

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: April 1, 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.

Commission Business Discussed:

- Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin Thibault provided an agency update.
 - The 2021 Legislative session is scheduled to end April 30.
 - The Governor's **Florida Leads** budget recommendation was released.
 - The Senate and House are currently working on budget proposals.
 - The Secretary participated in a roundtable discussion with Governor DeSantis and cruise industry executives.
 - It has been one year since the no sail order was put into place.
 - Governor DeSantis recommended Florida's seaports receive \$258.2 million of the state's share of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.
 - Governor DeSantis announced the advancement of the Everglades Restoration project to remove over five miles of roadbed from Old Tamiami Trail.
- Executive Director Nicola Liquori provided an update on Florida's Turnpike Enterprise and an overview of current and upcoming projects, including:
 - Turnpike Extension (SR 821) Widening
 - Turnpike Mainline (SR 91) Widenings
 - Sawgrass Expressway (Toll 869) Widenings
 - Suncoast Parkway 2, Phase 2 (Toll 589)
 - Central Polk Parkway
 - First Coast Expressway, Phase 2 (Toll 23)
 - Traffic volume is almost back to pre-pandemic.
 - Commissioner Burke asked about self-charging roads for electric vehicles that charge users a fee. Will this type of infrastructure be implemented in Florida?
 - Currently, the Central Florida Expressway Authority is looking at a pilot program with similar features.

- Chairman Howse mentioned that some local officials have questions regarding federal infrastructure funds.
 - Secretary Thibault stated that President Biden announced his infrastructure proposal.
 - As presented, the focus will be placed on the most important infrastructure that is in the worst condition.
- Secretary Thibault stated a Revenue Estimating Conference was held on March 24, 2021.
 - There was a slight short-term increase in revenue.
 - The adoption of fuel-efficient vehicles is projected to negatively affect fuel tax earlier than expected.
- Commissioner Sarnoff asked about the Turnpike service plaza concession agreement.
 - There is a long-term concession agreement in place.
- Commissioner Sarnoff inquired about negotiations regarding EV charging stations.
 - The Concessionaire would oversee the agreements, but the Turnpike would review and approve any agreements.
- Commissioner Sarnoff also inquired about the settlement funds used for installing charging stations.
 - Secretary Thibault stated that the money was from a legal settlement with Volkswagen.
- The Commission approved the meeting minutes from the March 1, 2021, and March 18, 2021, conference calls. The motion was made by Commissioner Burke and seconded by Vice-Chairman Trumbull.
- The next commission meeting will include a presentation on the project development process (from design to right of way to construction).
- Executive Director Yoder reminded the Commission of upcoming meetings and events.
 - TEAMFL meeting will be held June 3-4, 2021 in Tampa.
 - The Floridians for Better Transportation Summer Camp will be held July 7-9 in Marco Island.
 - SASHTO will be held August 1-4, 2021 in Orlando.
 - Secretary Thibault mentioned that there will be a breakout session with Transportation Commissioners from other states.

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 15th DAY OF APRIL 2021

CHAIRMAN