BEFORE THE CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 108-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FEC RAILWAY AND VIRGIN TRAINS USA FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE ST. LUCIE RIVER RAIL BRIDGE WITH A NEW DOUBLE TRACK BRDIGE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

* * * * *

WHEREAS, Virgin Trains USA has begun construction of phase two of their intercity passenger rail project between Miami and Orlando and is expected to begin transporting passengers in late 2022, operating up to 32 trains daily through the City of Stuart and across the St. Lucie River; and

WHEREAS, the addition of passenger rail to existing freight rail traffic will result in additional closures of the St. Lucie River rail bridge; and

WHEREAS, Virgin Trains USA and Florida East Coast Railway (FEC) have been exploring the feasibility of replacing the current 100-year-old bridge with a new double-track bridge that will provide greater vertical and horizontal clearances for boaters during railroad operations; and

WHEREAS, the efficient movement of freight and passenger rail traffic through Stuart will be facilitated with a double-track rail bridge, and will eliminate potential highway congestion and bottlenecks downtown; and

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WHEREAS, the FEC Railway corridor is designated by the Florida Department of Transportation as a Strategic Intermodal System corridor, Florida's high priority network of transportation facilities important to the state's economy and mobility, and a primary focus for implementing the long-range Florida Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a new double-track raised bridge will improve rail movement while also benefiting commercial and recreational marine traffic; and

WHEREAS, the City of Stuart finds that this project is consistent with the long-stated desires by the residents of the City of Stuart to facilitate unrestricted navigation and improve river water quality.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF STUART, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1: The recitals are true and correct and adopted by reference and incorporated as if fully set forth in this section.

SECTION 2: The City of Stuart supports the FEC – Virgin Train's plan to replace the St. Lucie River rail bridge with a bridge that facilitates improved navigation and rail mobility.

SECTION 3: The City of Stuart supports Florida Department of Transportation and Martin County in partnership with FEC Railway and Virgin Trains USA, in seeking federal grants or other funding mechanisms to supplement private financing for design and construction of the new bridge.

SECTION 4: The Resolution shall take place upon adoption and the City Manager is directed to send a copy of this resolution to Martin County and our federal elected representatives signifying the City of Stuart's support for this initiative.

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Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a roll call vote, the vote was as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
REBECCA S. BRUNER, MAYOR				
EULA R. CLARKE, VICE MAYOR				
KELLI GLASS LEIGHTON, COMMISSIONER				
MERRITT MATHESON, COMMISSIONER				
MIKE MEIER, COMMISSIONER				

ADOPTED this 12th day of November, 2019.

ATTEST:

_____
MARY R. KINDEL
CITY CLERK

_____
REBECCA S. BRUNER
MAYOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND CORRECTNESS:

_____
MICHAEL J. MORTELL, ESQ.
CITY ATTORNEY