Phases 1A and 2 Northwood Connections
Palm Beach County, Florida
FPID numbers: 434948-1 and 434948-2

Palm Beach MPO
MPO Board Meeting

Presentation by
Florida Department of Transportation
District Four

Thursday, July 16, 2015 • 9:00am
Agenda

• Project Location
• Project Status
• Proposed Improvements
• Benefits/Impacts
• Public Involvement
• Project Schedule
Project Location

- City of West Palm Beach
- Between Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway and South Florida Railroad Corridor (SFRC)
- FEC serves freight and future All Aboard Florida & Tri-Rail passenger service
- SFRC serves Amtrak, Tri-Rail, CSX freight
Purpose and Need

- Active connection needed between SFRC and FEC
- Improved freight mobility
- Connects major ports to intermodal centers
- Serve existing and future freight (not higher than historical freight levels)
- Other goals:
  - Enhance capacity on roadway network due to freight efficiency
  - Potentially serve Tri-Rail Coastal Link future passenger rail and potential Tri-Rail extension to Jupiter
Project Timeline

**DEC 2013**
Northwood Public Workshop

**SPRING 2014**
Preliminary Design began

**JUNE 2014**
Environ. Study completed

**AUG 2014**
TIGER Grant signed

**MAY 2015**
Phase 1A Procurement
Design Public Workshop
Phase 2 Final Design; ROW Phase (2014-2017)

**SEP 2015**
Phase 1A Construction
Design Phase Process

Allows for Public and Agency Input

Start Design Phase Spring 2014

Data Collection

Design Analysis

Develop Preliminary Design Plans

Refine Preliminary Design Plans

Finalize (30%) Design Plans

Agency Coordination

Federal Railroad Agency Review & Comment

Design Public Workshop
Existing Land Uses

- Industrial land uses
- Historical freight rail activity
- No residential property impacts
- Neighborhoods - North Tamarind, Northwood Hills and Old Northwood
- Northwood Village east of FEC
Proposed Improvements
Northwood – Phase 1A

• Rehabilitate existing single track (approx. 0.75 miles)

• Northwest to Southeast orientation

• New gate arms/signal equipment at six grade crossings

• Existing FDOT right-of-way
**Proposed Improvements**

**Northwood – Phase 2**

- Construct new single track (approx. 0.5 miles)
- Northeast to Southwest orientation
- New gate arms/signal equipment at 5 new public grade crossings
- Approx. 2.4 acres of new railroad right-of-way
Rail Operations on Proposed Connections

- Project is shifting freight from FEC to SFRC not adding more freight
- Late 2016: Up to 6 freight trains (in each direction) on the Phase 1A Rehabilitated Northwood Connection (until Phase 2 is built)
- Late 2018: Up to 6 freight trains on the Phase 2 New Northwood Connection
  - One (1) freight train (in each direction) on Phase 1A in ultimate condition
- Freight trains will operate after 7 p.m.
- Maximum design speeds are 15-20 mph
Community Redevelopment Agency’s District

- Economic Analysis coordinated with City/CRA in 2013

- Local Benefits
  - Infrastructure enhancements
  - Construction jobs
  - Redevelopment, potential of increased property values and jobs

- Regional Benefits
  - Total net present value of $1.125 billion in regional benefits
Noise/Vibration

• Noise and Vibration Assessment
  – No significant impacts
    • Based on surrounding noise and existing/historical trains
  – Phase 2
    • Potential Moderate Noise Impacts (less than 3 dBA increase) to North Tamarind community (up to 20 homes)
  – No noise abatement measures proposed because they do not meet federal criteria for overall noise reduction
Safety Measures

- **SFRC**
  - Existing Quiet Zone

- **FEC**
  - Noise will not increase due to project

- **Northwood Connection**
  - Supplemental Safety Measures proposed for driver safety
  - Phase 2: Four-Quad Gates at public crossings
  - Phase 1A: Four-Quad Gates at two crossings
    - Meet FRA’s current requirements for City to apply for Quiet Zone
    - Additional analysis and coordination with City/FEC ongoing
Traffic

- Freight trains proposed to operate at night to minimize traffic delays
- No significant impacts anticipated
- Design will include enhancements for traffic coordination
  - Connectivity with adjacent grade crossings and traffic signal at 25th Street/Tamarind Avenue
Project Partners

- **Lead Federal Agency - Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**
  - Awarded $13.75 Million 2013 TIGER grant

- **Joint Development Partners**
  - Project Costs: Phase 1A - $13.3 M, Phase 2 - $27.5 M
  - SFRTA: $2.5 M Commitment
  - FEC: $1 M Commitment
  - CSX: $1 M Commitment
Northwood Public Workshop

• Tuesday, May 12, 2015; 5:30 – 7 pm

• Gaines Park, Mary V. McDonald-Wilson Community Center

• 43 public attendees

• Northwood Hills HOA presentation May 19, 2015
# Project Schedule

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**Phase 1A:** Rehabilitate Existing Northwood Connection  
**Phase 2:** New Northwood Connection
Project Contact

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www.railprogress.com
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