



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Florida Transportation Commission Minutes of Meeting

Date: February 2, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Space Florida, Exploration Park, FL/Virtual Microsoft Teams/Conference Call

In Attendance

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

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Reports and Presentations

- Space Florida Overview presentation by Mike Miller, Vice President of External Affairs and Workforce Integration, Space Florida.

FDOT Agency Update presented by Jared Perdue, Secretary FDOT

- Vice-Chairman Genson asked Secretary Perdue if there are enough personnel to handle the large influx of projects from administration, management, and implementation?
How does FDOT plan to tackle all of this?
 - Secretary Perdue stated that FDOT, as an agency, has been investing in workforce development, including collaborating with industry partners because they are a big part of attracting and recruiting talent and providing career paths for labor and talent. We need to continue to build, it will be a big part of delivering on these commitments, and FDOT believes that the industry and our team here at FDOT are ready to rise to that challenge.
- Chairman Howse commented on the Toll Reduction Act, suggesting that the Florida Turnpike Enterprise consider an “amnesty period” to help customers get current on their accounts with respect to fines, fees, and penalties.
 - Secretary Perdue responded that the agency would take the suggestion into consideration.

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- Commissioner Alex Lastra asked Secretary Perdue about the projects being bumped up or moved forward.
 - Secretary Perdue responded that these projects started at the grassroots and were conceived and prioritized at local levels. They've been in the pipeline and are at a place in their life cycle where they can be advanced into the next four years.
- Chairman Howse asked Secretary Perdue to comment about wildlife corridors.
 - Secretary Perdue replied that there are designated wildlife corridors in Florida. The wildlife corridors are a part of the FDOT's decision-making process. They go through a project development and environmental phase to incorporate the movement of wildlife, and the preservation of these corridors goes into our project planning and design.
- Chairman Howse commented that after speaking with some FDOT engineers, they seem very happy with the pay adjustments DOT has implemented. It looks like that's been a giant morale booster.
 - Secretary Perdue replied that this is important to FDOT and that FDOT certainly will continue focusing on developing our workforce, especially as the expectation and demand to deliver more infrastructure continues to grow.
- Chairman Howse stated that at our last meeting, there was discussion about the district secretaries flying over areas during high-traffic times

Presentations

- FDOT Spaceport Improvement Program presentation by Wayne Lambert, Manager, Spaceport Office, FDOT.
- Space Florida Spaceport Improvement Program presentation by Lauren Ferrell, Director, Spaceport Improvement Program, Space Florida.
- Space Launch Delta 45 and Assured Access to Space presentation by Mark Bontrager, Space Systems Command Technical Director, Launch and Range Operations.

Executive Director Update

- Executive Director Ralph Yoder recognized FTC staff Sonya Morris and Bill Cobb on their third work anniversary.

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- Executive Director Ralph Yoder provided an update on the upcoming FTC meetings and industry events scheduled for 2023.
- The next in-person meeting will be held in Tallahassee on March 6 to discuss the Tentative Work Program review.

FTC General Business and Issues

- Chairman Howse stated that March 7 is the start of the 2023 Legislative session.
- On a motion by Commissioner Roberts and second by Commissioner Burke, the November 9 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- Chairman Howse opened the public comment portion of the meeting. There were no public comments.

Adjourn

With no other business to address, Chairman Howse adjourned the meeting at 3:24 pm.