



DEPARTMENT OF PORT EVERGLADES – Port Director's Office
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Planning & Environmental Mgmt.
District Four

February 14, 2006

Gustavo Schmidt, P.E.
District Planning and Environmental Engineer
Planning and Environmental Management
Florida Department of Transportation, District 4
3400 West Commercial Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309-3421

Re: **South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis
Advance Notification Package**

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

Per your request, we have reviewed the Advance Notification (AN) Package for the South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis (SFECCTA), dated January 23, 2006, and offer the following comments:

GENERAL COMMENTS:

1. Overall, the AN provided very good background as well as a purpose and need for the study. As you know, Broward County has begun the PD&E process for the proposed Intermodal Center and People Mover (IMC/PM) Project between its two enterprise fund facilities, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Port Everglades. It appears that with the onset of the SFECCTA project, as well as the other transit projects that are currently in the planning phase within Broward County, that perhaps an overall regional transit system will materialize for South Florida in the next 10 or 20 year planning horizon.
2. We feel strongly that this study recognize the importance of the FEC rail line from a freight and goods movement standpoint. As you know, Port Everglades' container volumes continue to rise year after year and the importance of being able to move some of these containers via the FEC rail line is of importance to the Port's business. Currently, Port Everglades is working with the FDOT on a very important project that is related to moving containers on the FEC rail line, which is the Eller Drive Overpass. This project will allow for the development of a rail spur to Southport, which is the main container area of Port Everglades, and ultimately the potential development of an on-Port Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF). Currently, the FDOT is working on the final design for the construction of the Eller Drive Overpass. With this in mind, we believe that any alternative selected during this process will need to reflect a balance between freight/goods and people on the FEC rail line.
3. I would like to recommend that the Atlantic Coast Corridor Study, which was prepared by the Florida Ports Council, be reviewed and utilized during this planning effort.

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SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

Page 7, System Linkage, First Paragraph

- In future documents it may be worth noting the IMC/PM Project, which is currently in the PD&E Phase.

Page 7, System Linkage, Second and Third Paragraphs

- In future documents it may be worth noting the proposed ICTF in Southport at Port Everglades.

Page 10, System Linkage, Table 2

- In future documents please correct this table to reflect Broward County as the owner/sponsor of the IMC/PM Project, as well as FHWA as the lead federal agency.

Page 14, Social Demands or Economic Development, Last Paragraph

- There is a brief discussion of the economic impact of the Port of Miami on Miami-Dade County. In future documents it would be nice to see this type of information provided for Port Everglades.

Page 15, Modal Interrelationships, Second Paragraph

- There is reference to 2003 data on Port Everglades. There is detailed 2004 and 2005 TEU and cruise passenger data available on Port Everglades. It is recommended that this more current data be utilized in all analysis related to this study.

If possible, I would like to recommend that David Anderton, Strategic Planning Manager, be included on the Steering Committee for this project. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact David Anderton at (954) 468-0144.

Sincerely,



Phillip C. Allen
Port Director

PCA/JDA:keb

cc: Robert J. Flint, Interim Deputy Director
Christopher B. Novack, P.E., Director, Seaport Construction & Planning 
J. David Anderton, AICP, Strategic Planning Manager, Seaport Construction & Planning 