

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JUNE 13, 2003

MEETING NUMBER 137

The one hundred and thirty-seventh meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Friday, June 13, 2003 at the City of Ft. Lauderdale Commission Chambers, 100 North Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

ATTENDANCE

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

MINUTES

Minutes of the April 15, 2003 Commission Meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Chairman Brown** reported he spoke at the Florida Institute of Civil Engineers meeting held in Orlando recently.
- **Chairman Brown** asked **Commissioner Mansour** to give the Commission an update on High Speed Rail Authority activities. **Commissioner Mansour** reported the High Speed Rail Authority met May 30, 2003. The Authority is reviewing the final two proposals still under consideration for Phase I, Part I. They are looking at a November date to possibly award a preliminary contract to complete the environmental impact study in pursuit of a record of decision from FRA (Federal Railroad Association). In August of this year, the Authority will begin its public hearing process in regards to the two alternative routes in the Orlando area that are under consideration. Consultants involved report that there is no clear choice with respect to environmental considerations for either of the two corridors under consideration. It is likely that an overriding factor here may be the economics of the two route options that are being viewed. A decision on the preferred route is expected to be made at the June 25th High Speed Rail Authority meeting. The High Speed Rail Authority is waiting for budget action by the Governor on two line items contained in the 2003 General Appropriations Act: \$7.2 million to complete the PD&E study, and \$4.9 million appropriated to the Florida Department of Transportation to work with three designated communities (Ft. Lauderdale, Orlando and Tampa) for the planning of intermodal stations that would relate to rail.
- **Chairman Brown** gave an update on the Statewide Intermodal Transportation Advisory Council. Legislation passed by the 2003 Legislature subsequently signed by the Governor, creates an eleven member Transportation Advisory Council, five members appointed by the Governor, three members appointed by the President of the Senate, and three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Chairman Brown noted that once this Council gets constituted there will be a need for a lot of rapid

organizational action in order to get the input necessary to formulate the recommendations in the report. The report is due to the Governor and Legislature in December 2003.

- Chairman Brown reported that Congressman Mica has funded, through FDOT, a study for airports which will address the issue of building additional airport capacity. This study could be used nationally for setting policy. Laura Kelley will be the Chairperson of that Committee.
- Laura Kelley and Mark Reichert met with the MPO Advisory Council Technical Committee. That Committee's main interest was the assessment that the Department and the Commission will be working on this summer. FTC staff assured them that the Commission would be getting their feedback throughout the process and staff will also meet with them at the MPOAC meetings and give updates on the process.
- **Chairman Brown** thanked Sally Patrenos and Laura Kelley for their efforts in coordinating the TEA-21 Reauthorization Fly-in to Washington D.C. **Chairman Brown** asked Commissioner Durden to give a full briefing of the trip. **Commissioner Durden** also thanked Commissioners and FDOT staff. There were over 40 business leaders and district secretaries in the group. The group presented Florida's priorities to the Florida delegation and Transportation leaders. Each Commissioner discussed whom their group met with and how they felt their meetings went. **Commissioner Durden** said that basically, the message we received from our Washington delegation is that if there is not more money for transportation then Florida is not going to get a 95% return. **Commissioner Durden** stated the Commission will continue to push this issue because it is vitally important to the State of Florida and we have our Congressional Delegations attention. **Chairman Brown** asked Secretary Abreu to have Ms. Kopelousos come back to Florida and have a roundtable discussion to come with a strategy on how to keep going and continue to stay focused on TEA-21 Reauthorization.
- **Chairman Brown** announced that the Orange County 2020 Plan was put on the ballot by the Orange County Commissioners after a six-hour hearing and it will be going to the voters in early October. The program is approximately \$8.5 billion program that would include both roads and transit projects. If approved it will allow FDOT to finish I-4 improvements in 2012 instead of the current funded plan of 2035. The I-4 improvements include commuter and light rail aspects as well as other pedestrian overpasses, etc. It is a full-fledged systems approach. **Commissioner Mansour** asked if there was anything the Commission could do, perhaps in the form of a resolution, if it would be appropriate to take action to commend them for their work and offer the Commission's support. **Chairman Brown** said he wanted to ask what kind of support they are looking, if any, they might want from this Commission.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chairman Brown explained that he would be chairing through this meeting and the election of officers will be effective at the end of the meeting.

Chairman Brown took a moment to discuss the changes that have taken place in the Commission and the Department. He also wanted to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their help.

