

## FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

MEETING NUMBER 174

The one hundred and seventy-fourth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held September 3, 2009, at the Florida Turnpike Enterprise Headquarters, Turkey Lake Service Plaza, Milepost 263, Florida's Turnpike, Building 5315, Auditorium A, Ocoee, 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, Mazurkiewicz, Pullum, Rose, and Walton.

### MINUTES:

Minutes of the July 13, 2009 Commission Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Marchena opened the meeting by thanking Jim Ely for hosting the September 2-3 FTC workshop and meeting.

Chairman Marchena commented on the productive September 2 workshop, which included an update on safety data which was collected since the tougher FTC measures were instituted. Good policy discussions were held related to passenger rail and federal reauthorization.

Chairman Marchena presented a High Speed Rail Resolution for consideration by the Commission (the Resolution was read into the meeting record). The Resolution was written due to the importance of elevating the discussion on diversifying Florida's transportation system of the future to accommodate passenger rail, and the current availability of federal funding for high speed rail. The Department's High Speed Rail application is due on October 2. The Resolution was presented by the Chairman and adopted by the Commission.

Policy discussion on federal reauthorization continued at the September 2 workshop. It was determined that the following policy concepts (suggestions only) are key to securing Florida's position in the federal reauthorization effort: (1) Additional Funding, (2) Flexibility, (3) Streamlined federal administrative process, and (4) Securing the state's autonomy in project negotiations.

Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) performance measures (transit agencies) were presented by Commissioner Criser and David Tassinari for consideration. Commissioners Criser, Pullum and Lanahan served on the subcommittee with FTC staff to undertake the task of establishing the measures now that FTC has oversight authority for the JTA. Chairman Marchena expressed appreciation for their work on this effort. The measures were adopted by the Commission. The remaining measures will be presented to the Commission at the November meeting for adoption.

The Nominating Committee convened on August 25 to nominate a new Vice-Chair for the Commission. Commissioners Criser, Conrecode and Pullum served on the committee. Commissioner Criser provided an update to the Commission. The Committee nominated Commissioner Lanahan to serve the remainder of the term as Vice-Chair. The nomination was presented by the Chairman and adopted by the Commission. Commissioner Walton was nominated to serve as Secretary (vacated by Commissioner Lanahan's appointment as Vice-Chair). The nomination was presented by the Chairman and adopted by the Commission. Chairman Marchena congratulated the Commissioners on their new appointments.

Chairman Marchena recently met with Mr. Pat McGowan who is on the Coordinating Committee for the ITS World Congress, scheduled for October 2011, in Orlando (FTC is a member of the Florida ITS Chapter). This international gathering rotates around the world and is held in the U.S. every three years. The Commission will want to consider the importance of this Congress when drafting the 2011 meeting schedule in order to take advantage of the opportunity to attend and see some of the latest in technology.

Two important processes have been going on to develop updates in the statewide policies on Seaports and on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). The FTC will have an opportunity to formally review both the SIS and Seaport Plans during the November and December meetings. Commissioner Pullum provided the status of the SIS Update Leadership Committee activities.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce is heading a multi-agency effort to develop a Trade Flow Analysis for the State. This will assist in better understanding the dynamics of the freight movements that fuel the \$115 billion dollar international trade industry. Florida's 14 deepwater seaports are the generators of much of that commerce, so the policies framing their industry are of tremendous interest to us. Former Commissioner Calloway was the FTC representative on the Seaport Policy Plan update, Mark Reichert has been participating in these sessions as our representative. Mark provided an update on the Seaport Plan, the policy element of the Plan is scheduled to be completed and distributed for review and adoption by the end of October. Debbie Hunt confirmed that the information will be provided as soon as the policy recommendations are finalized.

A proposed revision to the FTC Mission Statement was presented to the Commission for approval. This revision has been pending since the 2007 Legislative Session, adding language to reflect statutory responsibilities for oversight of the additional 15 authorities. Sally Patrenos distributed the statement for review prior to the meeting. The new Mission Statement was presented and adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Walton suggested during a meeting earlier this year that he would like to see some type of “transportation system snapshot” reported out on a regular basis. The goal is to help raise public political awareness of the rising deficits in infrastructure development in the State and across the country. Commissioner Walton shared his suggestions and ideas with the Commission, FTC staff will pursue options in this area.

Commissioner participation in events since our July meeting:

- Commissioner Walton – Attended the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) conference in Biloxi, Mississippi, representing Florida in the Special Committee on Commissions and Boards.
- Commissioner Mazurkiewicz – Spoke in Tampa on High Speed Rail and met with Go21, a rail advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. He discussed the issues of freight and passenger transport and the need to take freight off the road and move it to rail. He also discussed the strategic and financial planning and infrastructure to implement needed changes in the current system.
- Sally Patrenos substituted for Commissioner Conrecode at FTBA’s statewide conference in Boca Raton.
- Mark Reichert attended ITS Florida’s Board Meeting to discuss the State Strategic Plan for ITS.
- Commissioner Criser is serving on the Florida TaxWatch Task Force, Subcommittee on Infrastructure. Commissioner Criser discussed the purpose and goals of the Subcommittee which has been established to look at costs and best practices in state government. The subcommittee will develop recommendations related to potential cost savings to help address the potential budget shortfall for next year. Subcommittee meetings are open to the public and will be held during September, October and November with recommendations due to be submitted to the Legislature in January 2010. Chairman Marchena asked if the Department is participating on the Committee, Secretary Kopelousos will follow-up and appoint a representative if needed.

