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April 11, 2019

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Kevin J. Thibault, Secretary  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

RE: Town of St. Lucie Village - All Aboard Florida/  
Brightline/Virgin Trains

Dear Mr. Thibault:

I am writing you as the Attorney for the Town of St. Lucie Village, Florida, where our Board of Aldermen and our residents are greatly concerned about the deficiency of safety measures at the seven at-grade rail crossings that bisect our town. These are the same rails and crossings where All Aboard Florida/Brightline/Virgin Trains proposes to run its Phase II higher speed passenger rail Project at speeds of up to 110 mph.

The majority of our residents are at great risk of injury and death due to the lack of safety mechanisms at these at-grade crossings which they must traverse a few times a day since these crossings are the only ingress and egress to our homes.

Even with the Project's "proposed" quad gates and raised medians for our Town's at-grade crossings, our residents will still be in grave danger due to the lack of safety features, modern technology and protection, such as sealed corridors, fencing along the tracks, Positive Train Control, Vehicle Presence Detection, and Remote Health Monitoring to warn emergency personnel of crossing gate malfunctions.

The Town of St. Lucie Village is asking that you and the FDOT appropriately protect us and provide us with the proper and most current rail safety mechanisms, especially since ensuring the safety of the crossings falls squarely under FDOT jurisdiction (and not the Town of St. Lucie Village's.)

FDOT has a responsibility to the citizens and visitors of our Town to ensure that these rail crossings are as safe as possible.

Furthermore, St. Lucie Village is a very small municipality and does not have the financial resources to pay for proper security and safety measures at those crossings, so we are dependent on FDOT to fulfill its jurisdictional duties. (Florida Statute 351.03(2))

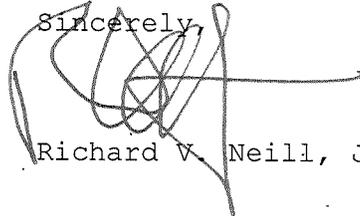
Lack of safety fencing and sealed corridors, raised medians and modern crossing gates has already led to the deaths of 16 persons along the All Aboard Florida/Brightline/Virgin Trains Phase 1 tracks in south Florida. Recently, one of our county residents was killed by a FEC freight train at the Taylor Creek Bridge crossing (adjoining St. Lucie Village) due to inadequate trespasser fencing and signage.

The Town of St. Lucie Village is greatly concerned that the crossings located in St. Lucie Village do not have the proper safety precautions and that the high speed at which those trains will be crossing, combined with a much lower noise level on approach, pose a substantial risk to the health, life, well-being, safety and quality of life of our citizens, visitors, and Florida residents in general.

I, on behalf of the Board of the Aldermen and the residents of St. Lucie Village, am asking for your help to ensure that our municipality is as safe as possible and that you utilize all the safety features that are available to make this as safe a train as it can be in the Town of St. Lucie Village and St. Lucie County.

Please contact me so that we may further discuss this issue and the safety measures you will be implementing. I may be reached by email, [rneilljr@neillgriffin.com](mailto:rneilljr@neillgriffin.com), by mail, or by phone (772)464-8200.

Sincerely,



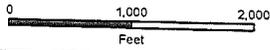
Richard V. Neill, Jr.

RVNjr/ieo  
enclosure

cc: Governor Ron DeSantis  
Senator Gayle Harrell  
Senator Debbie Mayfield  
Congressman Brian Mast  
Representative Erin Grall  
William G. Thiess, Mayor  
James Grimes  
Ingrid M. Van Hekken  
Dale Reed  
John Langel  
Timothy Ritter  
Donna Dennis, Clerk

# St. Lucie Village, Florida

St. Lucie Village limits



Map prepared Feb, 2016

