

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2005

MEETING NUMBER 147

The one hundred and forty-seventh meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Wednesday, February 9, 2005 at the Capitol, Room 116, Knott Building, Tallahassee, Florida. Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance were: Commissioners Earl Durden, Janet Watermeier, Sidney Calloway and Marcos Marchena.

Members Absent: Commissioners Jim Holton, Heidi Eddins, Gasper Lazzara and David Straz.

MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the January 5, 2005 Commission Meeting were deferred until March 8, 2005 at the next meeting.

Chairman Durden welcomed Representative Ray Sansom, Chair of the House Transportation Committee.

Representative Ray Sansom gave an update from the House on Transportation and Mobility issues and his thoughts on Florida's critical transportation challenges.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Chairman Durden briefed the Commission on his meeting with Representative Robaina.
- Chairman Durden asked for opinions from Commissioners on making the joint meeting with TEAMFL an annual event. Commissioners Calloway, Marchena and Watermeier all thought it was an excellent idea.
- Commissioner Calloway spoke before the South Florida Regional Planning Council.
- Commissioner Watermeier attended the Florida Transportation Plan Statewide Summit in Orlando.
- Mark Reichert gave a brief update on the Second Quarter Performance and Productivity Report. The Department is right on schedule.

AGENCY REPORT

Secretary José Abreu reported on the Department of Transportation.

- District Secretaries Aage Schroder and Rick Chesser will be leaving the Department this year. Efforts have begun to find replacements.
- The Senate and House Transportation and Economic Development Committees will be coming to DOT next week for a joint meeting. The Department will provide a briefing

on developing the work program, financing of the work program and an update on the Strategic Intermodal System.

- The Florida Transportation Plan was developed in 2000, and much has changed since that time. A Steering Committee has been formed to provide guidance and input throughout the development of an updated Plan. A draft Plan should be available for public comment by October and be finalized by the end of the calendar year. The Department appreciates the assistance of Chairman Durden and Commissioner Watermeier in this effort.

Hurricane Recovery Update:

- I-10 Bridge – the environmental review is complete and has been submitted to FHWA for determination as a categorical exclusion allowing replacement to move forward. The design/build procurement is underway and will be finalized as soon as the environmental review is cleared.
- Overall the recovery efforts are moving along well. There have been some supply shortages (traffic signals, lighting, material for large overhead and exit type signs). FHWA considers lighting as a permanent replacement rather than emergency repairs and it takes longer to repair and replace lights that are damaged.
- Reimbursement of Damage – The Department has paid out over \$230 million to date. It expects a number of large payments in the near future for debris removal, etc. FHWA wants Florida, Alabama and other states impacted to get all damage assessments complete before it will award funds for reimbursement. This takes time to complete, especially where work was performed on county owned federal aid roads. The total damage is expected to exceed \$1.2 billion on highways.
- Support for Airports/Seaports – The Governor and Legislative leadership approved temporary advances from the State Infrastructure Bank to seaports and airports to repair damage caused by the storms. The loans are to be repaid by recovery payments from insurance and FEMA when received, but not later than 24 months after the loan.

FLORIDA’S URBAN AREA MOBILITY TRENDS

Timothy J. Lomax, Ph.D., P.E. of the Texas Transportation Institute gave a presentation on Florida’s urban mobility trends.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website (www.ftc.state.fl.us) under “Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings” to view this presentation.

FLORIDA’S GROWTH MANAGEMENT REFORM INITIATIVE UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COMPONENT

Secretary Thaddeus Cohen, Department of Community Affairs, provided a brief update on the transportation component of Florida’s growth management reform initiative.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website (www.ftc.state.fl.us) under “Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings” to view this presentation.

PUBLIC/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS FOR TRANSPORTATION

Tallahassee’s Mayor John Marks spoke on the importance of “public/public” partnerships for transportation.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website (www.ftc.state.fl.us) under “Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings” to view this presentation.

Chairman Durden announced that there will be a performance measures workshop on the afternoon of March 7th in Tallahassee.

The Commission meeting will be held March 8, 2005 in Tallahassee to conduct the review of the Department’s Five-Year Work Program, and then following the meeting Commissioners will fly to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress about TEA-21 Reauthorization and critical Fair Share transportation issues.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 8th DAY OF MARCH 2005

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.