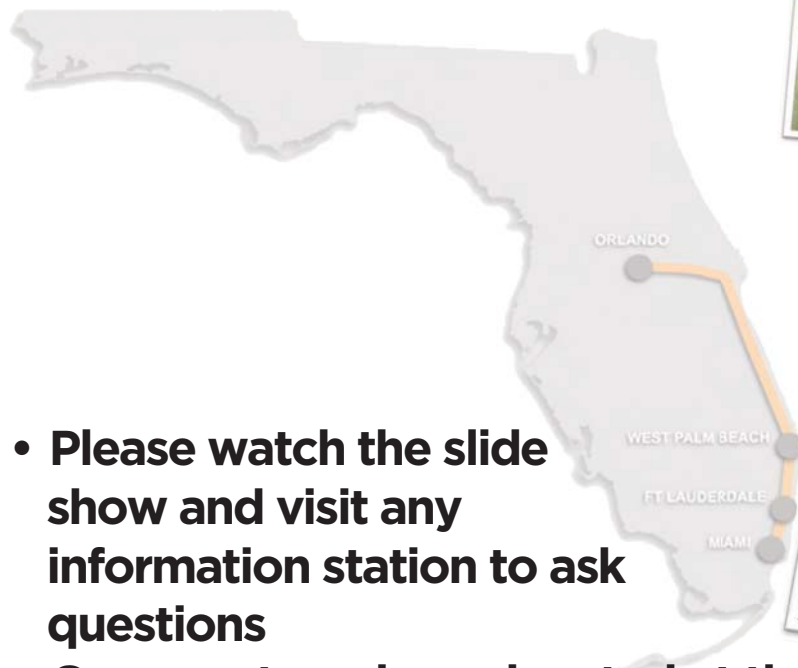
- New passenger rail stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach
- New track upgrades in an existing rail corridor between Miami and West Palm Beach

For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com



Welcome!

Thank you for your participation



- Please watch the slide show and visit any information station to ask questions
- Comment cards are located at the sign-in table and the display area. Please fill one out today or take it home to fill out later



For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com



ALL ABOARD FLORIDA

What is the format of this scoping meeting?

