



**CITY OF DANIA BEACH
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
STAFF REPORT**

DATE: April 22, 2014
TO: Robert Baldwin, City Manager
FROM: Marc LaFerrier, AICP, Director
SUBJECT: Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) (TIGER) Grant application for Safety and Quiet Zone improvements

The anticipated increase of freight and passenger trains on the FEC railway corridor has resulted in the planned expansion of the rail-lines in the corridor. The FEC will expand railway improvements in the corridor to accommodate the additional train traffic. A "double-track" for the railway is planned in Dania Beach. The additional trains will result in an increase of noise at the street/railway crossings from the train horns. In order to reduce the noise in the community, the FDOT is proposing to add Quiet Zone improvements at the street/rail crossings. The Quiet Zone improvements are certain gate arms, vehicle detection devices and signalization that intend to prohibit vehicles and pedestrians from crossing the railroad tracks when a train is approaching; and thereby eliminating or reducing the need for the train horn to blow.

The installation of additional safety equipment at the at-grade crossings along the FEC railroad corridor will allow our community to establish Quiet Zones that provide a safe area where train horns are not routinely sounded. These safety improvements will reduce the impacts from freight, decrease noise levels for our neighborhoods, schools and businesses, while accommodating greater trade and economic vitality for the communities and businesses served by the FEC corridor.

If the Broward MPOs' application for a TIGER Grant is successful, the municipalities along the FEC corridor will need to amend their existing Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreements with the FEC to fund the additional (O&M) costs directly related to the TIGER funded infrastructure.

The attached proposed City Commission Resolution expresses the City's support for the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) efforts to secure federal funding in the form of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant for the installation of additional safety equipment along the Florida East Coast (FEC) railroad corridor.

Recommendation

The City Commission approve the attached resolution.