

FEC Transit Analysis Study – Elected Officials/Agency Meeting Report

Date: December 19, 2005
To: Scott Seeburger, FDOT Project Mgr & Carlos Cejas, Gannett Fleming
From: Michael Brady – LB Limited & Associates, Inc.
Subject: Elected Officials/Agency Kick-Off Meeting – Palm Beach County, FL
Project: SFECC-TAS FPN: 4170311 22 01

The Elected Officials / Agency meeting for Palm Beach County was held in the Cohen Pavilion at the Kravis Center located at 701 Okeechobee Boulevard, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401, from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. 55 people signed in with a headcount of 71 in attendance including project professionals from FDOT, Gannett Fleming, Inc., Hart Consulting Group and L.B. Limited & Associates, Inc.

Scott Seeburger, FDOT Project Manager, gave a brief overview of the project followed by Palm Beach County Commissioner Jeff Koons comments on the need for coordination between agencies and municipalities in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. He also stressed that transportation and development were priorities in Palm Beach County.

Scott Seeburger gave a camera interview with WPEC-12 news photographer prior to the meeting.

Scott Seeburger, Carlos Cejas and Robert McMullen spoke during the PowerPoint presentation for 20 minutes.

After the presentation, comments from meeting attendees included:

- There is a need for a rail maintenance yard in Mangonia Park at the CSX/FEC intersection.
- There is no need for transit stations along this corridor. Trains will be able to load and unload passengers at crossings.
- Please consider selling passengers tickets on the trains – like they do in Europe.
- The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) takes into account more than what was shown in the PowerPoint presentation. FTA heavily considers a measure they term as “user benefits,” similar to benefit/cost – which will need to be taken into account for this corridor study. (Fred Silverman, Parsons Transportation Group)
- Susan Haynie, Boca Raton City Commissioner, stated that she will work with the Palm Beach League of Cities and the Gold Coast League of Cities to support the project and get cities involved.
- There will be transit surveys as part of the study.
- The wait time at rail crossings in Riviera Beach (Blue Heron Blvd.) is an issue. Up to a 35-minute wait at that crossing.
- Representatives from the Port of Palm Beach indicated that they have been working with FDOT and FEC on the SR-710 grade crossing and rail access to the Port.
- Address east-west connectors to the FEC.
- Quiet zones are safety concerns for several of the municipalities along the FEC corridor. This is an issue that will need more attention.
- One meeting participant mentioned that there are certain bus vehicles that are capable of running on railroad tracks.

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- MPO Staff Director Randy Whitfield reported that his office is working with the SFRTA and TCRPC to study transit-oriented development at selected station locations.
- Pertaining to development along the FEC corridor in northern Palm Beach County, there are environmental concerns at the Loxahatchee River that will need to be taken into account.
- One meeting participant pointed out that one project document indicates that the northern terminus of the project is Indiantown Road, but the project illustrations displayed at this meeting show the project ending near the Palm Beach / Martin line.
- TCRPC will be meeting with municipalities to assist with land-use issues and zoning code changes that will be precipitated by planned transit systems such as the SFECC.

Scott Seeburger interviewed with the Palm Beach Post Editorial Writer. This was followed by an oral interview by Scott Seeburger and Carlos Cejas with the reporter from WPEC-12. Media clips have been transmitted electronically to the team.

Attached are the collected comment forms and sign-in sheets from the meeting.