

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: March 21, 2007

Division: BOCC

Bulk Item: Yes No

Department: District 3

Staff Contact Person: Tammy Malby

AGENDA ITEM WORDING: To create a functioning replica of the Florida East Coast railroad to initially service Pigeon Key from Marathon.

ITEM BACKGROUND:
PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION: N/A

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES: N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A

TOTAL COST: N/A

BUDGETED: Yes No

COST TO COUNTY: _____

SOURCE OF FUNDS: _____

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** _____ **Year** _____

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL: _____

(Charles "Sonny" McCoy)

DOCUMENTATION: Included

Not Required

DISPOSITION: _____

AGENDA ITEM # _____

RESOLUTION NO. ____-2007

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF MONROE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A FUNCTIONING REPLICA OF THE FLORIDA EAST COAST RAILROAD TO MEMORIALIZE THIS GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND AS AN ATTRACTION TO THE UNIQUENESS OF THIS SOUTHERNMOST PART OF THE UNITED STATES.

WHEREAS, there exist bridges in the Florida Keys that have great historical importance; and

WHEREAS, Henry Flagler had built a railroad extension of his Florida East Coast Rail System that extended from the Florida mainland to the island City of Key West; and

WHEREAS, these railroad cars would then be rolled onto a railroad ferry for the trip to Cuba; and

WHEREAS, this railroad extension, built at the turn of the century, was widely known as the "*Train That Went to Sea*" and the "*Eighth Wonder of the World*"; and

WHEREAS, this was widely accepted as an extraordinary engineering achievement; and

WHEREAS, the great Hurricane of Labor Day 1935 destroyed some of the track system and a train that had been sent to evacuate the WW-1 veterans that were working on a vehicular road system; and

WHEREAS, the railroad viaducts were so well built that they remain to this day; and

WHEREAS, a major overhaul of a section of the Seven-Mile Railroad Bridge is scheduled to begin soon, connecting Marathon to Pigeon Key; and

WHEREAS, this engineering feat deserves to be part of americana and Florida history; and

WHEREAS, it is timely to begin this functioning historical asset; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, HEREBY:

1. Creates a committee to include Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, State Representative Ron Saunders, County Commissioner Charles "Sonny" McCoy and a representative to be selected by the City of Marathon, Florida to coordinate the creation of a functioning replica of the Florida East Coast Railroad as a self-supporting national attraction.

2. Requests the State designate the Old Seven-Mile Bridge as a State monument and a valuable State asset and construct thereon a special gauge replica of Flagler's Railroad as an operating national attraction.
3. Encourages the Federal Government to endorse this recognition of the building of _____
5. Encourages the State to expand this process to include other historical construction and engineering achievements such as the Bahia Honda Bridge and beyond, which reflect the pioneering days of our history, should this venture show promise.
6. Directs the Clerk of the Court to forward a copy of this resolution to Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, State Representative Ron Saunders and the City of Marathon, Florida.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a meeting of said Board held on the 21st day of March, 2007.

Mayor DiGennaro	_____
Mayor Pro Tem Spehar	_____
Commissioner Neugent	_____
Commissioner McCoy	_____
Commissioner Murphy	_____

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

(Seal)
Attest: DANNY L. KOLHAGE, Clerk

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

By: _____
Mayor/Chairman

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Natileene W. Cassel
NATILEENE W. CASSEL
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
Date 3/15/07