



THE FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

COMMITTEES:
Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture,
Environment, and General Government, *Chair*
Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, *Vice Chair*
Appropriations
Environment and Natural Resources
Health Policy

SENATOR DEBBIE MAYFIELD

17th District

January 28, 2019

Brevard County Board of Commissioners
Commissioner Kristine Isnardi, Chairwoman
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Chairwoman Isnardi,

During the 2018 session, I sponsored legislation requesting the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to contract with a third party consultant to examine all existing and planned passenger rail systems in the state of Florida. We requested that the study include an overview of the jurisdiction of federal, state and local governments that regulate high-speed rail operations, as well as recommendations to further enhance rail safety in this state.

The Florida Passenger Rail System Study, conducted by CPCS Transcom Inc., identified the following key issues:

- High rate of severe injuries and fatalities and high levels of trespassing incidents on railroad right of way due to rail services operating in dense urban areas. Florida's passenger rail system incurs a higher rate of severe injuries and fatalities than the national average.
- Gaps in regulations that are specific to higher-speed rail operations and a series of rail expansion projects.
- The need to clarify Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) mandate on oversight of passenger rail with respect to maintenance, safety, revitalization, and expansion.
- The lack of resources for local governments for planning rail projects.

To improve passenger rail operations, safety and policy in Florida, the study recommended:

- Updating FDOT's mandate to more clearly define its regulatory role in implementing safety regulations.
- Setting new regulations for higher-speed rail.
- Implementing state of the art practices.
- Enforcement of railroad crossing trespass violations.
- Continuing research to promote public safety along railroads.

REPLY TO:

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- 1801 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 226-1970
- 322 Senate Building, 404 South Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100 (850) 487-5017

Senate's Website: www.flsenate.gov

BILL GALVANO
President of the Senate

DAVID SIMMONS
President Pro Tempore

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I have provided a copy of this study for your review.

According to Brevard County Resolutions 14-201 and 17-007, the County has adopted crossing agreement amendments and authorized the transfer of certain easement interests to All Aboard Florida. Considering that the information provided in the study was not available at the time these resolutions were adopted, you may want to revisit the resolutions and any related agreements with your fellow commissioners to ensure the highest standard of safety for our residents and minimize costs that would be passed onto taxpayers.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Debbie Mayfield
State Senator, District 17

CC: Commissioner Rita Pritchett
Commissioner Bryan Lober
Commissioner John Tobia
Commissioner Curt Smith
Frank Abbate, Brevard County Manager
John Denninghoff, Brevard County Assistant County Manager
Mayor Kathy Meehan, City of Melbourne
Mayor Bob Hoog, City of Cape Canaveral
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