

## FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF JULY 16, 2009

MEETING NUMBER 173

The one hundred and seventy-third meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held July 16, 2009, at the Trade Winds Islands Conference Center, 5500 Gulf Boulevard, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Chairman Marcos Marchena called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

### ATTENDANCE:

Members in attendance were: Chairman Marcos Marchena, Commissioners Conrecode, Criser, Lanahan, Pullum, Rose, and Walton. Commissioner Mazurkiewicz was unable to attend.

### MINUTES:

Minutes of the May 8, 2009 Commission Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Marchena presented a request from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) for consideration of the appointment of Thornton Williams to the CUTR Board of Directors. The Commission approved the request, Sally Patrenos will notify CUTR of the approval.

Beginning July 1 the Commission assumed oversight of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) per CS/HB 1213. FTC staff held an orientation with JTA last week to begin the oversight process. David Tassinari provided a briefing on the unique issues of the JTA compared to other authorities. A teleconference with the FTC Oversight Committee and JTA will be scheduled within the next few weeks.

Commissioner Pullum provided a brief update on the SIS Update Leadership Committee activities. The next Leadership Committee meeting will be held August 20-21, Regional workshops are scheduled during the month of September. The Office of Policy Planning will provide an update to the Commission at the November meeting.

Commissioner Criser discussed his activities as Chair of the Florida Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. The Chamber continues to develop avenues for exploring Amendment 4, Home Town Democracy (development, growth and quality of life). Commissioner Criser encouraged the Commission to evaluate the impact on the State of Florida.

Chairman Marchena requested that Sally Patrenos convene the nominating committee (Commissioners Criser, Pullum and Conrecode) to select and bring nominations for the FTC Vice-Chair vacancy to the September 3 meeting.

## **STATUS OF FEDERAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS:**

Chairman Marchena welcomed Brad Thoburn, State Transportation Development Administrator. Mr. Thoburn provided a briefing on the Department's status in committing and expending the federal stimulus funds.

Florida was required to present a plan to the legislature for approval. The plan went through the Legislative Budget Committee process, and the department has currently obligated 81.5% of funds. The Department is continuing to follow the extensive reporting that is required. The Inspector General's Office is very involved in the process and provides an audit/evaluation on a regular basis. The goal of the department is to create jobs while working on transportation projects. Mr. Thoburn provided a comparison of nationwide and state funding statistics. He also discussed the current status of FDOT project prioritization, contracts and funding.

Mr. Thoburn addressed the Commissioners questions on the Economic Stimulus, i.e., grants, nationwide commitment of funds, certification requirements, reimbursement, bond purchases, and other related topics.

## **THE INTERSECTION OF HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION POLICY:**

Chairman Marchena introduced Mr. Alan Pisarski. He noted that Mr. Pisarski has authored several books: *Commuting in America*, *Travel Behavior Issues in the 90s*, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Highways*, and has appeared on national television and radio. Mr. Pisarski is highly regarded for his intuitive knowledge and extensive experience in transportation policy. He has served publicly and privately in the transportation industry for over 40 years.

Mr. Pisarski made a presentation to the Commission on "The Intersection of Housing and Transportation Policy". Areas covered in the presentation included: issues with public's choices, transportation threats and opportunities, transportation spending, reauthorization, and legislation. In Summary: "We have no choice but to care greatly about transportation. Transportation is all about reducing the time and cost penalties of distance on our economic and social interactions. To the extent that nations succeed in that function they enable tremendous forces of economic opportunity, social cohesion and national unity."

## **POLICY ISSUES:**

Chairman Marchena reminded the group that there are some major policy issues the Commission has wanted to address for some time on the topics of intermodalism, transportation financing and reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. Next on the agenda were three expert presenters who provided a foundation for these policy discussions.

## **TRANSPORTATION AT A CROSSROADS:**

Chairman Marchena introduced Mr. Steve Reich, Program Director, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). Mr. Reich made a presentation to the Commission entitled "Transportation at a Crossroads". Discussion included linkages between land use and transportation, the environmental and energy implications of transportation, demand outpacing supply, and funding issues. The bottom line:

- Resources are becoming more scarce.
- The system is aging.
- US mobility will continue to rely heavily on individual vehicles of some type.
- We are fueling the system within a non-sustainable manner.
- Congestion continues to grow – even in light of more moderate projects.

**REAUTHORIZATION IMPLICATIONS:**

Chairman Marchena introduced Mr. D.J. Gribbin, Managing Director, Macquarie Capital, joining Macquarie in February 2009. Mr. Gribbin discussed the reauthorization process provided the status of the House Reauthorization Bill. Discussion also included the current system for funding, planning (prioritization system), and the environmental permitting process. He provided recommendations for educating the public on transportation-related issues and discussed the need to regain public confidence and support. He encouraged the group to decide what the reauthorization bill should look like and push it now for approval.

**TRANSPORTATION FINANCING:**

Chairman Marchena introduced Mr. David Ehrhardt, CEO, Castalia. Mr. Ehrhardt made a presentation to the Commission entitled “Pension Fund Investment in Infrastructure: Catalyst or Catastrophe?” Topics covered included:

- Castalia’s infrastructure expertise.
- Pension funds investing in infrastructure makes sense.
- Globally, state pension funds are leading infrastructure investors.
- US pension funds can no invest in infrastructure P3s, but
- Need to manage risk of conflict between fiduciary obligations and political imperatives.
- Global experience offers models for managing this conflict.

**ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION:**

Chairman Marchena led the round table discussion which included the Commission, FDOT Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos and guest speakers. Secretary Kopelousos gave a brief overview of the SIS approach to funding and prioritization of projects and explained that this is a continuing process - it has worked but can also be improved. There was extensive discussion on the above policy issues.

**AGENCY REPORT:**

Stephanie Kopelousos provided an update on FDOT Personnel:

- The Personnel Director position is currently vacant, Jon Bussey is serving as Interim Personnel Director. The vacancy has been advertised and an appointment will be made soon.
- Jimmy Rodgers was appointed as Interim District Three Secretary.
- Bill Thorp, Interim Assistant Secretary of Finance and Administration will be retiring at the end of this year. This vacancy has been advertised and an appointment will be made soon.

Secretary Kopelousos provided an update on the following:

- Reauthorization: Has met with staff in Washington and the delegation is very engaged in reauthorization issues.
- Provided an update on the applications for federal funds for SunRail, High Speed Rail and the FEC Corridor.
- Working with P3s on FDOT projects – specifically Florida Miami Tunnel and High Speed Rail.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rich Glorioso commended the FTC staff and Commissioners on their work efforts and ongoing progress in addressing Transportation issues in Florida.

**CONCLUSION:**

[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 on September 3, 2009 in Orlando, Florida.

**ADJOURN:**

The Florida Transportation Commission meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED       ✓       AS READ \_\_\_\_\_ AS AMENDED

THIS 3rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 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.