

## FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2009**

**MEETING NUMBER 170**

The one hundred and seventieth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held January 14, 2009 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 4040 Central Florida Parkway, Orlando, Florida. Chairman Marcos Marchena called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Members in attendance were: Chairman Marcos Marchena, Commissioners Calloway, Conrecode, Criser, Pullum, Mazurkiewicz, Rose and Walton. Commissioner Lanahan was on medical leave.

### **MINUTES:**

Minutes of the November 6, 2008 Commission Meetings were approved.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Chairman Marchena** reported on the following:

- The Florida Department of Transportation, like all state agencies, has been asked to take a reduction in their operational budget. For the FDOT the amount is \$3.5 million. They have been asked to take a \$3.5 million dollar reduction from their operational budget. They will also be taking a \$5 million dollar reduction in the Work Program this Fiscal Year, which will translate to \$12.5–\$13 million dollar commitment reduction next year. There was also a big push to take about \$200 million from the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF), which would have translated into about \$420 million commitment dollars from FDOT. That was squelched by the legislature, for the time being, and it is waiting to be addressed by the Legislature in regular session. These dollars need to be kept in the Work Program, because the Work Program generates new jobs and generates new revenues for the state coming back.

The Florida Transportation Commission has also had to reduce their budget. Executive Director Sally Patrenos explained the reductions. The Commission has had the same baseline budget every year since the Commission was created in 1987. The only time the Commission has had an infusion in the budget was when the Legislature asked the Commission to complete special studies and then were given consultant dollars to accomplish these requests. The Statute clearly states that the Commission is to get additional funding from FDOT when it is absolutely necessary to complete their statutory mandates. The Commission has taken about a \$35,000 cut in the current budget and has participated in all the budget cutting exercises that the FDOT has taken, including the four percent hold back. This past year the FTC had a four percent hold back and it was restored at the end of the year. This year the Commission had the same four percent hold back that will not be restored. The Commission staff has cut way back on travel by

attending video and web-based teleconferences, sending limited staff to out of town Commission meetings when possible as an effort to operate within the current constrained budget. The Commission is statutorily mandated to hold four meetings per year. The main avenue for our cost cutting is travel. Staff will evaluate the potential for holding some of those meetings via teleconference, when possible.

- Since Chairman Marchena was appointed to the Commission, he has focused on improving safety on Florida highways. The Commission has held a number of Safety meetings, and at the first meeting they realized that the data the Commission is provided is dated. David Tassinari presented to the Commission the 2007 FTC Safety Report. This is a 2007 Report and not a 2008 Report due to the delay in receiving current data. Some of the important findings of the report were:
  - The Department met its Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) goal of a 5% reduction in the fatality rate in 2007;
  - Compared to 2006, there was a 4.3% decrease (144 fewer) in traffic fatalities and a 1.29% decrease in traffic injuries;
  - However, alcohol-related fatal crashes increased by 112 and the crash rate rose to 38% (from 32.7%) of all fatal crashes;
  - The Florida Young Driver (under age 25) fatal crash rate decreased from 2006, however, it rose to 116% of the National Rate;
  - The Florida Bicyclist fatality rate decreased from 2006, however, it also rose against the National Rate and is at 180% higher than the National Rate;
  - In the SHSP emphasis areas, from 2006 to 2007, Aggressive Driving fatalities increased from (1,219 to 1,260), while Intersection Related fatalities declined from 984 to 978 and Lane Departure fatalities declined from 3,125 to 2,974.

Progress is being made in Florida, however, compared to National averages, Florida continues to lag.

Commissioners were given a copy of the draft resolution on safety last month to consider. The Chairman took up the resolution for adoption by this body. He called for a motion for adoption of this FTC resolution, which would be a vehicle for conveying recommendations on highway safety to the Governor and Legislature. Commissioner Calloway made a motion to adopt the Resolution, Commissioner Conrecode seconded. The motion carried.

## **AGENCY REPORT**

Acting Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Bill Thorp gave an update on the Department activities for Secretary Kopelousos and reported on the following:

- Department of Transportation's State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF).
- Personnel Issues - District Three Secretary Larry Kelley will be leaving the Department soon.
- Legislative update.
- Public-Private Partnership Program.
- Transportation Finance Innovation Act (TFIA).

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Chairman Marchena had appointed a Nominating Committee in November, 2008 comprised of Commissioners Criser, Pullum and Conrecode with Commissioner Criser as Chair. Commissioner Criser presented the following recommendation of officers to serve one more year: Chairman – Marcos Marchena, Vice-Chairman –Sidney Calloway, Secretary – Marty Lanahan. Commissioner Calloway moved the motion, Commissioner Mazurkiewicz seconded the motion. The motion carried.

## **FLORIDA’S TOLL INDUSTRY – “PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE”**

Florida’ Turnpike Executive Director, Jim Ely made a presentation to the Commission on the Tolling Industry and the effects they are having as it relates to the downturn of the economy.

[Please see this and all presentations made before the Commission on the Florida Transportation Commission web site at [www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us).]

The next Commission meeting will be held the afternoon of March 3 in Tallahassee.

The Florida Transportation Commission meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M.

MINUTES APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_AS READ\_\_\_\_\_AS AMENDED

THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2009

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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, and Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450. Meetings of the Florida Transportation Commission are recorded on video and audiotape.