



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#14-0574

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager

DATE: May 6, 2014

TITLE: RESOLUTION Recognizing the Concerns of the Marine Industry as it
Relates to the All Aboard Florida Rail Project

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Commission adopt a resolution recognizing the concerns of Marine Industry as it relates to the Florida East Coast (FEC) All Aboard Florida (AAF) project.

BACKGROUND

The AAF project is proposing to include 32 trains as part of the new service. As such, there is concern about the New River bridge closure, and the potential impact to the Marine Industry. As a mitigation measure, AAF representatives have committed to coordinating train crossings at the New River so that two trains cross at the same time only requiring 16 bridge closures. They have also indicated willingness to explore adding a bridge tender as part of the project.

The AAF project will bring better connectivity and access to Fort Lauderdale, encourage transit oriented development near the proposed AAF station, and make connections to existing transit service and the planned Wave Streetcar system.

The FRA is conducting an environmental impact statement (EIS), which solicits public comment. The proposed resolution (**Exhibit 1**) will be shared directly with AAF representatives, and will be submitted to the FRA for inclusion in the EIS document. The resolution includes the following:

- The City's strong support for the coordinated train crossing at the New River as a mitigation measure to reduce the number of bridge closures.
- A study should be done that shows how the new AAF service (including freight) on the FEC and CSX Railroad Line (CSX) tracks will impact businesses, residents, and the community including marine (vessel) and vehicle traffic.

- The desire for predictable and guaranteed minimum number of minutes that the bridge will be open per hour for boat traffic with specific times, with a preference of 40 minutes per hour.
- Inclusion of the freight component within the EIS.
- The desire to have an FEC bridge tender with operational authority and radio contact with the boating community similar to the current CSX operation. CSX must continue to maintain tender as well.
- Desire for the default position of the bridge to be in the open position.
- Desire to have a bridge operation plan to include addressing hurricane flotilla plan, boat show set-up, and boat parades.

Resource Impact

There is no resource impact at this time.

Strategic Connections

This item is a Commission Annual Action Plan priority, included within the Management Agenda, advancing the All Aboard Florida project.

It is also a *Press Play Fort Lauderdale Strategic Plan 2018* initiative, included within the Infrastructure Cylinder of Excellence, specifically advancing:

- Objective 1: Improve transportation options and reduce congestion by working with agency partners.
Initiative 2: Monitor All Aboard Florida implementation, and advocate for the City's best interest.

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan*: We are Connected.

Attachments:

EX 1: Proposed Resolution

Prepared by: Elizabeth Van Zandt, Mobility Manager

Department Director: Diana Alarcon, Transportation and Mobility