

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2003

MEETING NUMBER 136

The one hundred and thirty-sixth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Tuesday, April 15, 2003 at Florida Department of Transportation, Executive Conference Room, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida.

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance were: Commissioners David Brown, Earl Durden, Jim Holton, Norman Mansour, Janet Watermeier, Sidney Calloway and Gasper Lazzara. Commissioner Bob Namoff was unable to attend.

MINUTES

Minutes of the March 4, 2003 Commission Meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Chairman Brown** congratulated Commissioner Watermeier on starting her own business effective April 25, 2003.
- **Chairman Brown** discussed the Washington Fly-In that took place on March 20th. In attendance were Chairman Brown, Commissioner Durden, Deputy Chief of Staff Denver Stutler, Secretary Abreu, Malcolm Kirschenbaum and Sally Patrenos. They met with key members of Congress and their staff including: Congressman Mica, Congressman Young's staff, Representative Corrine Brown and many others.
- **Chairman Brown** asked Commissioners Holton and Mansour to speak to their meeting with Congressman Young in Tampa. **Commissioner Holton** spoke at the luncheon honoring Congressman Young. Commissioners Holton and Mansour along with District Secretary Ken Hartmann were there representing the Department and Commission and to ask for Congressman Young's support for TEA-21 Reauthorization.
- **Commissioner Mansour** reported on the TEAMFL meeting he attended last week in Tallahassee. He would like to encourage Commission Members and Commission Staff to attend those meetings. Speaking at the meeting last week were Senator Sebesta and Deputy Chief of Staff Denver Stutler both taking about TEA-21 Reauthorization. During the meeting a presentation was made on High Speed Rail. The meetings go beyond the issues of Expressways. The next TEAMFL meeting is scheduled for June 11th. TEAMFL is trying to have a joint meeting with the Commission in October. Commissioner Mansour serves on the board of TEAMFL and they are in the process of changing the bylaws and proposed making the Commission representative a voting member. Currently the Commission member is in a different classification, which does not have to pay dues, and the Commission will not pay dues, but TEAMFL has suggested that they would like for the Commission to be a voting member. This issue came up

to vote and Commissioner Mansour asked that it be put off because he thought there might be conflicts. He stated there are times when that Organization formally takes positions, they are not a lobbying group, but they do take positions and those positions, may in fact, be different than those of the Commission. Before he voted to have the Commission as a voting member he wanted to bring it before the Commissioners for their thoughts on this subject. **Chairman Brown** agreed that he thought it might be a conflict. He believes the Commission's role is to provide information and understand what they are doing and be supportive.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for June 13th in Ft. Lauderdale.

APPROVAL OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE CENTER FOR URBAN RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman Brown asked Commissioner Holton to brief the Commission regarding these appointments. Commissioner Holton serves on the Board and he knows all three nominees, which are: Mr. Bill McDaniel, Mr. John Beck and Ms. Kimberlee DeBosier. He recommends that they all be approved to serve on the CUTR Advisory Board. **Commissioner Holton** made the motion to approve the three nominees. **Chairman Brown** seconded the motion and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the three nominees to the CUTR Advisory Board.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Sally Patrenos gave the legislative update.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Secretary Abreu gave the Department report.

- Secretary Abreu commented that the Washington trip was very good and the people they met with understood the needs of Florida.
- Secretary Abreu has meet with many legislators personally.
- The Department is keeping a close watch on some of the bills, one of which is the Agent of the State, which makes CEI (Construction Engineering Inspections) Consultants agents of the State. The Department feels being an agent of the State would automatically keep the CEI Consultant out of a lawsuit. Secretary Abreu believes this would not be a good thing for the Department and he is trying to be heard on this issue. **Chairman Brown** agrees with Secretary Abreu.
- Secretary Abreu announced a couple of new hires. Lisa Evans is the new Deputy Comptroller in the Financial Management Office. Marsha Johnson is the new Manager of the Program Development Office. The District Secretary position in District 6 has been advertised and many applications have been received. Interviews will be conducted in the next few weeks.

MACROECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION WORK PROGRAM

Ysela Llort, State Transportation Planner presented the results of the *Macroeconomic Impacts of the Florida Department of Transportation Work Program* to the Commission (for detailed information see handout). **Chairman Brown** suggested that the Department should be presenting this to the Florida Chamber as well as Enterprise Florida.

HIGH SPEED RAIL UPDATE

Commissioner Mansour briefly went over the status of High Speed Rail. **Chairman Brown** asked Commissioner Mansour about the issue of the proposals being credit worthy. The Governor and the Governor's office have expressed an interest that there be valid and credit worthy guarantees as to the payment of the operational cost. So the state won't be in a situation where it agrees to pay \$75 million a year for capital, but if the train isn't successful, then the taxpayers would be on the hook. **Commissioner Mansour** responded that some of these issues are yet to be figured out, but in the Fluor Bombardier proposal they are taking on that risk. They have a formula that ties in to the investment grade ridership study and if the ridership study proves to be correct then that will cover it. If not, then the Authority participates on a formula-sharing basis for the shortfall and beyond that there is revenue sharing. There is a conservative tactic built in there. **Chairman Brown** asked where the \$75 million would be coming from – there are a couple of bills and one proposes it would come out of the Highway Capacity Program. Mr. Haddad responded that it is actually in the approved House Appropriations bill and it would come out of the Highway Capacity Projects Funding. In the proposal in Representative Ross' bill (HB855) it would come from the TOPS money and the Public Transportation side of the Transportation Trust fund.

Nazih Haddad, Executive Director of the High Speed Rail Authority gave a brief presentation on High Speed Rail (for detailed information see handout).

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – REGIONALIZATION ISSUES

Ysela Llort made a presentation to the Commission on the Metropolitan Planning Organization – Regionalization issues (for detailed information see handout).

Chairman Brown asked if there were any thoughts given to taking more off the top for an additional incentive to people that consolidate. Ms. Llort responded that the Department has discussed setting some priority planning activities that would be a first call on some of the Planning dollars, particularly the redistributed dollars which is a different way to provide an incentive. The Department knows that the environmental process is going to require some resource allocation. The Department also knows that regional public involvement needs to be a priority. These activities seem to be priority activities that are done first. The Department would need to try something different. **Chairman Brown** asked what would you do? Ms. Llort responded that the Department has tried different processes that would distribute money more towards regional, population-based types of activities. She thinks they would have to seek other

alternatives, and said she didn't have an answer right now. Ms. Llorca said this is small money in many ways, because Planning dollars are what drives the planning activities. Some of the bigger concerns have been, if MPO's change boundaries, consolidate, change or whatever, what are the impacts to the money that actually goes into projects. Who gets what money into projects? This has been one of the major issues – it hasn't really been the Planning fund distribution issues. **Chairman Brown** responded when Ms. Llorca comes back a year from now and we haven't had any consolidation – we need to have an answer. Ms. Llorca agrees and is not sure that if we don't do any consolidation that it would not be attributed to the Planning formula. She believes it would be attributed to other issues.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE, 2003

CHAIRMAN

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