Commissioner Namoff asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary, Vice Chair or Chairman. None withstanding, **Commissioner Namoff** nominated as Secretary, Janet Watermeier; Vice Chair, Jim Holton; and Chairman Earl Durden. A vote was called and the officers were appointed as nominated with unanimous votes. The new Officers are: Earl Durden, Chairman; Jim Holton, Vice Chairman and Janet Watermeier, Secretary.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Sally Patrenos gave the legislative update.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REPORT

Secretary Abreu gave the Department report.

- Secretary Abreu spoke to the Florida Limerock Aggregate Institute primarily for an update on the legislative issues. The Institute explained how limited rock and aggregate are and if the industry didn't get another permit, they would run out of materials in the next twenty years and they would have to import materials from other states which would make construction more expensive. Their main concern is that their industry has an image that is less than positive and they are trying to do a campaign to inform citizens how their industry affects every one of us.
- Secretary Abreu also spoke at the Florida Institute of Consultant Engineers (FICE) Conference. Chairman Brown and Secretary Abreu gave the opening remarks about it taking a team effort. Secretary Abreu also met with the Board to exchange their concerns.
- Secretary Abreu mentioned that Terri Cappellini, Manager of the Procurement Office was awarded with the FICE/FDOT Annual Partnership Award.
- Secretary Abreu attended an AASHTO Spring Meeting.
- As far as personnel, John Martinez, former Director of Production for District Six has been appointed as the new District Secretary for District Six. Sara Strickland's duties have been expanded to serve as Chief of Staff to Secretary Abreu.
- Secretary Abreu discussed the Department's 2003 legislative issues. He thanked the Commission for their support during the legislative session.

Chairman Brown asked about the CEI bill. He recommended having a motion to be adopted to suggest to the Governor that this bill not be adopted as a result of the issues. Secretary Abreu stated his appreciation. **Commissioner Durden** made a motion to encourage the Governor to veto this bill. **Commissioner Holton** seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously. **Chairman Brown** asked Laura Kelley to draft a letter encompassing the motion and direct it to the Governor.

Chairman Brown stated one thing lost this session was legislation allowing the Department to raise Turnpike tolls which would have been an important part of the Work Program. Its removal allowed the SIB and other transportation legislation to move forward. **Chairman Brown** asked Secretary Abreu to prepare an analysis of the work program and what it's going to be doing over the next four or five years. The question is whether or not some of these financing techniques (the ones included in this year's legislative package) can help restore the work program to a higher level. **Chairman Brown** stated that he along with the Department and the industry are very concerned about this issue. **Chairman Brown** asked Secretary Abreu to see what can be done to keep the work program at the higher level. Secretary Abreu said he would.

SECRETARY ABREU'S PLAN FOR TRANSIT IN FLORIDA

Secretary Abreu spoke about transit and said he has been working with staff regarding this issue. **Chairman Brown** mentioned that the Governor is very interested in a statewide strategy for transit in this state to be developed. Ed Coven, Manager of Transit Office, made a presentation to the Commission on Transit in Florida (for detailed information see handout). **Chairman Brown** said that one of the things to consider when setting transit priorities is how early local commitments come forward. **Chairman Brown** suggested that the Department think of that in developing their model. **Commissioner Lazzara** asked what is the timing for submitting the new starts for the 2004 fiscal year. Mr. Coven responded right now, the TM&I Committee has asked for the information within the next several weeks. **Chairman Brown** asked if you have to be on the Senate Transportation Infrastructure list. Mr. Coven responded yes, it doesn't preclude getting funding during years if you are not on that list, but it really makes it a lot easier if you've been included in the Reauthorization bill itself to get annual appropriations and to get included in the Reauthorization list we are looking at a period of several weeks. The local transit agencies are the ones who submit the information. The Department is helping coordinate, lobby and bring together the forces to support those local agency requests at this point.

THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT

Mark Reichert gave the Commission an update on the Third Quarter Performance Report (for detailed information see handout). Mr. Reichert briefed the Commission on the status of the new measures for the Turnpike Enterprise and the ITS Program. Turnpike Enterprise is developing two measures dealing with revenue variance and SunPass participation. Those are on track to be included in the Annual Report this year. In regards to the ITS Program, the ITS Advisory Committee is developing a few key statewide measures for assessing the performance of imbedded intelligent transportation systems. This task team has already met and they are moving forward with and may have some draft measures for the Annual Report this year. The objective is to have the measures available for the following year, just after the measures have been tested and verified.

