

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 17, 2019

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Florida Transportation Commission Elects Ronald Howse as New Chairman

Tallahassee – During a meeting on Thursday, January 10, 2019, Jay Trumbull after serving for 4 years as the Chairman of the Florida Transportation Commission has stepped down. He cites, “after the devastation of Hurricane Michael-I need to spend more time with my family, community and business getting back to a new normal in Panama City. I still want to serve on the Commission, but cannot continue in a Senior Leadership Capacity.” Trumbull was immediately and unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

The Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) then proceeded to elect new officers for the upcoming year. Ronald S. Howse from Cocoa was unanimously elected as Chairman. Chairman Howse was appointed to the Commission in December of 2009. He is the President of Real Deal Development Group, an Engineering and Land Planning company, and is a licensed civil engineer. Chairman Howse has served as a Councilman for the City of St. Cloud, Board Member of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, and Board Member of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, and was the former Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Altamonte Springs.

Jay N. Trumbull of Panama City, appointed to the FTC in March of 2011, was elected Vice-Chairman. He is President/Owner of Trumbull Bottled Water, Inc., and has served on the Bay County Planning Commission, Panama City Housing Authority, Bay Medical Board Foundation, and the Bay County Chamber of Commerce. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Bay Bank and Trust and serves on several boards within his industry: Culligan Dealers of North America and on the Culligan Dealer Advisory Council.

Beth Kigel of Palm Beach Gardens, appointed to the FTC in January 2012, was reelected as Secretary of the FTC. She is President and CEO of Palm Beach North Chamber of Commerce in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Prior to joining the Chamber, Ms. Kigel was owner and president of BK Strategies, LLC, a government relations and business consulting firm. Ms. Kigel began her career as a corporate representative in the telecommunications industry focused almost exclusively on government solutions at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels. She has also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, an Executive Committee member of the Economic Council of Palm Beach County, the 2012 Chair of the William T. Dwyer Awards for Excellence in Education, the Roger Dean Stadium Advisory Board and a member of the Forum Club of the Palm Beaches. Kigel has also served on the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission, the Palm Beach County Sports Commission, and the Palm Beach County Groundwater and Natural Resources Protection Board. Ms. Kigel serves on the Leadership Florida Board of Directors and was elected to the post of Chair-Elect for 2017-2018. Ms. Kigel also serves on the Board of Directors for the Florida Chamber of Commerce. In 2015, she was appointed to The World Congress on Intelligent Transportation Systems Board of Directors.

The Florida Transportation Commission is an appointed body that provides performance and fiscal oversight of the Florida Department of Transportation, and makes transportation policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature.