

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: January 21, 2021

Teleconference Call

Attendance:

Members on the call were: Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman Jay Trumbull, Commissioners John Browning, Richard Burke, Julius Davis, David Genson and Teresa Sarnoff.

Call to Order and Chairman's Opening Remarks:

Chair Howse called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Florida Department of Transportation Agency Update:

- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin J. Thibault provided an agency update.
 - FDOT is in the process of filling the vacancy for Multimodal Programs Director.
 - On Tuesday, January 26, 2021, FDOT will present to the Senate Transportation Committee.
 - FDOT will provide a presentation on Electric Vehicles and Transportation Revenue Trends, as well as on the SunPass Program.
 - On December 9, 2020, the State Revenue Estimating Conference met.
 - On December 27, 2020, President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 into Public Law.
 - State transportation departments are set to receive funds totaling \$9.8 billion for lost revenue due to COVID-19.
 - Florida should receive approximately \$473 million.
 - \$66 million will go to local Metropolitan Planning Organizations with populations of 200,000 or more.
 - Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) Vice-Chairman Trumbull asked for an update on when local governments will receive the remaining FEMA reimbursements for hurricane Michael and Irma.
 - He also asked if these reimbursements will have an effect on the budget.
 - Secretary Thibault stated that all required documents needed for reimbursement have been sent to FEMA and that he will get an update and send it to FTC staff.
 - Funds have been coming in over time and will be added to the work program.
 - The Department can use reserve funds in the meantime.

- Chairman Howse asked the Secretary to provide an update on the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES).
 - FDOT is moving towards the next study phase, following the guidance provided by the three task forces.

Annual Transportation Tolling Authority Oversight Report:

- Ralph Yoder, Executive Director of the Florida Transportation Commission provided a detailed overview on the history of the Annual Transportation Authorities Monitoring and Oversight Report.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the individual Tolling authority results, and representatives from each Tolling Authority were given the opportunity to respond to their respective portion of the report.
- The Toll Authorities monitored include:
 - Florida's Turnpike System (Turnpike)
 - Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)
 - Miami-Dade Expressway Authority (MDX)
 - Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority (THEA)
 - Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA)
- Executive Director Nicola Liquori presented on behalf of the Florida Turnpike System.
 - The Turnpike met nine performance measure objectives.
 - The Turnpike began to see effects of reduced traffic due to COVID-19 beginning in March 2020, with April being the most impacted.
 - Traffic is currently around 85% pre-pandemic levels.
- Executive Director Laura Kelly presented on behalf of CFX.
 - CFX met 15 performance measure objectives.
 - The lowest traffic month was April 2020, due to COVID-19.
- Chairman Howse asked Executive Director to share more about the Electric Vehicle Driving Lanes.
 - CFX is considering a pilot program.
 - These lanes would include installed electric coils which charge electric vehicles while they are driving.
- Commissioner Sarnoff asked what CFX's image review processing time was.
 - The processing time has improved and is currently up to one day.
- Joe Waggoner, Executive Director and Jeff Seward, Director of Finance presented on behalf of THEA.
 - THEA met 17 performance measure objectives.
 - The greatest reduction of toll revenue due to COVID-19 occurred in April 2020, with a reduction of 41%.
- Executive Director Javier Rodriguez presented on behalf of MDX.
 - MDX met 11 performance measure objectives.

- In 2018, toll rates were reduced by 6%, as specified in HB 141 (2018).
- In April, MDX experienced revenue reduction of nearly 70%.
 - Port of Miami is only handling cargo, with the cruise industry at a standstill.
- Executive Director Rodriguez provided an update on HB 385 and the ongoing litigation.
 - The litigation is currently under appeal.
- MDX has been unable to issue new debt and is currently operating on a cash basis.
- Projects have been deferred because there is not a functioning board.
- In December, limited authority was granted to MDX by the courts to continue operations and maintenance activities.
- Executive Director Van Fuller provided an update behalf of MBBA.
 - MBBA met 12 performance measure objectives.
 - Covid-19 and hurricane Sally have impacted revenue.
- Last year, FTC recommended the dissolution of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority to the Florida Legislature.
 - Chairman Howse mentioned revisiting this request again, since no changes were made during last years legislative session.
- Chairman Howse states that this year, the Tolling Authorities and Transit Authorities are separated into two separate Monitoring reports.
- A motion to accept the FY 2019 Tolling Authority Report as presented was made by Commissioner Davis and Seconded by Commissioner Genson. The motion passed unanimously.
- Commissioner Genson recommended that Commission staff check with the Authorities to see if the performance metrics need to be updated.
 - The last update was in 2016.
 - Executive Director Yoder stated that staff will begin working on this.

General FTC Issues/ Business

- Vice-Chairman Trumbull suggested that the tolling and transit authorities' executive directors provide updates in future FTC bi-weekly calls.
- Executive Director Yoder provided an FTC business update.
 - The final draft of the Tolling Authority report and first draft of the Transit Authority report should be available next week.
 - The Transit Authority and Oversight meeting will be on February 4, 2021.
 - The TEAMFL Annual meeting scheduled for January 28-29, 2021 was canceled.
 - The Tentative Work Program Review meeting will be on March 1, 2021, and will be held virtually through Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment:

Chair Howse asked for any public comments. No comments were made.

Adjourn:

Chair Howse adjourned the conference call.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED
THIS 1st DAY OF MARCH 2021

CHAIRMAN