#### **FY 2008-09 PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION REVIEW:**

An ongoing function of the FTC that is mandated by Florida Statute in the continuous oversight of the FDOT is the capture and analyses of data on the performance and production of the department statewide. The information is reported to the public on a quarterly basis and annually we hold a public review and report the findings to the Governor and the Legislature. Overall the Department did well this year, meeting 85% of their performance measures.

Chairman Marchena welcomed David Tassinari and introduced the presentation of the FY 2008-09 Performance and Production Annual Review. David highlighted the changes made this year from the previous year’s report (copies were provided to the Commission), followed by a detailed presentation of the report.

## **AGENCY REPORT:**

Chairman Marchena welcomed Secretary Stephanie Kopelousos to hear the Department's response to the Performance and Production Annual Review and to provide the Commission with the Agency Report.

Secretary Kopelousos announced that the Department was a winner in the Innovative Management, Medium Project Category for the I-95 Express Miami Project which was awarded at the SASHTO Conference in conjunction with the America's Transportation Awards. Chairman Marchena congratulated the Department on behalf of the Commission.

- An updated report has been issued on the Economic Stimulus funds. Through this effort, Florida has opened up new economic opportunities and created jobs throughout the state.
- High Speed Rail efforts continue throughout the state. The Department has submitted two applications for state rail projects (Central Florida and Tampa/Orlando/Miami) and will submit an additional two projects (Tampa/Orlando and Amtrak Co-Application for inter-city rail from Jacksonville to Miami) by October 2.
- The Lake Belt mining injunction was published for public comment. The EPA responded indicating that the proposal was inadequate, the Corps of Engineers is currently negotiating with EPA to see what improvements can be made and will continue additional mediation if needed. Secretary Kopelousos thanked the Commission for the letter of support on this project. It is anticipated that a resolution can be reached in order to proceed with the mining activities.
- The Miami Tunnel project is going to financial closing no later than October 1.
- I-595 project is moving forward as scheduled.
- Environmental documentation on the Outer Beltway project has been submitted and the Department continues to meet with FHWA in order to keep the project moving forward.
- Several legislative changes have been made in the House of Representatives Roads, Bridges, and Ports Committee: Representative Gary Aubuchon is the Committee Chair; Ritch Workman has been appointed Committee Vice-Chair.
- Commissioner Lanahan requested an update on the April 9 letter from the Chairman to the Governor regarding Santa Rosa Bay Bridge. The FTC has not received a response from the Governor's Office, Secretary Kopelousos will follow-up with the Governor's Office and report back to the Commission.
- The Department is continuing work on the Reauthorization process and preparing for the Revenue Estimating Conference.

- Appointments of the Central Office Personnel Director and District Three Secretary position vacancies will be announced within the week.
- In response to the FY 2008-09 Performance and Production Review -- Secretary Kopelousos stated that she is extremely proud of the agency and team for meeting 17 of the 20 performance measures as they continue to deliver more with less. In addition to the annual performance review, the department has monthly tracking systems in place which show that significant improvements have been made over last year. She addressed specific observations on specific areas of the report and goals for improving in those areas.

#### **DISTRICT SECRETARIES/TURNPIKE ENTERPRISE PRESENTATIONS:**

Chairman Marchena noted again that one of the statutory responsibilities of the Commission is the Annual Performance Review of the FDOT. This annual review provides an opportunity to have each District Secretary address the performance measures for their respective District. Presentations began with the introduction of Jim Ely of the Turnpike Enterprise followed by Secretaries from Districts One through Seven.

After the presentations, Chairman Marchena commended each of the District Secretaries for their extraordinary efforts to press forward in meeting the transportation needs of Florida during these trying economic times when available resources seem to continually diminish. He noted that it is easy to do well in times of prosperity, but (Districts) have had to show greater creativity and cooperation with partners during leaner times.

#### **SUCCESSION PLANNING:**

Due to the length of today's meeting, Chairman Marchena requested that discussion of Succession Planning be delayed. Secretary Kopelousos will e-mail the Chairman a status of the Department's Succession Planning efforts and this item will be addressed at the next FTC meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Public comment was received from two attendees, Ms. Duchee Stevens and Ms. Sabrina Fountain. Follow-up will be provided and documentation maintained in the meeting files.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

The next Commission workshop will be held on November 5, 2009, followed by the Commission meeting on November 6, 2009 in West Palm Beach, Florida.

**ADJOURN:**

The Florida Transportation Commission meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

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

THIS 6th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 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 audiotape and/or videotape. Please see presentations made before the Commission on the Florida Transportation Commission web site at [www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us).