

## **FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2008**

### **MEETING NUMBER 166**

The one hundred and sixty sixth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Monday, March 3, 2008 at the Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee Street, Auditorium, and Tallahassee, Florida. Chairman Marcos Marchena called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Members in attendance were: Chairman Marcos Marchena and Commissioners Marty Lanahan, Sidney Calloway, Marshall Criser and Bart Pullum. Commissioners Straz and Watermeier were unable to attend.

#### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the December 6, 2007 and January 18, 2008 Commission Meetings were approved.

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

**Chairman Marchena** reported on the following:

- New appointments have not been made for Commissioners Holton and Bustamante. The Governor's new Appointments Director is Pablo Diaz; he assumed the position on February 4.
- Chairman Marchena attended a District Five Forum and the CUTR meeting.
- Commissioner Criser attended the Florida Chamber of Commerce Statewide Leadership meeting in Tallahassee. Congratulations to Commissioner Criser on being named the incoming Chairman of the Chamber.
- Executive Director Patrenos represented the Commission on a trip to Portland, Oregon to meet with officials of the Oregon DOT to discuss their experience with the pilot program on user based mileage fees.
- The Commission has been tracking the activities of the Constitutional Taxation and Budget Reform Commission on discussion regarding transportation funding for infrastructure needs. The Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) and Floridians for Better Transportation (FBT) have spearheaded an initiative to stimulate action for moving some new funding options forward through the Legislative process this Session. Bob Burleson, with the FTBA, briefed the Commission on their efforts.
- The Commission submitted a draft Resolution voicing their support for sustained investments in the expansion and enhancement of transit options in Florida, especially regional commuter rail. A call for approval was made by the Chairman. Commissioner Calloway asked that a small amendment, which would add the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) to the public transportation entities listed at the end of the resolution, be made, and the Chairman accepted the amendment. Commissioner

Pullum moved to approve the amended Resolution, Commissioner Calloway seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## **AGENCY REPORT:**

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

- Debbie Hunt from District One has been appointed to the Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development position.
- The Department is in the process of filling the Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration. They are also looking at how the Department will handle Public/Private Partnerships.
- Interviews are complete and background checks are currently being done for the District Six Secretary position.
- Several announcements have been made at the Florida Turnpike District. Chris Warren, Deputy Executive Director, Evelio Suarez, Director of Toll Operations and Matthew Click, Intergovernmental Director, are all leaving the Turnpike for private sector jobs.
- The Department is starting to focus on the next SAFETEA-LU bill. Darcy Kohn is the Department's Federal Programs Coordinator in Washington, D.C.
- The Budget continues to be the focus for this Legislative Session.

## **TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE LEASES: THE PRO'S AND CON'S**

John Hastings, Managing Director of US Infrastructure & Project Finance with RBC Capital Markets made a presentation before the Commission.

Chairman Marchena would like for the Commission to consider forming a policy position on these topics in the near future as they relate to brown field projects and principles on going forward on any green field projects. We will take this up for discussion at our next meeting.

[NOTE: Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website ([www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us)) under "Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings" to view this presentation.]

## **TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OVERSIGHT FIRST ANNUAL REPORT WITH AUTHORITY RESPONSES**

David Tassinari, Manager of Finance and Performance Monitoring presented this first annual report before the Commission and fielded questions.

Chairman Marchena stated that Florida is very fortunate to have these Authorities and that they bring value to our state.

A motion was made by Commissioner Criser to adopt the report and Commissioner Lanahan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

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

## **STATEWIDE PUBLIC HEARING – REVIEW OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR FY 2008/09-2012/13**

Chairman Marchena opened the formal Public Hearing, as required by statute, on the Review of the Florida Transportation Tentative Work Program (TWP) for FY2008/09 through 2012/13.

Mark Reichert, FTC Deputy Director, presented the Commission’s review of the TWP. The Secretary of the Department, assistant secretaries, district secretaries, Turnpike Enterprise Executive Director and key department managers were in attendance and participated in the review.

This Tentative Work Program totals a record level \$39.1 billion of transportation investments over the five year period. It constitutes an increase of only \$235 million, or 0.6%, over last year’s level. Had there not been an increase to the Turnpike Enterprise work program of approximately \$560 million, the Department would have witnessed a decrease in its work program for the first time in recent memory.

The majority of funding in this Program, \$33.4 billion, or 85.9%, is dedicated to the Product and Product Support phases. This Tentative Work Program will construct an additional 639 new lane miles of roadway, resurface/reconstruct 13,906 lane miles of existing roadway, repair 180 bridges and replace 74. Approximately \$4.5 billion is dedicated to the public transportation program – a 7.1% decrease over the last Tentative Work Program.

All district secretaries as well as the Turnpike Executive Director gave overviews of their respective district/Turnpike work programs. Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos gave a statewide perspective on the TWP.

Mr. Reichert concluded by stating he is confident this Tentative Work Program was developed according to Florida State laws and Departmental policies and recommended that, after any public comments, the Commission vote to accept the findings.

Public comments were received from the following:

Kathleen Russell, representing the City of Orlando, spoke in support of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project.

Mark Jeffries, representing Orange County Government, spoke in support of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project.

John Holley, representing the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners, spoke in support of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project.

Sarah Bleakley, representing the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners, spoke in support of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project.

Commissioner Lanahan moved to find the TWP in compliance and Commissioner Criser seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the Commission approved the *Review of the Tentative Work Program*, having found it in compliance with applicable laws and policies.

[NOTE: Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website ([www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us)) under "Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings" to view this presentation.]

Chairman Marchena adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

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

THIS 30<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 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, and Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450. Meetings of the Florida Transportation Commission are recorded on video and audiotape.