

MINUTES OF MEETING

TO: Scott Seeburger & Project Record

FROM: Aviva Baer & Odalys Delgado

DATE: December 15, 2005

REFERENCE: South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis (SFECCTA)
Financial Project ID: 417031-1-22-01

SUBJECT: Elected Officials/Agency Directors Kickoff, Broward County

ATTENDEES: See attached sign-in sheets

Part I: Public review of project illustrations

Part II: Meeting

1. Welcome

Gannett Fleming Project Manager Carlos Cejas began the formal presentation at 3 pm by saying that the purpose of the meeting was just to gain feedback from those elected officials, agency representatives and members of the public present. He said that there were no alignments to consider as yet.

2. Introductions

3. PowerPoint Presentation

The project PowerPoint was narrated by Scott Seeburger, Carlos Cejas and Robert McMullen.

4. Open discussion

Hallandale Beach Mayor Joy Cooper said her city is interested in supporting passenger service on the FEC right of way. She asked that planners consider one stop in her city, especially as it is mapping future land use. She also expressed the hope that planners are looking to future ridership numbers, not just those of today. Seeburger responded by saying that ridership and future assumptions about those figures are important in gaining federal approval of a project.

Deerfield Beach Vice Mayor Steve Gonot said FDOT is already attempting right of way acquisition in his city on the Dixie Highway flyover, but many intersections will be affected and FDOT needs to get Memoranda of Understanding and begin right of way acquisition to avoid future problems with cities.

Jasmine Yacinthe of the City of Hollywood asked for an e-mail version of the PowerPoint and was told it was posted on the website. She asked that planners be mindful of the historic sites along the railway right of way.

Mark Newman of MTM Partners, Inc. asked if planners are taking into consideration the possible impact of hurricanes. Cejas said federal requirements will probably change and that will influence the outcome of the study. He said changes in requirements had already trickled down to transit stations. He said there is nothing specific yet in this study which might be affected by hurricanes, but there may be a potential for flooding in addition to wind damage. Newman asked if this would add to the cost estimates, and Cejas said it would be difficult to quantify as certain safety factors are already built in.

Fort Lauderdale Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner Adrienne Ehle asked that planners be aware that people may be walking, biking or rollerblading along the railway right of way. She asked if there is consideration for the proposed greenway on Dixie Highway. Cejas said it will be part of the evaluation throughout the corridor, as other greenways are also planned, such as the Flagler Greenway within the FEC Railway corridor in Miami-Dade County.

Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle said his city had passed a resolution in favor of transit along the FEC Railway, as that will be the way in the future of connecting jobs and people. He said the sooner service becomes available the cheaper it will be, as waiting makes it more costly.

National Association of Railroad Passengers member Joseph Stanecki said the system should be seamless from Jupiter to Miami. He said riders don't like to change trains, and that would adversely impact ridership. Seeburger said that the challenge is putting together the system without making the trip difficult.

Bruce Wilson of Water Taxi, Inc. said he was pleased that planners will consider waterborne transit. He noted that fast ferries provide service on Puget Sound, and such service could provide linkages to connections on the New River even if they are not used along the mainline. Seeburger said there is a navigable river as well in Miami-Dade County near 79th Street.

Newman said there is a large population in Broward County's western communities and he asked if planners were looking at connections with those communities. Seeburger said that each of the three counties involved in the study has a Metropolitan Planning Organization which produces a Long Range Transportation Plan, and the study will tie into those. He said the East-West project in Broward would connect with the FEC system.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm. However, attendees were invited to stay and continue to discuss the project with representatives of the FDOT and consultant team.