



AGENDA REPORT
April 9, 2019

**Resolution Supporting Senator Debbie Mayfield's Efforts To Ensure Safety
In Passenger Rail Systems**

SUBJECT:

Resolution supporting Senator Debbie Mayfield's Efforts to Ensure Safe Passenger Rail Systems in Florida

DEPT/OFFICE:

District 3

REQUESTED ACTION:

Board Consideration and Passage of Attached Resolution

CLERK TO THE BOARD INSTRUCTIONS:

If this can fit into a framed resolution please do that. If not, Please do the Resolution so that it may be presented to Senator Mayfield.

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

- ▣ Resolution in Support of Debbie Mayfield

Resolution 19-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF FLORIDA SENATOR DEBBIE MAYFIELD'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEMS IN FLORIDA BY ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FULFILL THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY'S STUDY REGARDING PASSENGER RAIL.

WHEREAS, the Florida Office of Public Policy and Government Oversight (OPPAGA) used funds set aside in the State Budget for fiscal year 2018/2019 to contract with CPCS Transcom, an international transportation and power infrastructure consulting group, to conduct a study of Florida passenger rail systems; and

WHEREAS, CPCS released its findings October 31st, 2018, which encompassed an inventory of all existing and future passenger rail systems in the state, the accident and incident reports of each and an overview of the jurisdictions that regulate passenger rail including federal, state, regional and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified a major issue in the state of Florida regarding the high rate of severe injuries and fatalities and high levels of trespassing incidents on railroad right of ways due to rail services operating in dense urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified gaps in regulations specific to higher-speed rail operations and a series of rail expansion projects noting there are FDOT regulations governing the safety operations of trains going up to 79 mph and trains operating at speeds of over 125 mph, but there is a glaring absence of regulations governing higher speed rail systems including All Aboard Florida; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified the need to clarify FDOT's mandate on oversight of passenger rail with respect to maintenance, safety, revitalization, and expansion as the department is "given an explicit role to oversee rail planning and implementation" through the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study found the lack of resources for local governments for planning rail projects as evidenced by the under-regulated development of higher speed passenger rail in some counties, cities and small communities which are overburdened financially and technically by massive changes to their infrastructure including roadways and grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Rail Study analyzed passenger rail systems in Florida, the FL East Coast Rail freight system (now owned by Mexican conglomerate, Grupo Mexico) has its own devastating safety record with 536 accidents and incidents, 143 total fatalities, 105 trespasser deaths and 59 derailments in the last 10 years; and

WHEREAS, All Aboard Florida has experienced 17 deaths on its rails in 20 months while going a maximum speed of 79 mph before the service reaches speeds up to 110 mph in Brevard County; and



April 10, 2019

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner John Tobia, District 3

RE: Item J.5., Resolution Supporting Senator Debbie Mayfield's Efforts to Ensure Safe Passenger Rail Systems in Florida

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on April 9, 2019, adopted Resolution No. 19-060, support Senator Debbie Mayfield's efforts to ensure safe passenger rail systems in Florida. Enclosed is a copy of the Resolution.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Tammy Rowe

Tammy Rowe, Deputy Clerk

Encl. (1)

Brevard



County

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF FLORIDA SENATOR DEBBIE MAYFIELD'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEMS IN FLORIDA BY ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FULFILL THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY'S STUDY REGARDING PASSENGER RAIL

WHEREAS, the Florida Office of Public Policy and Government Oversight (OPPAGA) used funds set aside in the State Budget for fiscal year 2018/2019 to contract with CPCS Transcom, an international transportation and power infrastructure consulting group, to conduct a study of Florida passenger rail systems; and

WHEREAS, CPCS released its findings October 31st, 2018, which encompassed an inventory of all existing and future passenger rail systems in the state, the accident and incident reports of each and an overview of the jurisdictions that regulate passenger rail including federal, state, regional and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified a major issue in the State of Florida regarding the high rate of severe injuries and fatalities and high levels of trespassing incidents on railroad right of ways due to rail services operating in dense urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified gaps in regulations specific to higher-speed rail operations and a series of rail expansion projects noting there are FDOT regulations governing the safety operations of trains going up to 79 mph and trains operating at speeds of over 125 mph, but there is a glaring absence of regulations governing higher speed rail systems including All Aboard Florida; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified the need to clarify FDOT's mandate on oversight of passenger rail with respect to maintenance, safety, revitalization, and expansion as the department is "given an explicit role to oversee rail planning and implementation" through the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study found the lack of resources for local governments for planning rail projects as evidenced by the under-regulated development of higher speed passenger rail in some counties, cities and small communities which are overburdened financially and technically by massive changes to their infrastructure including roadways and grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners wishes to express its full support in Senator Mayfield's hard work in preventing unsafe conditions in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

- 1) The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners fully supports Florida Senator Debbie Mayfield's request that the Florida Department of Transportation immediately accept the findings of the OPPAGA study and develop regulations governing higher speed passenger trains.
- 2) The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners encourages Governor DeSantis to address the high number of deaths on all forms of rail systems in Florida and direct the FDOT to develop plans for reducing the number of deaths, accidents and derailments, as Florida's rail system is one of the most dangerous in the country.
- 3) The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners encourages Governor DeSantis to direct FDOT to consider an alternative route for higher speed passenger rail where reduced population density and much fewer at-grade crossings will save the lives, the livelihoods and the tax dollars of all Florida residents.

DONE, ORDERED AND ADOPTED, in regular session, this 9th day of April 2019.

ATTEST:

Scott Ellis

SCOTT ELLIS, CLERK

Kristine Isnardi

KRISTINE ISNARDI, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

