

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: April 15, 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 (FDOT) Chief of Staff Torey Alston provided an agency update.
 - April Blackburn, FDOT Chief Technology Officer, announced her retirement effective April 30, 2021.
 - Brad Thoburn will be replacing April Blackburn as the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) planning chair.
 - District 4 Secretary Gerry O'Reilly was recently presented with a legislative tribute from members of the Martin County Delegation for his leadership with the Roosevelt Bridge repairs.
 - Legislative session ends April 30, 2021.
 - On April 8, 2021 Governor DeSantis announced a lawsuit to overturn the CDC conditional sailing order to allow cruise lines and their employees to get back to work.
 - The Greater Miami Expressway (GMX) Agency board held their first meeting on Friday, April 9, 2021.
 - Chairman Howse asked if there was an anticipation that the 2021 legislative session would end on time.
 - The 2021 legislative session is moving along quite well.
 - Chairman Howse asked about any legislation related to the Multi-use Corridors of Economic Significance (MCORES).
 - Currently, there are several bills involving MCORES that the Department is monitoring.
- FDOT Office of Design Director Tim Lattner presented on the project development process, including Project Development and Environment (PD&E), Design and Construction.

- Following the presentation, Commissioner Genson asked how many public information meetings are held during the PD&E process?
 - The number of public information meetings depends on the complexity of the project. Some projects have anywhere from a few to a dozen or more. The Department's goal is to provide sufficient outreach to ensure that all impacted stakeholders are reached on every project.
- Commissioner Genson also asked about the Department's relationship with federal agencies.
 - The Department has a great relationship with FHWA, as well as other federal regulatory agencies.
- Vice-Chairman Trumbull asked if the Department ever must redesign a road or project because they are not able to obtain the property?
 - During the PD&E phase, the Department identifies alternate roadway alignments and stormwater retention sites. Eminent domain allows the Department to obtain property necessary for the construction of projects. However, there are times when the Department utilizes alternate designs for the procurement of right of way that meets the unique needs of each project.
- Following the discussion related to right of way acquisition, Chairman Howse suggested the Department provide a presentation on eminent domain during a future conference call.
- On a motion by Commissioner Genson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Trumbull, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the April 1, 2021, conference call.
- 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, 2021 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.
 - Center for Urban Transportation Research 2021 Award event – November 9 in Tampa.
- Executive Director Yoder also mentioned that some updates have been added to the FTC webpage.
 - The webpage now includes links for the quarterly FDOT performance trend and scorecard.

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 13th DAY OF MAY 2021

CHAIRMAN