

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2004

MEETING NUMBER 144

The one hundred and forty-fourth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Wednesday, October 13, 2004 at CUTR (Center for Urban Transportation Research) Board Room, University of South Florida, College of Engineering, 4202 E. Fowler Avenue, CUT 100, Tampa, Florida. Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance were: Commissioners Earl Durden, Jim Holton, Janet Watermeier, Sidney Calloway, Heidi Eddins, Gasper Lazzara, David Straz and Marcos Marchena.

MINUTES

Minutes of the May 11, 2004 Commission Meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- **Chairman Durden** thanked Ed Mierzejewski and staff for hosting the Commission Meeting.
- **Chairman Durden** mentioned that Commissioner Bob Namoff has temporarily resigned from the Commission. His seat will remain open for several months to see if he can return to the Commission.
- **Chairman Durden** commended the Department for all their hard work in getting the roads open to traffic after the four hurricanes that hit Florida. There was over \$1.4 billion in damages to the highways, seaports, airports and transit in Florida. Over \$40 million has been lost in toll revenues. The Commission supports the Department's efforts to secure emergency funds to repair damage and recoup lost toll revenue.

Secretary Abreu spoke to the Hurricane damage. He said that he has never been prouder of the FDOT than he is now with the way the Department responded. Not just FDOT, the entire State did a great job working together. Hurricane Ivan had the greater impact on transportation infrastructure. But they all had an impact. Charlie washed out SR60; Ivan destroyed or damaged almost every coastal bridge west of Bay County, but specifically the I-10 Bridge. Assistant Secretary Clary spoke on the \$1.1 billion in damages to the roadway system and recovery efforts with Federal Highway. In addition, the Department did work on the local road systems in the range of \$7-8 million to get them open as quickly as possible. Seaports had about \$20 million in damage, the heaviest being the Port of Pensacola. Airports had extensive damage, particularly in Central Florida, in excess of \$200 million in damage. Transit was about \$60 million. Rail – CSX had extensive damage along Pensacola Bay. The good news is that the Department should be getting around \$1.1 Billion from FHWA.

Commissioner Holton asked Mr. Clary if the FHWA determination is made on a regional level or is it made in Washington? Mr. Clary said it is originally made in Washington, but the Department has been working through the regional office.

- **Chairman Durden** mentioned that he attended the re-opening of the I-10 Bridge in Pensacola with Secretary Abreu, District Secretary Prescott, USDOT Secretary Mineta and Governor Bush. The Governor was extremely excited to get the bridge opened seven days earlier than had been projected. The Department and all involved did an excellent job in getting the bridge opened ahead of schedule.
- **Chairman Durden** asked Commissioner Eddins to speak on the rail situation in relation to the hurricanes. **Commissioner Eddins** said she could only speak for the Florida East Coast (FEC) railway, although she knows that CSX had similar problems. The railway did not experience much in terms of physical damage to the tracks or structure of bridges, but, from Hurricanes Francis and Charlie, they had over 500 grade crossings without power. She said she could not thank FDOT enough – Secretaries Chesser and Gilhooley’s offices really came through getting them back in business because the infrastructure was ready to run trains, but they couldn’t with the grade crossings out of commission. The FDOT helped man some of the crossings and closed others so that the trains could operate. They had a situation where Miami/Dade was going to have to issue a boil first order for the water supply because they had chlorine cars that were stuck in Jacksonville and couldn’t get them to Miami/Dade. It was a tremendous effort to get this done. At a future date, the rail industry will meet with FDOT to discuss ways in which the rail infrastructure can address power supply to grade crossings. Generators were not the answer, because they were stolen.
- **Chairman Durden** discussed the Partnerships in Transportation Meeting that several Commissioners, Laura Kelley, Sally Patrenos and Department staff attended on October 6 in Orlando. The group discussed: Exploring the key factors of successful public-private partnerships important to the future of transportation in Florida; Mary Peters, FHWA Administrator and other key officials discussed recent policy changes to cultivate future public-private partnerships; Commissioner Marchena introduced Senator Daniel Webster who discussed the importance of thinking beyond current practices and exploring untested ideas for cultivating partnerships; Commissioner Eddins presented FEC Industries recent experiences with public-private partnerships.
- **Commissioner Calloway** attended the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX) Annual Workshop this past summer and presented Proposed Performance Measure recommendations to the MDX Board for their consideration. He mentioned the Commission’s Performance Measures Working Group has also been evaluating the Department’s performance measures.
- **Chairman Durden** spoke at the annual FICE (Florida Institute of Civil Engineers) meeting in Orlando in May about the transportation funding challenges facing Florida.
- **Commissioner Straz** attended the 511 Traveler Information Service event on September 2 for District 7, and thought it was a very good event. Commissioner Straz recommended anyone wanting information on the service to contact District 7.
- **Commissioner Lazzara** attended the TEAMFL meeting in Miami. The agenda was revised to discuss the hurricanes. The Turnpike lost about \$48 million in toll revenues as a result of the hurricanes. There was about \$14 million in damages to the Turnpike System. It was an easy decision to waive the tolls, the problem was when to put them back on. The other problem was how to recover \$48 million in lost toll

revenues. They are looking at ways to determine which systems need to have the tolls waived during this type of situation. They also mentioned that by 2006 there will be a new transponder coming out that is the size of a credit card that will cost about \$3.00 - 4.00 as compared to the current transponder that cost about \$25.00. They are going to try to integrate it with airport parking lots, ferries and other places where you could use the transponder. Turnpike Enterprise received an IBTTA (International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association) Award for customer service.

