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February 17, 2006

Gustavo Schmidt, P.E., District Planning and Environmental Engineer
Florida Department of Transportation
Planning and Environmental Management
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33309

RE: Advance Notification for South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis (SFECCTA)

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Thank you for providing the Jupiter Inlet District (JID) with the opportunity to comment on the *Advance Notification for South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis (SFECCTA)*. The JID is an independent special taxing district established by the Florida Legislature in 1921 encompassing some 92 square miles in area. Its boundaries are the Palm Beach/Martin County line to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, the first section line north of PGA Blvd. to the south and the Pratt Whitney Road/Beeline Highway to the west.

The JID provides the following services:

- The maintenance of the Jupiter Inlet with a specific emphasis on the navigability of the Jupiter Inlet.
- The maintenance and preservation of the Loxahatchee River and its tributaries.
- The operation of the northern most portion of Jupiter Beach Park (presently being maintained through a lease arrangement by the Palm Beach County Department of Parks and Recreation).

At this stage, our primary concerns focus around the project's potential impacts to the Loxahatchee River in northern Palm Beach and Southern Martin Counties. The waters of the Loxahatchee River are classified as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) and comprise a portion of the Loxahatchee-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve.

We are also very much interested in to what extent any increase in rail transit along the Florida East Coast Railway will impact boat traffic where it crosses the Loxahatchee River. One page vi of the Executive Summary, it is stated, "the corridor will only cross the Loxahatchee River if a rail yard is sited in Palm Beach County north of

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SR706/Indiantown Road or in southern Martin County.” How and at what point in the study will the siting of the rail yard be determined?

Finally, for future reference please note that you have mistakenly identified the JID Board of Commissioners as commissioners of Jupiter Inlet Colony (see page 24 of cover letter to Ms. Lauren P. Milligan).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Grella, CDM, AICP
Executive Director

MG:jf

C: Mayor Golonka and Council Members, Town of Jupiter
Mayor Humpage and Council Members, Village of Tequesta
Randy Whitfield, Executive Director, Palm Beach County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)