

EI-21156



FW: Port Canaveral seeks to pause review of lagoon rail plan

Mary Hillberg

to:

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10/24/2015 11:49 AM

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H Dave,

See the below news story. Our Port appears to be trying out another skit and this time you get to play a part too! Perhaps you are already aware, but if not, now at least you have a head's up.

I called your office to ask you for a brief nutshell understanding of their new plot, but know how busy you must be...and appreciate we are not the only case you have.

As you may see from the below, the CPA is now saying they plan to have you (the STB OEA) "temporarily suspend" your work on this application while they mull the less expensive, less environmentally damaging and more quickly on line route of the Larkin proposal. That sounds complex to me, but you know how these things work better than I.

I want to be prepared for the next meeting in case they are again acting out a little show for the public that again means nothing. The last one (September) they raised their CEO Walsh's salary to over \$250K, extended his contract for 2 more years - then three weeks later put on a big public show saying they wanted to fire him - which he flatly refused to allow. That was interesting theatre.

Word is Walsh will now be hired by GulfTainer after completing another 4 months on the ports's payroll, receive a monster severance and stay right where he is at the Maritime Center at the Port Canaveral as a "cargo rail consultant" to the port. I think he might have to move up one floor to a new office next to his new boss, GulfTainer CEO Richards.

Please give me a call if you are able or if you are tired of talking with me, then please let me know via email how such "temporary suspension" works. Have you been put "on hold" before? Do you still get paid? Do the engineering and environmental specialists you have consulted for this project sit around waiting to see if they should continue or not? Do they get paid? Very confusing.

Thanks for your help,
Mary

P.S. I have sent the below news article to my constituents, so they may also be aware of the latest Port fling.

From: Mary Hillberg [<mailto:hillberg@earthlink.net>]

Sent: Friday, October 23, 2015 2:26 PM

Subject: Port Canaveral seeks to pause review of lagoon rail plan

Importance: High

FYI - I am sure everyone has heard the below by now. We know that the Walsh firing item was a farce, so we are the wiser now and not toasting positive results yet.

Bear in mind, a "temporary pause" is not a withdrawal. It may be for a week or a day or an hour and resumption may be without notice.

Also, Mr. Walsh is still involved, the commissioners are still supporting him and not being fully forthcoming to the public. There is still no transparency or public accountability and the Port Authority is still deeply in debt - which means the public is deeply in debt!

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/local/2015/10/23/port-canaveral-seeks-pause-review-lagoon-rail-plan/74402294/>

Port Canaveral seeks to pause review of lagoon rail plan

 Dave Berman, FLORIDA TODAY 11:51 a.m. EDT October 23, 2015

 Port cargo ship Marie Grace [Buy Photo](#)

The cargo ship Marie Grace arrives at Port Canaveral earlier this month. Port Canaveral is hoping to create a rail link from the port to the rail line west of U.S. 1 to boost its cargo business. (Photo: TIM SHORTT/FLORIDA TODAY)[Buy Photo](#)

Port Canaveral could be putting the brakes on a federal environmental review of its proposal to create a cargo rail link to the port.

Commissioners on Wednesday will consider authorizing port staff to ask the federal Surface Transportation Board Office of Environmental Analysis for "a temporary pause" of its review of proposed rail routes.

 **FLORIDA TODAY**
Port Canaveral hopes to fast-track Air Force station rail

Among the proposed routes is one that would add rail line over the Banana River and through the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge that has generated substantial controversy among Merritt Island residents, area businesses, environmental advocates, and fishing and environmental tour operators.

The request to halt the Surface Transportation Board process is designed to give port's staff time to work with the Renuart/Larkin Group and the U.S. Air Force to study the feasibility of a rail route through the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

 **FLORIDA TODAY**
Port Commissioner Allender pushes Cape rail route

Also on the Canaveral Port Authority agenda for Wednesday: a proposal to authorize port staff to enter

into a joint endeavor with Renuart/Larkin Group to pursue what's known as an "enhanced-use lease" with the Air Force that potentially could include use of parts of the middle basin and rail connections through the Air Force station.

That enhanced-use lease process is separate from the Surface Transportation Board process Port Canaveral had been pursuing.

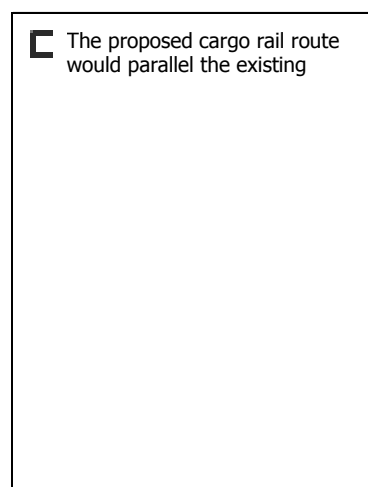
Port Canaveral is hoping to create a rail link from the port to the rail line west of U.S. 1, saying it would help boost its cargo business.

The port's potential partners on the Cape Canaveral Air Force station project — the Renuart & Larkin Group and Mid Atlantic Railway Services — are proposing an agreement with the Air Force to lease up to 2,000 acres at the 16,000-acre-plus Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Some of that land would be used for an industrial park and office park along Phillips Parkway at the Air Force station, under the proposal.

The proposal also calls for about 500 acres of Air Force land north of the port's channel, in what's known as the Middle Turning Basin area, to be used by the port to expand its cargo operations.

Check floridatoday.com later today for updates.



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The proposed cargo rail route would parallel the existing six-lane Phillips Parkway at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, cross over the NASA Causeway East onto Kennedy Space Center, follow NASA Parkway East and link with existing KSC tracks. There would be industrial park development east of the rail line and office park development west of the tracks along Phillips Parkway. (Photo: FLORIDA TODAY)



Port Authority Meeting

The Canaveral Port Authority plans to discuss cargo rail issues during its **OCTOBER 28TH** **meeting that begins at 9 a.m.** Wednesday at the Canaveral Port Authority Maritime Center

Commission Chambers, 445 Challenger Road, Port Canaveral.



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