CENTER FOR URBAN TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH (CUTR)

Ed Mierzejewski, Director of CUTR made a presentation on the history of the Center for Urban Transportation Research 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.

STRATEGIC INTERMODAL SYSTEM

Ysela Llor, Assistant Secretary of Intermodal System Development made a presentation on the process being used to prioritize SIS projects in the current work program development cycle 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.

Mrs. Llor recommended that the Commission may want to have Department of Community Affairs, Secretary Cohen speak before the Commission at a future meeting regarding their initiatives. **Chairman Durden** agreed and said we would try to do that.

GROWTH OPTIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Lainey Shumaker, Florida Director Go21 and Russ McGurk, Go21 Consultant made a presentation on the activities and objectives of their newly formed organization Go21 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.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Mark Reichert presented the results of the Florida Department of Transportation Annual Performance and Production Review for Fiscal Year 2003/2004.

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.

Mr. Reichert reported that he has tentatively included three new measures this year on the Department’s ITS Program. These measures are preliminary, understanding that as the ITS program matures, additional or other measures may be included in future reports.

Mr. Reichert reported there are 35 performance measures, 20 Primary and 15 Secondary measures. Two secondary measures do not include an objective, so there are in effect 33 measures against which the Department is evaluated. The Department met or exceeded 16 of the 20 primary performance measures and, overall, met 22 of the 33 measures that include a stated objective.

Mr. Reichert reported that this past fiscal year there were four primary performance measures where the Department did not meet the objectives. They are in the areas of:

1. Bridge Repair
2. Bridge Replacement
3. Capacity Improvements: Public Transportation Modes
4. Minority Business Enterprise Program

Bottom-line is the Department had a great year.

Secretary Abreu responded to each of the four measures where the performance fell below the objective.

1. Bridge Repair Objective: Let 95% of planned projects:

73 bridge repair projects were planned. However, one of those originally identified projects was in fact a sign structure identified in error and should not have been included:

Of the 72 Bridge repair projects planned, 68 were let to contract, 4 were repaired under routine maintenance contracts, so all work was performed as planned. The final report will reflect this change.

2. Bridge Replacement Objective: Let 95% of planned projects:

23 Bridges planned; 16 bridges let; 6 bridges (local bridges) were converted to Local Agency Program (LAP) projects and locals needed additional time to meet their part of the agreement. All six will be let in 04/05.

One bridge was dropped. The project was to increase clearance from 9’ to 15’, with the locals to fund 50%. They chose not to fund, the project and bridge does not qualify for the Department’s replacement or repair program.

3. Capacity Improvement: Public Transportation Modes

The deficiency in the PTO categories are confined to the Intermodal Program Area.

\$25M for Tri-Rail station construction at the MIC, utilizing the “construction manager at risk procurement method” instead of the “low bid method” has caused unanticipated delays. Funds will be committed in 04/05 FY.

\$18M for Orlando Light Rail rolled to FY 04-05. Failure of a local referendum resulted in local funds not being available to match state and federal funds to build the light rail project. Future use and options for the funds are still being considered.

4. Minority Business Enterprise Program

Our goal is to exceed MBE expenditures from the previous year. A couple things need to be addressed – How we determine the MBE spending – We combine spending in the commodities and contractual services area and spending in road and bridge.

The good news is MBE spending on commodities and contractual services increased by nearly 30%, or \$7 M during 03/04.

The challenge is that spending in the construction area declined by just over \$100M and engineering contracts by \$6M. Two MBE firms certified in 02/03 --Community Asphalt and Kissinger Campo—accounting for \$100M are no longer certified MBEs. Therefore, we did not get any credit in 03/04 for continued spending with these firms.

Action plan: Work with the Office of Supplier Diversity to increase their MBE construction and engineering pool to include more Department certified DBEs, and capture the sub-contract payment information on contracts to have the most complete data and get credit for all of the dollars spent with MBEs.

Each District Secretary and the Executive Director of the Turnpike Enterprise took a few minutes to report on the challenges and successes experienced over the past year in their perspective districts. (Please see “FDOT Statewide and District Challenges and Accomplishments” in the Commission’s publication *Performance and Production Review of the Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2003/2004* for details.)

Commissioner Lazzara moved to approve the report and forward it to the Governor and Legislature. **Commissioner Eddins** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Bright of Blueprint 2000 out of Tallahassee spoke before the Commission regarding the funding of projects on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS).

Howard Glassman, Executive Director of the MPOAC spoke before the Commission regarding funding issues as it relates to MPO’s.

Commissioner Calloway asked Mr. Glassman, what would be a logical response from the MPOAC as to how to increase funding? You are suggesting that it is not local option gas taxes. It would be very helpful if we heard from the MPOAC – what are the MPOs bringing to the table? What proposals does the MPOAC have regarding funding? **Commissioner Calloway** is encouraging the MPOAC to give the Commission something to work with.

Mr. Glassman responded that the MPOAC will be meeting next week and will follow-up on this. Ms. Kelley will be attending the MPOAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2004

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.