

Village of Tequesta

345 Tequesta Drive
Tequesta, FL 33469



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May 8, 2020

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

Yesterday I received a call from the Chief of Staff of Virgin Trains, formerly Brightline. Although service between Miami and West Palm Beach and Miami has been stopped because of COVID-19, the railroad continues to move forward with construction of the West Palm Beach to Orlando segment. As many of you will recall, the Village of Tequesta took a strong stance of objection to the condition of the Loxahatchee River Train Bridge because of a threat to the health safety and welfare of our Village residents. The bridge and its mechanism hail from the original train service constructed by Henry Flagler and routinely fails to open and close properly often preventing our Fire Rescue team from transporting patients to Jupiter Medical Center in a timely fashion.

Most of us are disappointed that the train service is going to proceed. However, Virgin Trains has procured all of the permits and permissions to move forward. Previous lawsuits and appeals have been either lost or withdrawn. That said, Virgin Trains has now agreed to replace the entire bascule mechanism and most of the entire span as they rebuild the bridge thus greatly improving our ability to take care of residents in times of emergency.

Attached you will find a press release and frequently asked questions being issued by Virgin Trains. The Village will remain vigilant and monitor Virgin Trains to ensure they maintain the work promised on the timetable at which they agreed.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Village Manager Jeremy Allen or me.

Best regards,

Abby Brennan
Mayor

Vice-Mayor Kyle Stone
Council Member Frank D'Ambra

Mayor Abby Brennan
Village Manager Jeremy Allen

Council Member Laurie Brandon
Council Member Bruce Prince