

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2011

MEETING NUMBER 183

The one hundred and eighty-third meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held March 7, 2011, at the Florida Department of Transportation, Burns Auditorium, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida. Chairman Marty Lanahan provided opening comments and called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Members in attendance were: Chairman Marty Lanahan, Commissioners Walton, Howse, Marchena, Pullum, and Rose. Commissioner Mazurkiewicz was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

MINUTES:

Minutes of the January 21, 2011, Commission Meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Lanahan opened the meeting by addressing the primary purpose of this meeting, the review of the Tentative Five Year Work Program for Fiscal Years 2011-12 through 2015-16. This meeting fulfills one of the Commission's statutory responsibilities and serves as the official statewide public hearing.

Chairman Lanahan provided an update on the Funding Initiative. We have held an ongoing discussion of one of the most crucial issues facing the transportation industry this decade – how to effectively deal with the deterioration of the fuel tax as the primary source of funding for transportation in this country. We have drafted, and the FTC adopted at the January meeting, a resolution that delineated three points: (1) the fuel tax is deteriorating as a source of transportation funding; (2) all the viable options for replacing that revenue source must be explored; and (3) there is a call for leadership from Governor Scott and the Legislature in pursuing the solution to the problem of funding future transportation needs. The Commission will continue to have this as a major focus as we move forward.

The MPOAC Transportation Revenue Study Committee met this past week. Sally provided an update on that effort.

During the January 21, 2011 meeting, Chairman Lanahan appointed a Nominating Committee to be chaired by Bart Pullum, Commissioners Howse and Mazurkiewicz will also serve on the Committee. The Committee met on February 10, 2011, and made the determination that the current slate of officers should be re-nominated to continue in their respective offices. Commissioner Walton made a motion to accept the nominations, Commissioner Pullum seconded the motion.

The 2011 Legislative Session begins tomorrow, March 8. Sally Patrenos provided a summary of what is to be expected early in session.

Commissioner Marchena recently represented the FTC before the Senate Transportation Committee, at the request of Chairman Latvala. Commissioner Marchena provided an update on the presentation.

Chairman Lanahan recognized Commissioner Marchena for his service with the FTC and informed the group that this meeting would be his last official meeting as a Florida Transportation Commissioner. The Chairman presented Commissioner Marchena with a plaque of recognition for his service.

Chairman Lanahan recognized David Tassinari for his service with the FTC and 35 years of public service with the State of Florida. The Chairman presented Dave with a gift of recognition for his service.

Sally Patrenos announced her plans to leave the FTC effective May 31, 2011. Sally will be pursuing other opportunities outside of the agency.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Lanahan provided updates on Transportation Funding and the Legislative Outlook.

Chairman Lanahan decided not to pursue a second term as Chairman and will be stepping down at the end of the May 20 meeting. She requested that the Nominating Committee schedule a meeting to make nominations for new FTC officers to be presented to the Commission for approval on May 20.

TENTATIVE 5-YEAR WORK PROGRAM REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING:

Mark Reichert, Assistant Executive Director, provided the results of the *Review of the FDOT Tentative Work Program (TWP) for FY 2011/12 through FY 2015/16*. This document is based on the preliminary review of the TWP which was submitted to the Commission, Governor and Legislature. The final TWP will be submitted to the Governor and Legislature by March 22 to meet the statutory requirement.

The purpose of the Commission's review is to provide assurance to the public, the Governor, and the Legislature that the TWP was developed in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and policies. The Work Program represents those project-specific commitments that will be made in the short-term that implement the policies adopted in the Florida Transportation Plan, based on the funding and program levels established in the FDOT Program and Resource Plan. It fulfills the Department's commitment to the local governments for stability and long term planning.

In the absence of a Secretary of Transportation, Lora Hollingsworth, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration (FDOT), responded to the review of the TWP. She was followed by each of the district secretaries and the Turnpike Executive Director who presented an overview of their respective work programs.

Mr. Reichert concluded that, based on extensive staff research and analysis, the Tentative Work Program for FY 2011/12 through FY 2015/16 was developed in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and departmental policies. He also stated that the law requires that the Commission, as part of this public hearing, hear all comments offered by the public and turned the public hearing back over to Chairman Lanahan to preside over the public comments phase of the hearing. No public comments were made related to the TWP.

By unanimous vote of the Commission, the TWP was found to be in compliance with all laws and Departmental policies, and Chairman Lanahan instructed Commission staff to forward the TWP Review to Governor Scott and the Legislature.

The complete TWP presentation can be accessed through the Commission website at www.ftc.state.fl.us.

AGENCY REPORT:

Ananth Prasad, Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations, provided the following report to the Commission:

New Staff Appointments: Francis Gibbs, Chief of Staff
Jerry Currington, General Counsel
Bob Clift, Inspector General
Brian McManus, Federal Programs Coordinator
Lisa Saliba, Work Program Office

- Provided an overview of the 2011 Legislation.
- Provided an update on the Revenue Estimating Conference and Transportation Estimating Conference.
- The General Revenue Estimating Conference is scheduled for March 18.
- Briefly discussed the Governor's recommended budget (services vs. program components), proposal to move Motor Carrier Compliance (law enforcement) to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and possible reduction of positions.
- Provided the status of the Port of Miami Dredging project.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment was received.

CONCLUSION:

The next Commission workshop and meeting will be held on May 19-20, 2011, in Tampa.

ADJOURN:

The Florida Transportation Commission meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M. to reconvene in a meeting at 5:45 P.M. with Senate President Mike Haridopolis in his office at the Florida Capitol.

MINUTES APPROVED ✓ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 20th DAY OF MAY, 2011.

Maitha T. Lanahan
CHAIRMAN

NOTE: If further detail of these proceedings is required, please contact Commission staff at 850-414-4105 or write to: Florida Transportation Commission, 605 Suwannee Street, Mail Station #9, 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.

