

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: December 12, 2013

MEETING NUMBER: 199

The one hundred and ninety-ninth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held on December 12, 2013, at the Florida Department of Transportation, Haydon Burns Auditorium, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida. Chairman Ron Howse called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. (E.S.T) and provided opening comments.

ATTENDANCE:

Members in attendance were: Chairman Howse, Commissioners Browning, Ferré, Frazier, Sebesta, Trumbull, and Wright. Commissioners Ellington and Kigel were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Chairman Howse provided a briefing on the FTC Workshop held in Tallahassee on December 11. During the opening session of the workshop, Commissioner Ferré requested that the Chairman begin with election of FTC officers for the 2014 calendar year, the Commission members unanimously agreed. Chairman Howse opened the floor for nominations with no new nominations received. Commissioner Ferré made a motion to keep the current officers, Commissioner Wright seconded the motion, and the Commission unanimously agreed. The FTC officers for the 2014 calendar year are: Chairman – Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman – Jay Trumbull, and Secretary – Beth Kigel.

Minutes from the September 26, 2013, meeting were presented for approval. Commissioner Browning made a motion to accept the minutes, Commissioner Trumbull seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

Chairman Howse announced a change in the meeting agenda due to travel schedules for several Commissioners. The "Florida Trade and Logistics Study 2.0" presentation scheduled at 10:15 A.M. was moved forward to 9:00 A.M.

One of the Transportation Commission's responsibilities is the review and approval of the members to the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) Advisory Board. The Commission received a request for confirmation from Judy Genshaft, USF President with the Bio for Ms. Ann Fandozzi. Chairman Howse presented the request for approval. A motion was made to accept the request, the motion was seconded and the Commission unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Fandozzi to the CUTR Advisory Board.

Chairman Howse recognized recent travel and activities performed by the Commissioners and FTC staff since the last FTC meeting:

- Commissioner Ferré: IBTTA Annual Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, September 23-25.
- Mark Reichert: ITS Florida Technical Conference, Orlando, October 9-11.

- Commissioner Kigel and Mark Reichert: Florida Chamber Foundation Future of Florida Forum, Orlando, October 14-16.
- Leann Livingston: Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority Board meeting, Apalachicola, October 24.
- Commissioner Wright and Rick Gallant: TEAMFL meeting, Orlando, October 24-25.
- Tom DiGiacomo: Autonomous Vehicle Summit, San Jose, October 28-29.
- Rick Gallant: Met with members of the recently created Northeast Florida Regional Transportation Authority to explain the Commission's oversight role. Jacksonville, October 30.
- Chairman Howse and Commissioner Wright: Orlando Sentinel Transportation Revolution, Orlando, November 5.
- Commissioner Frazier: CUTR Awards Event/Dinner, Tampa, November 6.
- Mark Reichert: Oregon RUC Summit, Portland, November 13.
- Senator Sebesta, Chairman Howse, Commissioners Browning and Frazier: Florida Automated Vehicles Summit, Tampa, November 14-15.
- Senator Sebesta and Commissioner Kigel: FDOT Freight Leadership Forum, Tampa, November 18-19.
- Commissioner Kigel: Met with District 4 Secretary Jim Wolfe in November.
- Chairman Howse and Tom DiGiacomo: Participated in a Florida Ports Council fly-in to Washington D.C., December 3-4.

FLORIDA TRADE AND LOGISTICS STUDY 2.0:

Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice-President, Florida Chamber Foundation presented the Florida Trade and Logistics Study 2.0. The Commission received regular updates from Dr. Carrie Blanchard, when the Chamber Foundation was working on the original Trade and Logistics Study.

FDOT 2014 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS:

Gerard O'Rourke, FDOT Director of Legislative Affairs, briefed the Commission on FDOT's legislative package for the 2014 Session. The package incorporates most of the items that were in last year's proposal, but failed to pass. It includes doing away with the Statewide Passenger Rail Commission and giving the FTC oversight of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority.

Chairman Howse requested that Gerard provide the Commission with a brief summary (one page on each) of items included in the FDOT legislative package.

AGENCY REPORT:

Ananth Prasad, FDOT Secretary, provided updates on the following:

- Announced the filling of significant positions and status of key vacancies statewide.
- Provided an update on the 2014 Legislative Session including: the Governor's tax cut proposal and the impact on tag fees, revenue estimating, and the department's legislative budget request.

- Discussed the status of SunRail and All Aboard Florida Projects. Also the Maglev Project from Orlando International Airport to the Orlando Convention Center.
- District Secretaries will continue to meet and communicate with Commissioners as requested. Commissioners were encouraged to contact the District Secretaries as needed.

SAFETY REPORT:

Trenda McPherson, State Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Program Manager presented the FDOT Safety Report. The FTC previously produced an annual Safety Report in an effort to bring attention to highway safety. The report served its purpose, with the creation of the Department's Strategic Highway Safety Plan in 2011 and the FTC report was no longer necessary. FDOT will now report to the Commission on an annual basis, its progress towards improving highway safety.

MATTHEWS BRIDGE REPAIR PROJECT:

Greg Evans, FDOT District Two Secretary, and District Two staff provided a briefing on the Matthew Bridge Repair Project. On September 26 a Naval ship under tow collided with the Matthews bridge which spans the St. Johns River in Jacksonville shutting down the bridge to traffic. Secretary Evans and staff explained to the Commission how District Two was able to repair the damage and reopen the bridge to traffic in record time.

Chairman Howse and the Commission commended District Two for their outstanding work in getting the Matthews Bridge reopened to traffic in only 33 days. Commissioner John Browning, on behalf of the Commission, presented Secretary Evans and the District Two staff with the Commission's first P.O.W. (Prosecution of Work) Award in recognition of those efforts.

FUTURE CORRIDORS INITIATIVE UPDATE:

Bob Romig, FDOT State Transportation Development Administrator, presented the current status of the Future Corridors Initiative. Governor Scott recently created, by Executive Order, the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force for developing recommendations on future transportation corridors in the region. The presentation included reports on the Tampa Bay to Central Florida Study Area Concept and Tampa Bay to Northeast Florida Study Area Concept.

Chairman Howse requested that Bob attend all future Commission meetings to provide ongoing updates on this initiative. He also requested that Bob meet with Commissioners individually to educate and provide more detail on Future Corridors.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was received.

CONCLUSION: The next FTC Workshop and Joint TEAMFL/FTC meeting will be held on January 23-24, 2014 in Orlando, Florida.

ADJOURN: Chairman Howse adjourned the FTC meeting at 12:30 P.M.

MINUTES APPROVED: AS READ AS AMENDED

THIS 24th DAY OF JANUARY, 2014.



CHAIRMAN

Note: If further detail of these proceedings is required, please contact Commission staff at (850) 414-4105 or write 605 Suwannee Street, Mail Station 09, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450. Meetings of the Florida Transportation Commission are recorded on video and/or audio tape. Information may also be accessed on the Florida Transportation Commission website at: www.ftc.state.fl.us