

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2007

MEETING NUMBER 163

The one hundred and sixty third meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at the Greater Fort Lauderdale-Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Chairman Jim Holton called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members in attendance were: Commissioners Jim Holton, Janet Watermeier, Sidney Calloway, Gabriel Bustamante, Marcos Marchena and Bart Pullum. Commissioners David Straz, Marty Lanahan and Marshal Criser were unable to attend.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

MINUTES:

Minutes of the September 13, 2007 Commission Meeting were approved after making the correction that Commissioner Bart Pullum was in attendance at the September 13, 2007 meeting.

Chairman Holton reported on the following:

- Commissioner Lanahan has been named Regional President of Regions Banks for all of North Florida, and these new responsibilities made it impossible for her to attend this meeting.
- Commissioner Straz is out of the country in conjunction with his consulate duties and is unable to attend this meeting.
- Commissioner Criser had a last minute business matter arise and is unable to attend this meeting.
- After our meeting in Pensacola the Commission had the opportunity to tour the Institute for Human and Robotic Cognition. The research being done there is phenomenal, and we believe that it has application in the field of intelligent transportation systems in the near future. Chairman Holton encouraged those who could not stay for the tour, to try to see it if their travels include Pensacola.
- As most of you know, Commissioner Gabriel Bustamante has indicated that he will not seek reappointment to the Commission due to the increasing responsibilities of his business. Of course, he is still considered a Commissioner until such time as his replacement is named by the Governor. Commissioner Bustamante has been a great asset to this body and to the transportation industry during his tenure. He took on some of our toughest issues, such as safety, truck issues, and the corridors program. His intellectual approach to policy matters has been valuable in all our deliberations. Thank you for your hard work and service to the citizens of Florida through this board.
- The Elections of Officers will be deferred until the December 6 meeting.

AGENCY REPORT:

Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos gave an update on the Department and reported on issues the Department is monitoring:

- Secretary Kopelousos thanked Commissioner Bustamante for his support to the Department.
- Governor Crist made a visit to the Department and met with staff to discuss policy and responsibilities. They also discussed the Governor's expectations of the Department; funding issues; challenges; and issues which may require the Department's help in resolving.
- Budget – the Legislature is in Special Session now – they are in a 72 hour cooling off period and will return on Friday to vote. FDOT/Transportation was left alone for now.
- Update on large projects –
 1. The Department will be breaking ground at the end of the month on I-75 in Ft. Myers area.
 2. Request for Qualifications were received for the I-95 Express Lanes.
 3. Port of Miami – concerning the City's share of \$50 million - the Mayor has asked for an extension to get dollars currently on hold.
 4. Escambia Bay Bridge is scheduled to be completed at the end of November.
 5. Transit in Central Florida continues to move forward.
 6. The Department is continuing to work with CSX.

IMPACT ON RISING CONSTRUCTION COSTS ON STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS:

William Buechner, PHD, VP for Economics and Research, American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA) made a presentation to the Commission on this topic.

(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 ROAD BUILDING ISSUES:

Bob Burleson, President of Florida Transportation Builders Association spoke on this issue.

SOUTH FLORIDA/PORT OF PALM BEACH INLAND INTERMODAL LOGISTICS COMPLEX (INLAND PORT):

Kathy Andress, Deputy Director Port of Palm Beach made a presentation to the Commission.

(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.)

DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDED PERFORMANCE MEASURES FOR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITIES:

Commissioner Marchena (Chair of this Committee) presented this before the Commission and asked that the Commission adopt the recommendations and revisit this again next year. Commission Watermeier moved to approve, Commissioner Calloway seconded. The motion was approved with said modifications.

(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.)

I-595 UPDATE:

Jim Wolfe, District Secretary gave the update on I-595.

(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 COMMENT:

Mike Smith, private citizen, spoke before the Commission regarding Highway - Rail Grade Crossing Safety.

The Florida Transportation Commission meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 6th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2007

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.