



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Date: June 20, 2024

Time: 10:00 am

Location: TEAMS Meeting

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

In Attendance

Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman David Genson, Commissioners John Browning, Richard Burke, Julius Davis, Alex Lastra, and Rusty Roberts.

Consent Agenda Items

- On a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Browning, the consent agenda was unanimously approved, which included the minutes from February 22, 2024.

FDOT Agency Update, Leda Kelly, Chief of Staff

- Chief of Staff Kelly highlighted events the Department of Transportation hosted and outlined Secretary Perdue's recent events and engagements.
- Chief of Staff Kelly gave details of the Department's emergency management response to the recent flooding event in South Florida.
- Assistant Secretary Will Watts spoke about a life-threatening incident which took place at the District 7 headquarters on April 17. A legitimate threat was directed at district leadership. Assistant Secretary Will Watts commended the actions of district reception staff. He also expressed gratitude towards emergency responders who secured the site and cleared the threat within minutes. On May 16th all first responders and supporting staff (130 external partners) gathered in recognition and celebration of their excellence.
 - Chairman Howse asked if the Department is looking at other potential vulnerabilities based on this incident.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts assured the Commission that the Department is looking at everything and has already changed some operational protocols.
 - Commissioners Burke and Browning commended the Department for their recognition of the emergency responders.
- Other items of discussion by Commissioners
 - Commissioner Roberts commented on the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) workshops and Florida's progress in this arena. The Commissioner reflected on a recent article stating FDOT wrote a letter asking the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for rule making and asked if a response had been made.

Florida Transportation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, June 20, 2024

- Chief of Staff Kelly said one of the roadblocks to progress are Federal regulations rather than state jurisdictions which prevents Florida from moving forward. The FDOT Secretary wrote a letter to FAA and USDOT to inquire why the United States is behind other nations. FDOT has not had an official response at this time.
- Commissioner Roberts asked for an update on the phosphogypsum study.
 - Chief of Staff Kelly said during the 2023 session the Legislature tasked the department to conduct a study on the use of the product with an April 1st deadline to complete the study. The study has been completed.

FDOT Moving I-4 Forward Update, Will Watts, Assistant Secretary

- The Assistant Secretary gave an overview of the project including:
 - The organizational leadership for this project is an integrated team of FDOT staff sitting side by side with consultant staff.
 - This project will involve nearly 400 professionals. 25% of the staff will be trainees from the industry and FDOT, which is a part of the Department's workforce development initiative.
 - The Program Delivery Approach (PDA) will include advancing small sections of I-4 first to accelerate the mega jobs on either side.
 - The PDA is designed to relieve congestion early by adding a single lane for the area of major congestion during the first year of construction.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked for clarification of the intent of the new single lane.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts explained the new single lane will be a general purpose lane, not express.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked for clarification about the express lanes associated with the Sand Lake interchange.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts affirmed two lanes are not needed from the Sand Lake interchange to the Osceola County line in the foreseeable future. While there is one lane going in one direction now, one will be built through this project going the other direction.
 - The Procurement Schedule includes a fast-paced approach with a 5-month window from procurement to turning dirt.
 - The Phased Design Build Delivery Method introduced in statute last year includes a streamlined procurement process through selecting construction teams based on qualifications and a maximum price.
 - The Modified Phased Design Build will use 3 teams which will innovate through collaboration with FDOT and consultant support team. The Department will move forward with the most competitive price. This allows the Department to have price certainty up front and the competitive nature of three firms providing prices.
 - Chairman Howse asked about the budget for the I-4 project.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts stated the construction budget remains \$3.5 billion as approved in Moving Florida Forward, but as the Department combats cost escalation, the team is developing innovative cost savings. Pricing has not increased to date.

Florida Transportation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, February 22, 2024

- Chairman Howse asked how FDOT is handling workforce development if FDOT cannot find sufficient employees and contractors to get the job done.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts said the project will require approximately 400 professionals and 3000 construction workers. The Department must be part of the solution.
 - The Department is securing a training facility with warehouse and classroom setting on the project site. As contractors are brought onboard and hiring gaps occur, the Department will set up onsite training in classrooms or hands on in the warehouse to feed the needs to the project sites.
- Commissioner Davis asked about the selection of segments A & B for the accelerated start.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts responded they are adjacent to the mega jobs and they are within the basin limits of the existing draining systems.
- Commissioner Davis requested a copy of the presentation.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts offered to provide the slides and further stated there is full website with this and additional information.
- Chief of Staff Kelly brought attention to Florida in Motion's newest episode with Secretary Perdue focusing on Hurricane season.

Executive Director Update Ralph Yoder, Executive Director

- Executive Director Yoder provided a brief update to the Commission.
 - Executive Director Yoder reminded commissioners that FTC staff were tasked with updating the Transit Performance Metrics during the Commission's November 2023 meeting.
 - He stated that FTC staff has been working on this assignment in conjunction with the Florida Public Transportation Association and the individual transit agencies.
 - FTC staff plan to present the proposed changes at the upcoming August FTC meeting.
 - Executive Director Yoder reviewed the calendar of upcoming FTC meetings and Industry Events.
 - Commissioner Roberts suggested that at the scheduled Transit and Tolling Performance Review in November the presenters address the performance and production figures which are provided. Typically, the metrics are met and do not need to be addressed. Specifically, when metrics are not met, he would like them to address those figures. He suggested the Executive Director should pass that along to the presenters.
 - Commissioner Roberts reflected that he recently learned that one of the expressway authorities only collected a portion of the toll revenue that was billed using the toll by plate/pay by plate option. The Commissioner inquired about the collections process and if there is something that should be looked at to increase the collection of billed toll revenue.

Florida Transportation Commission
Minutes of Meeting, June 20, 2024

- Chairman Howse concurred. Especially with transit authorities discussing their projects but not their metrics.
- Chairman Howse suggested Chief of Staff Kelly and Assistant Secretary Watts assist FTC staff by providing support in determining national trends of un-collectable and delinquent toll revenue, the national trends of bus transit farebox collections and whether Uber or Lyft have impacted transit agencies. He further stated those national trends may help inform the Commission's performance metrics.

Public Comment

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. There were no public comments.

Adjourn

With no other business to address, Chairman Howse adjourned the meeting at 11:01.