



Riverside Park Residents' Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 122, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33302

September 20, 2010

Mr. Scott Seeburger
FDOT Project Manager
Planning & Environmental Management Office
3400 W. Commercial Boulevard
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33309

RE: South Florida East Coast Corridor Transit Analysis, Phase 2
Draft Alternatives Analysis Report, August 2010 **New River Crossing**

Dear Mr. Seeburger:

Our waterfront community is located just east of I95 and is fortunate enough to be proximal to both the north and south forks of the New River. We are bounded by Broward Boulevard on the north, Davie Boulevard on the south and there are no fixed bridges between us and the ocean.

First of all, we think commuter service on the FEC corridor is a good thing that frankly, is long overdue. Rapid, frequent commuter service from West Palm Beach to Miami will be a good thing for the entire corridor, and will strengthen downtown Fort Lauderdale in comparison to western Broward County and elsewhere; whether it takes ten years or twenty-five, it seems that commuter rail on the FEC tracks is inevitable and welcome.

At the same time, marine-related business, tourism, and recreation are at the heart of what makes Fort Lauderdale an attractive place to live, work, and play, and the development of commuter service needs to accommodate marine needs, if it is to raise rather than lower, the quality of life in Fort Lauderdale.

In Riverside Park alone, there are hundreds of waterfront properties, which would be adversely affected by the creation of a height limited fixed bridge, where none exists now. The same is true for waterfront property in Sailboat Bend, Tarpon River, Shady Banks, and River Oaks, if ocean access is abridged. The result of a fixed bridge at the FEC tracks would be a reduction in value of thousands of residential properties, a disaster to our tax base, and a permanent, insurmountable barrier to many boaters attempting to navigate past the downtown area of the City of Fort Lauderdale to I95.

In addition, the South Fork has multiple marine boatyards, which depend on ocean access for their livelihoods. If power boats and sailing vessels alike cannot gain passage to the boat yards for service, the blow would be fatal to our marine industry, already reeling from the effects of a poor economic climate. We would respectfully request you consider whether a fixed bridge over the gateway to our downtown area will damage the marine industry in Fort Lauderdale for the next 50 years or more.

As for Riverside Park, we herewith go on record as opposing any fixed bridge on the New River at the FEC tracks. Nothing less than a drawbridge would be deemed acceptable to our community. Waterfront property owners in Riverside Park have taken enough of a hit already without taking away the "no fixed bridges" feature we have enjoyed up to now.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Mark Hill, President

RIVERSIDE PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MMH/jtb