

Florida Transportation Commission

Minutes

Administrative and Operational Issues Workshop

Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Board Room

April 16, 2015

Commissioners Present: Chairman Jay Trumbull, Vice Chairman Ken Wright, Secretary Beth Kigel (by phone), Commissioners John Browning, Maurice Ferré, Ron Howse, and Jim Sebesta.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Trumbull at 11:02 a.m.

Chairman Trumbull mentioned the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the mission, focus, and direction of the Commission. What is it we do? The expected outcomes of the meeting are to discuss the Commission's relevance, to discuss what issues might be appropriate to discuss with the Governor, and discuss other operational issues.

This stimulated a general discussion on several issues, as follows:

Commissioner Wright stated that he believes there should be better communication with both the Governor's Office and the Secretary.

The Commission can be a problem-solving board.

Commissioner Ferre' stated that the FTC should be more involved in the development of major policy issues. Commissioner Wright stated that he serves as the FTC representative on the Steering Committee overseeing updates of the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Plan. He also serves as Chair of the SIS Advisory Committee to the FTP/SIS Steering Committee. He gave an update on his activities on the FTP/SIS plan updates. It was suggested that we include an update of the FTP/SIS Update process on the agenda for our May Commission meeting.

Commissioner Howse mentioned that he believes the Commission should look into the Department's driveway permitting process. He stated the length of time it takes the Department to issue permits is too long.

He also stated that there are issues which FDOT staff are not following up. He mentioned a request he had made in District Five assuming the issue would be resolved and he would receive notice of the final resolution, but he did not. Commissioner Browning also feels there is no follow-through on requests; mentioning a toll violation issue he had wanted looked into. Future requests should be handled through the FTC Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director or FTC staff should be made aware of the requests to FDOT staff so FTC staff can follow-through.

Commissioner Browning felt that the Commission should look at issues as a Board of Directors. Commissioner Ferré questioned whether the FDOT is a centralized or decentralized agency. There was general discussion as to the different management styles of former Secretaries and the shift the agency takes from centralization of functions to decentralization of functions depending on the Secretary's management style.

Commissioner Ferré also questioned Florida's status as a donor state for federal transportation funding. He said he had heard that Florida was not considered a donor state in 2011 (per an economist's report).

He also stated the Commission should meet with Governor Scott to discuss his vision for transportation in Florida. Other commissioners agreed with this statement.

Chairman Trumbull indicated that FDOT has hired an efficiency expert to review the department's operations to identify efficiencies. It was recommended that this individual interview each Commissioner.

There was general discussion on the proposed FTC By-laws. It was decided that there is no need for Commission By-laws, but we do need a system for getting answers to commissioner inquiries.

The planned renovations to the FDOT Auditorium was discussed. Commissioner Howse mentioned the need for better bathrooms. Commissioner Wright was disappointed to hear that monitors would not be provided at the dais and wants the construction budget amended to include them.

There was general discussion regarding the relevance of the Commission. This was followed by commissioners naming issues for a list, to be prioritized at a later time, which includes:

- Small Business Initiative, the FDOT needs to do more.
- Permitting issues
- The FTC needs to become more informed on the Autonomous Vehicle issue (and ITS)
- Responding to commissioners when they make inquiries
- Presentation on how a project goes from concept to construction (also how changes are made to the Work Program)
- How are other state transportation commissions functioning?
- How to ensure new, innovative ideas are put into service
- Continued involvement in the Centralized Customer Service System (CCSS)
- More news articles to commissioners on what's really happening in regards to transportation issues in Florida. Send news clips out to commissioners by district
- Need sub-committee reports from commissioners at each commission meeting
- Commissioners want to review the FTC budget
- Alternative funding study addressing multiple sources, not just VMT

There was general discussion on the Mileage-based User Fee Study being proposed in Senate Bill 1554 and the Commission's role in that study. Discussion followed regarding whether the Commission could move forward regardless of legislative action or approval. The following motion was made by Commissioner Wright, seconded by Commissioner Kigel, and adopted unanimously:

"Chairman Trumbull has the authority to inform Secretary Boxold of the Commission's intent to conduct a study of sustainable transportation funding alternatives."

At this point, the Commission took up a discussion of the future of the Executive Director position. The current Executive Director, Bob Romig, has advised the Chairman of his intent to return to the private sector. Mr. Romig has agreed to remain with the Commission for as long as needed but no later than February, 2016 or until a new Executive Director can be appointed.

Public Comment: There were no public comments

The meeting concluded at approximately 3:45 p.m.