



OFFICE OF MAYOR LENNY CURRY

ST. JAMES BUILDING
117 WEST DUVAL STREET, SUITE 400
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

February 14, 2022

PH: (904) 255-5000
FAX: (904) 255-5032
www.coj.net

303914

By E-Filing

Cynthia T. Brown
Chief of the Section of Administration
Office of Proceedings
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings
February 15, 2022
Part of
Public Record

Re: Gulf Coast Passenger Service Between New Orleans and Mobile
STB Finance Docket No. 36496

Dear Surface Transportation Board Members:

As the Mayor of Jacksonville, Florida I write to express concern on the impact of Amtrak's proposed Gulf Coast passenger line that will run between New Orleans, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama.

The interplay between freight and passenger service has significant impacts on local communities like Jacksonville. It is critical that adequate infrastructure exist to support the unique needs of passenger rail service. When the current infrastructure to meet the needs of both freight and passenger rail service is missing, it is the surrounding communities that suffer.

Additionally, I believe it is important that now more than ever we are protecting the supply chain. Jacksonville, like most cities around this country have struggled to receive certain goods during this pandemic. Basic necessities are in short supply and delivering those goods to the stores is critical. The Board should take no action that increases strain to the supply chain, including allowing a degradation to freight rail service.

To be clear, I do not oppose Gulf Coast passenger service or any other passenger rail service. I believe they are an important public benefit to many communities. However, it is critical that the introduction of any new passenger service does not cause harm to the communities that border rail lines or decrease the quality of freight rail service over the heavily utilized Gulf Coast Corridor.

We urge the Board to protect the interests of all parties that rely on or are affected by the national rail network.

Respectfully submitted,


Lenny Curry
Mayor

cc: FD 36496 Service List