

[Autos](#) [Real Estate](#) [Jobs](#) [Classified](#)

[Subscribe](#) [Help](#)



78°
Broken Clouds
H: 82° L: 73°
[Weather](#) | [Traffic](#)

my Friday, April 18, 2014

Welcome to mypalmbeachpost.com

Hi, [dmayo](#) | [Sign Out](#)

The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Search Site



[HOME](#)

[LOCAL / STATE](#)

[INVESTIGATIONS](#)

[SPORTS](#)

[OPINION](#)

[BUSINESS](#)

[ACCENT](#)

[FOOD](#)

[TGIF](#)

[SHOP](#)

LATEST HEADLINES

[HOME](#) / [NEWS](#) / [LOCAL](#)

Big crowd in Jupiter mostly opposes All Aboard Florida

Resize text A | A | A

Posted: 9:46 p.m. Thursday, April 17, 2014



BY [BILL DIPAOLO](#) - PALM BEACH POST STAFF WRITER

JUPITER — Boaters wary of losing water access, residents fearing train horns and politicians calling for safety voiced their concerns Thursday night at a public meeting about the future of All Aboard Florida, the high-speed passenger train service planned between Miami and Orlando.

“It’s conceivable that these trains could block boat traffic at bridges for a long time. That puts me, and dozens of other boating businesses, out of business,” said William Biggs, owner of Riverwatch Marina and Boatyard in Stuart at the meeting attended by about 300 people at Jupiter’s Community Center.



Audience members listen during a public meeting to discuss the proposed All Aboard Florida rail service Thursday, April 17, 2014 at ... [Read More](#)

Florida East Coast Industries has proposed the express rail service, which would also have stops in Ft. Lauderdale and West Palm Beach, to compete with highway and airline travel. Plans call for the \$2.5 billion project to be running in 2016. AAF plans to run 32 daily passenger runs between 6 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Support comes from local governments and business groups. They say the stations will improve blighted

downtown areas, road traffic will be reduced and the infrastructure upgrades could help bring commuter rail to the eastward tracks. AAF will bring jobs, increased tax revenue and investment to urban areas along the route, said Mike Reininger, AAF President and chief development officer.

“If you are a Floridian you have to be in favor of improved infrastructure,” said Reininger.

advertisement

In this Section

[Royal Palm Beach Green Market closed on Easter](#)

[Woodcarving classes held at Boynton Beach Senior Center](#)

[Boynton Beach hosts World Tai Chi-Qigong Day celebration](#)

[Morning commute hits some snags on I95 in Lake Worth](#)

[Registration open for weekday summer camp in Wellington](#)

[Superhero drawing class for children held in Boynton Beach](#)

[Start-up insurer and Scott donor bans business in 18 South Florida ZIP codes](#)

[Strong storms possible this evening; Sunday clear and cooler in Palm Beach County, TCoast](#)

[West Palm Beach area Publix sold Fantasy 5 ticket now worth \\$74K](#)

[Delray Beach man with family in law enforcement accused of impersonating deputy while buying drugs](#)

Feedback



BRUCE R. BENNETT

Congressman Patrick Murphy speaks during a public meeting to discuss the proposed All Aboard Florida rail service Thursday, April 17, 2014 ... [Read More](#)

But at Thursday's sometimes boisterous meeting, sentiment was mostly against the proposal. Lower home prices, loud train horns and a drop in revenue for businesses along the tracks is the likely result if AAF is built, many told the panel of local officials.

"In this area, we will not get any upside. We will not get the tourism benefits that the cities that have the stations will get," said Bill Hall, president of the Jupiter Tequesta Association of Realtors, who was on the

panel.

Jupiter resident Sherrie Facchine questioned the whole premise of the project.



BRUCE R. BENNETT

David and Danielle Champlin of Jupiter hold signs opposing All Aboard Florida during a public meeting to discuss the proposed rail ... [Read More](#)

"Why would I get on a train to Orlando or Miami? I just have to rent a car when I get there. It's easier to drive there and have my own car," said the Jupiter resident.

Opponents collected signatures against the plan. Jupiter residents Danielle and David Champlin carried signs reading: "Stop Big Choo Choo In His Tracks."

Jeers came when Jupiter resident Jim Kovalsky stood and announced his

Feedback

support for AAF, saying it would boost tourism and the local economy.



“A lot of misinformation is being spread that is making people angry,” said Kovalsky.

The trains could travel up to 79 mph from Miami to 30th Street in West Palm Beach, and up to 110 mph north to Cocoa, where the railroad would have to build tracks running to Orlando International Airport.

The Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization Thursday urged Florida transportation officials to require a “sealed corridor” level of safety for

passenger rail in high speed zones north of West Palm Beach. That higher level of safety includes additional lighting and gates for pedestrians and motorists at crossings. All Aboard Florida has said repeatedly that it will adhere to required safety levels.

Related Gallery

Manny Giudice of Tequesta wasn’t convinced.

“People walk across the tracks all the time. These high-speed trains will be even more dangerous,” he said.

An environmental impact statement is expected this spring. Public hearings will then be held on the project.

Feedback



All Aboard Florida Meeting

- Q&A with All Aboard Florida President and Chief Development Officer Michael Reininger
- Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization asks state transportation officials to hold All Aboard Florida to highest safety levels
- All Aboard Florida president defends safety of passenger rail plans
- Frankel, Murphy call for highest level of safety for All Aboard Florida railroad designs
- Paying for rail safety could cover quiet zones, but standards in dispute
- Federal rail official blasts All Aboard Florida's safety commitment for passenger railroad

Tequesta residents fear AAF will slow response time for public safety vehicles, said Village Mayor Abby Brennan.

“Many feel AAF would change their life drastically,” Brennan said.

North County residents are not the only ones who have expressed opposition.

Grandview Heights residents in West Palm Beach have launched a website urging residents to oppose AAF unless increased safety and noise guidelines are met.

“If All Aboard Florida is allowed to move forward without quiet zones, it is my view that the neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity of the train tracks will be severely impacted and in some cases unsustainable,” said Rick Rose, who owns a West Palm Beach bed-and-

breakfast near the railroad tracks.

Staff Writer Emily Roach contributed to this story.

Feedback

PREVIOUS: LOCAL GOVT & POLITICS

Royal Palm Beach OKs two business development...

By Kevin D. Thompson - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

NEXT: CRIME & LAW

Fort Pierce police arrest first-degree murder susp...

By Julius Whigham II - Palm Beach Post Staff Writer