

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2007

MEETING NUMBER 164

The one hundred and sixty fourth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Thursday, December 6, 2007 at the Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida. Chairman Jim Holton called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

MINUTES:

Minutes of the October 9, 2007 Commission Meeting were approved.

Chairman Holton reported on the following:

- Congratulations to Commissioner Marshall Criser, who was just reappointed by Governor Crist to serve a second term on the Commission.
- Welcome to Rick Gallant, who joins the Commission Staff December 14. Rick will work on the new authorities oversight responsibilities assigned to the Commission by the 2007 Legislature.
- Mark Reichert, Deputy Director, attended and participated on a panel at the "The Summit for High Speed Rail on the East Coast" in Raleigh, NC and to hear the latest in efforts to institute High Speed Rail mode in the United States.
- The Legislature created a new regional transportation authority last session in the Tampa Bay region. Sally Patrenos, Executive Director, attended the Board Meeting of the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority last week and reported on the Commission's plan for implementing the oversight provisions.

AGENCY REPORT:

Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos gave an update on the Department activities and reported on issues being monitored.

- Jim Ely, Executive Director of the Turnpike Enterprise, was honored with the CUTR (Center for Urban Transportation Research) Award for his outstanding leadership in transportation.
- Jessie Manzano, Deputy Chief of Staff, will return next week from active duty with the military.
- Lowell Clary, Assistant Secretary of Finance and Administration, has resigned.

- The Secretary stated that the Department is seeking someone for their team that has the ability to negotiate. She will be searching for qualified candidates over the next few months when filling the vacant positions.
- Funding is down.
- General revenues are down.
- The Department is in the process of meeting with locals to do a better job with their Outreach Program around the state.
- The Department has received approval on their Legislative Package. The Department will work closely with Commission Staff.
- Agreements with CSX were signed last week.
- The Department will host the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) Annual Meeting in August of 2008. It will be held in Orlando.

Commissioner Watermeier asked Secretary Kopelousos about the time line in filling the top positions in the Department. Secretary Kopelousos responded that filling positions is a slow process and they are looking for someone who can negotiate and the Commission should see movement on filling the positions around the first of the year.

FIRST QUARTER FY 2008 PERFORMANCE REPORT:

David Tassinari, Manager of Finance and Performance Monitoring gave the 1st Quarter of the FY 2008 Performance Report.

SAFETY REPORT:

David Tassinari briefed the Commission on the Final Safety Report.

Commissioner Watermeier made a motion to accept the Safety Report. Commissioner Criser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(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.)

SAFETY INITIATIVES:

Marianne Trussell, Chief Safety Officer of FDOT, briefed the Commission on the Safety Initiatives of the Department.

Commissioner Marchena asked what the level of funding is for the Department’s Safety Education Program. Mrs. Trussell said she would check the grant funds.

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE:

Commissioner Marchena gave an update on the Transportation Authority Performance Measures. Commissioner Marchena recommended deleting the second bullet under Commission responsibilities relating to both Ethics & Conflict of Interest. He also said that the Commission will not be doing any site visits for now.

Commissioner Watermeier made a motion to accept the Performance Measures with the noted recommended corrections. Commissioner Criser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(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.)

MOVING BEYOND THE GAS TAX:

Mathew Click, Director of Government Affairs, for the Turnpike Enterprise, made a presentation before the Commission regarding alternatives for moving beyond the gas tax as a method of funding transportation infrastructure in the future.

(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.)

STATE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND REVENUE ENHANCEMENT PROPOSAL:

Douglas Callaway, President of Floridians for Better Transportation, spoke before the Commission on the following issues:

- Protecting the Existing Florida Transportation Funding sources (State Transportation Trust Fund and the new monies from the 2005 growth management legislation - \$542 million each year)
- Providing more money for badly-needed transportation improvements (from recurring and non-recurring sources)
- Move ahead quickly on new transportation corridors (and expand & enhance existing transportation facilities).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Commissioner Lanahan was the Chair of the Nominating Committee and offered the following slate of nominations:

Chairman – Commissioner Marchena
Vice-Chairman – Commissioner Calloway
Secretary – Commissioner Lanahan

Commissioner Criser made the motion to accept the nominations as stated. Commissioner Pullum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Watermeier presented a plaque to Chairman Holton honoring his Leadership of the FTC over the last two years.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Howard Glassman, Executive Director of the MPOAC, spoke before the Commission.

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

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 3rd DAY OF MARCH, 2008

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.