Open house format

Visitors invited to arrive and stay as convenient

Spanish interpreters are available

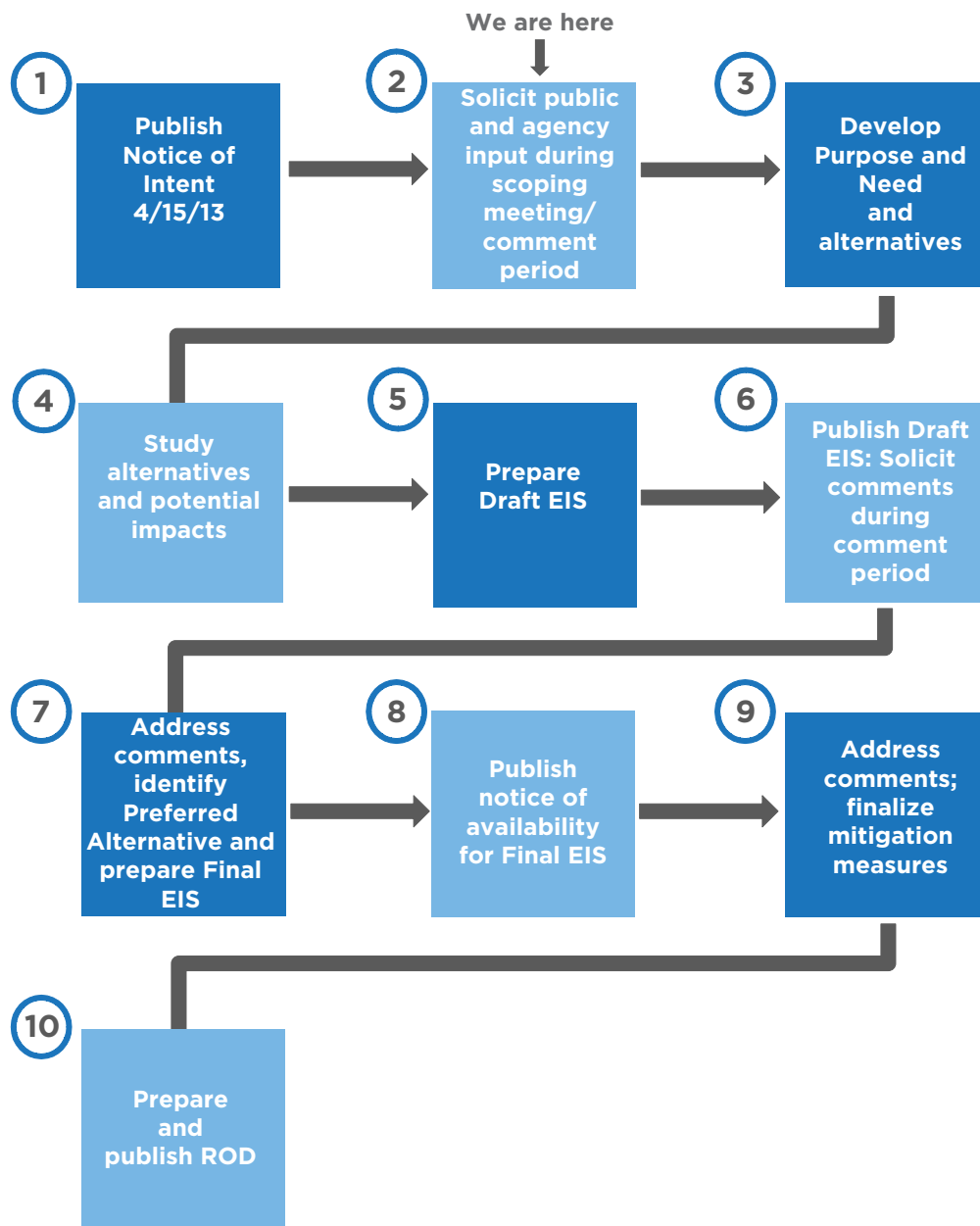
Questions and comments welcomed

**For more information about this project, visit our website:
www.allaboardflorida.com**





The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Impact Statement Process



Appendix C-4

Public Scoping Meeting Comment Forms

Comment Form

The All Aboard Florida (AAF) project is proposing a privately funded, operated and maintained 235-mile intercity passenger rail project that will connect Miami and Orlando with intermediate stations in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. Please provide your feedback to help us shape the vision for this very important project.



1. Do you have any comments on the purpose of the AAF project described at today's meeting?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Do you have any comments on the need for the project as presented at the meeting? ☐ Yes ☐ No

3. Please list any issues or challenges in the study area about which the team should be aware going forward.

4. What concerns do you think should be analyzed in the Environmental Impact Statement?

Please send your comments by May 15, 2013 to:

Catherine Dobbs

Transportation Analyst

Office of Railroad Policy and Development

Federal Railroad Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, D.C., 20590

OR

Catherine.Dobbs@dot.gov

Mailing List and Survey

The All Aboard Florida (AAF) project is proposing a privately funded, operated and maintained 235-mile intercity passenger rail project that will connect Miami and Orlando with intermediate stations in Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach. Please answer the following questions to help us communicate with you and plan future meetings and outreach events.



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Which open house event did you attend?

☐ May 1, 2013

☐ May 6, 2013

☐ May 7, 2013

☐ May 9, 2013

Was the time and location of the meeting convenient for you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please list any suggestions for other times or locations: _____

How did you hear about the meeting?

☐ Email

☐ AAF Website

☐ Word of Mouth

☐ Facebook

☐ Info/Business Card

☐ Twitter

☐ Flier

☐ Newspaper

☐ Other: _____

How would you like to receive updates on the project?

☐ Email

☐ Updates online (AAF website, Facebook, Twitter)

☐ Contact my civic organization to make a presentation (provide contact info below):

Please list any stakeholders, organizations or groups with which we should coordinate going forward.

Do you support the AAF project? Please comment below. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please provide any other comments about your vision for AAF.

