

## **FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2008**

**MEETING NUMBER 165**

The one hundred and sixty fifth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Thursday, January 18, 2008 at the Hilton Walt Disney Resort, 1751 Hotel Plaza Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Chairman Marcos Marchena called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Members in attendance were: Chairman Marcos Marchena and Commissioners Marty Lanahan, Sidney Calloway and Bart Pullum. Commissioners Marshal Criser, David Straz, and Janet Watermeier, were unable to attend. There are currently two vacancies on the Commission.

### **MINUTES:**

Approval of the minutes of the December 6, 2007 Commission Meeting was deferred until the March 3, 2008 meeting for lack of a quorum.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

**Chairman Marchena** reported on the following:

- Former Chairman Jim Holton had earlier informed Governor Crist that he would not be seeking reappointment due to the expansion of his business ventures, and he submitted a formal letter of resignation in late December.
- Also, the Director of the Governor's Appointments Office, Melanie Dimuzio, has resigned and her replacement has not yet been named. This may further delay any new appointments to the Commission.
- Shane Strum has been named the Governor's new Deputy Chief of Staff, replacing Eric Eikenberg who is now Chief of Staff. Sally met with him on Wednesday.

Chairman Marchena outlined the goals he would like to accomplish as Chairman.

- Improving the safety of our transportation system will continue to be one of his most prominent focuses. The Chairman proposed that the Commission host a meeting of representatives from FDOT, the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and other safety leaders to discuss best practices for improving safety on Florida's roadways.
- The fiscal challenges for today and tomorrow associated with declining revenues at every level and increasing costs of construction are unprecedented, and are likely to continue to plague us for the foreseeable future. Public-Private Partnerships are not the only solution to the state's transportation funding shortfall, but one of the tools. It is time to do more with P3s. We need to establish a set of guidelines to protect the public interest and ensure a level of comfort. FDOT should use caution when considering P3s on "brownfield" facilities. He would like to hear more on the progress of P3s at the March 3 Commission meeting.

- He would like to tap into the experience, knowledge and wisdom gained by former Chairmen of the FTC as well as former FDOT Secretaries by staging a couple of gatherings for some free-form discussions.
- Commissioner Calloway added that there needs to be a greater focus on public transportation solutions to congestion and for finding dedicated funding at the local level.

The prime focus over the past few months has been establishing and refining the implementation processes for the mandated oversight of the transportation authorities defined in HB 985 from the 2007 Legislative Session. The Commission engaged the services of CUTR to move this initiative forward in this short time frame. The following has been accomplished to date:

1. Adopted Performance Measures and operating indicators for Toll and Transit Agencies in the areas of operations and budget, revenue and bond management, property acquisition, and applicable laws.
2. Adopted Governance criteria for assessing compliance with ethics, conflicts of interest, public meetings, audits, procurement, compliance with bond covenants, and consultant contracting.
3. Commission staff is currently gathering data, reviewing minutes of meetings, reviewing policies and procedures and analyzing performance data and compliance with governance.
4. A draft report of Fiscal Year 07 activities is to be presented to the Commission on February 15 for consideration at the March 3 Commission meeting. Affected authorities will be provided with an advance copy and an opportunity to meet with the Commissioners in a workshop to provide their perspective on the report and the process.

In his first week as Chairman he had the privilege of speaking before the House Infrastructure Committee.

Commissioner Bart Pullum has been busy making presentations over the past month in Florida's Great Northwest. Commissioner Pullum stated the presentations were well received and he was surprised to learn how little people know about the transportation challenges we face.

## **AGENCY REPORT:**

Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos gave an update on the Department activities and reported on the following:

- The advertisement for District 6 Secretary closes on January 21. The Director of the Office of Policy Planning position has been advertised.
- The Department is undertaking an education campaign on how roads in Florida are funded.
- During the upcoming Session we will have to be diligent in guarding against raids on the transportation trust fund. The Department is looking into decreasing the operating budget and moving those funds to product categories.
- The Secretary briefed the Commissioners on P3 progress.
- This year's legislative package is mostly dealing with clean-up language.
- The Department has decided to phase out the Florida Intrastate Highway System with the 2010 update of the Strategic Intermodal System Plan.

- The Strategic Aggregate Task Force has met three times and is in the process of formulating recommendations to the Legislature.

At this time, Chairman Marchena adjourned the FTC portion of the joint meeting and turned the leadership of the meeting back over to Mike Bauman, Chairman of TEAMFL.

(Please refer to the TEAMFL website to review the presentations made at the joint Florida Transportation Commission/TEAMFL Meeting at: [www.teamfl.org](http://www.teamfl.org) under Presentations.)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

The Joint Florida Transportation Commission/TEAMFL meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_ AS READ \_\_\_\_\_ AS AMENDED

THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2008

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CHAIRMAN

**NOTE:** If further detail of these proceedings is required, please contact Commission staff at 850-414-4105 or write to 605 Suwannee Street, Mail Station 09, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450. Meetings of the Florida Transportation Commission are recorded on video and audiotape.