

*Town of Grant-Valkaria, Florida*

**RESOLUTION NO. 09-2019**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA IN SUPPORT OF FLORIDA SENATOR DEBBIE MAYFIELD'S EFFORTS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL PASSENGER RAIL SYSTEMS IN FLORIDA BY ENCOURAGING THE GOVERNOR AND FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO FULFILL THE RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY STUDY REGARDING PASSENGER RAIL.**

WHEREAS, the Florida Office of Public Policy and Government Oversight (OPPAGA) used funds set aside in the State Budget for fiscal year 2018/2019 to contract with CPCS Transcom, an international transportation and power infrastructure consulting group, to conduct a study of Florida passenger rail systems; and

WHEREAS, CPCS released its findings October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018, which encompassed an inventory of all existing and future passenger rail systems in the state, the accident and incident reports of each and an overview of the jurisdictions that regulate passenger rail including federal, state, regional and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified a major issue in the state of Florida regarding the high rate of severe injuries and fatalities and high levels of trespassing incidents on railroad right of ways due to rail services operating in dense urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified gaps in regulations specific to higher-speed rail operations and a series of rail expansion projects noting there are FDOT regulations governing the safety operations of trains going up to 79 mph and trains operating at speeds of over 125 mph, but there is a glaring absence of regulations governing higher speed rail systems including All Aboard Florida; and

WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study identified the need to clarify FDOT's mandate on oversight of passenger rail with respect to maintenance, safety, revitalization, and expansion as the department is "given an explicit role to oversee rail planning and implementation" through the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008; and

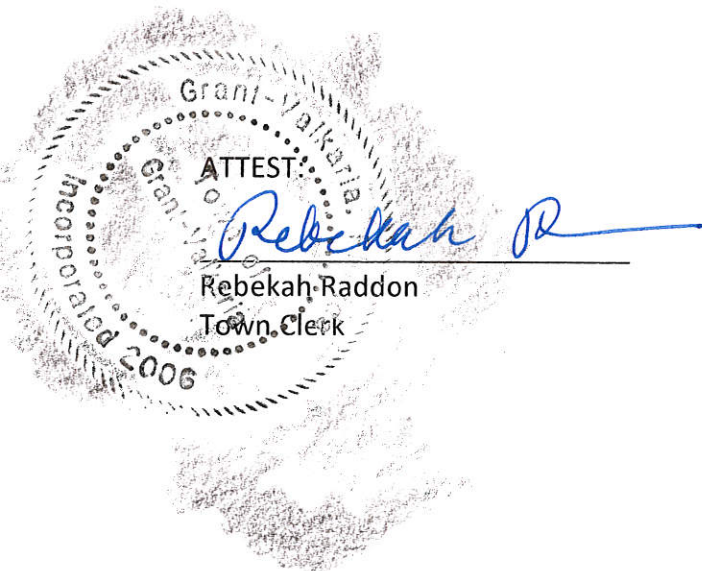
WHEREAS, the CPCS Passenger Rail Study found the lack of resources for local governments for planning rail projects as evidenced by the under-regulated development of higher speed passenger rail in some counties, cities and small communities which are overburdened financially and technically by massive changes to their infrastructure including roadways and grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Grant-Valkaria wishes to express its full support in Senator Mayfield's hard work in preventing unsafe conditions in the County.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:**

- 1) The Town of Grant-Valkaria Town Council fully supports Florida Senator Debbie Mayfield's request that the Florida Department of Transportation immediately accept the findings of the OPPAGA study and develop regulations governing higher speed passenger trains.
- 2) The Town of Grant-Valkaria Town Council encourages Governor DeSantis to address the high number of deaths on all forms of rail systems in Florida and direct the FDOT to develop plans for reducing the number of deaths, accidents and derailments as Florida's rail system is one of the most dangerous in the country.
- 3) The Town of Grant-Valkaria Town Council encourages Governor DeSantis to direct FDOT to consider an alternative route for higher speed passenger rail where reduced population density and much fewer at-grade crossings will save the lives, the livelihoods and the tax dollars of all Florida residents.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF GRANT-VALKARIA, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON THIS 8th DAY OF MAY, 2019.



  
Del Yonts, Mayor