PORTLAND CENTRAL CITY STREETCAR LINE

Mr. Charlie Hales, Transit Planning Principal of HDR gave a brief presentation to the Commission on streetcars (for detailed information see handout).

AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR INTERMODAL FREIGHT TRANSPORTATION

Mr. John LaCapra, President Florida Ports Council gave a brief presentation to the Commission (for detailed information see handout). **Chairman Brown** stated that the Commission's quantitative report as to the transportation needs in the State of Florida over the next twenty years needs to include the projects that the ports are identifying and the costs of those projects are included within those needs. **Chairman Brown** stated that eventually we are going to have to make some difficult decisions in deciding what we are going to fund. There is not going to be enough monies for everything. So, some difficult decisions are going to have to be made and some of those decisions are going to have to come down to leverage and economic well being and so forth. He stated that the Commission's job is to put factual information before the policy makers and then hopefully, we will get them to make the right decisions. What is incumbent upon us is to provide extremely reliable information where policy makers can make the right decisions.

AVIATION IN FLORIDA – BACK TO THE FUTURE

Mr. William R. Johnson, Executive Director Florida Airports Council gave a brief presentation to the Commission (for detailed information see handout).

RAIL ISSUES

Mr. Husein Cumber, Vice President of Public Affairs Florida East Coast Railroad gave a brief presentation to the Commission (for detailed information see handout). **Chairman Brown** stated that he would like for the Ports and the Rail to come back at a later date to speak before the Commission.

Commissioner Calloway recognized The Honorable Jim Naugle, Mayor of the City of Ft. Lauderdale and thanked him for allowing the Commission to use their Chambers. He also recognized The Honorable Susan Haney, with the City of Boca Raton City Commission as well as the Honorable Richard Kaplan, Mayor of City of Lauderhill.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PANEL DISCUSSION

COLLABORATION AND INTEGRATION WITH SOUTH FLORIDA MPO'S

Mayor Richard Kaplan, Chairman, Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) gave a brief presentation to the Commission. **Commissioner Durden** asked Mayor Kaplan if he would clarify his comments on the Regional Transportation Authority Bill. Mayor Kaplan stated his interpretation of the bill is that you can have a dedicated funding source but you have to take it from your present sources. **Commissioner Calloway** asked if the Governor signs the bill in its present form how will the MPO's work or the integration in terms of the efforts between the MPO's and the new RTA? Mayor Kaplan said he believed it would be a continuation of what they have already started with the RTA. Certain aspects of what they do will be kicked up to that level to provide better coordination, subject to the local MPO's approval. He believes one of the things the RTA will be able to do, is by getting a dedicated

funding source of revenue will be able to carry out regional planning and implementation ultimately, of regional transit.

THE BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

Mr. James Cummings, Tri-Rail Board Member gave a brief presentation to the Commission regarding the transportation needs in South Florida.

OPERATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Joe Guiletti, Executive Director Tri-Rail gave a brief presentation to the Commission. He discussed the Regional Transit Authority and the need to work together on transportation needs in South Florida.

COUNTY VIEW POINT

Mr. Neisen Kasdin, Vice Chairman of the Transportation Group, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce gave a brief presentation to the Commission. He discussed what was happening at the County level regarding regional transportation. **Chairman Brown** asked about the transit tax for Dade County – what will be the major use of that tax? Will it be for operations or for local match for infrastructure or will it be for both? Mr. Kasdin responded both.

Commissioner Calloway stated that he believes the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, if it is signed on by the Governor, will represent a great step forward for South Florida. Notwithstanding some of the funding issues, the ability to create a vehicle for solving long term regional urban transportation needs of this region of the State will help, but it will also demonstrate and give some emphasis to other regional issues not only in South Florida but across the State. He applauds the business community as well as those public officials who have been involved and working on this issue. He would also like to see the MPO and RTA look long term to make sure there is a transportation planning/land use planning effort that also is accounted for.

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM UPDATE

Chester Chandler, FDOT ITS Manager gave a brief presentation to the Commission on the Department's ITS Program (for detailed information see handout). **Commissioner Namoff** recognized Mr. Chandler and the speed of the projects that he is working on. One of the reasons FDOT is leading the country is because of Mr. Chandler's work. That is why he believes the Commission has to give the highest priority to ITS. Especially since most of the testimony today is about congestion. Congestion management is a problem that is here for a long time and ITS is one of the solutions that can benefit a wider area of people at a low cost.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 10th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2003

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.