



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Florida Transportation Commission Minutes of Meeting

Date: April 27, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Virtual Microsoft Teams/Conference Call

In Attendance

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

Welcome and Call to Order

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Vice-Chairman Genson and seconded by Commissioner Browning, the consent agenda was unanimously approved, which included the meeting minutes from March 6, 2023.

FDOT Agency Update presented by FDOT Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E.

- Secretary Perdue recognized Commissioner Browning for his attendance during Legislative Rural Counties Days.
- The Secretary then introduced the Department's Compass (Safety, Communities, Workforce Development, Resiliency, Technology, and a Robust Supply Chain.)
- The Secretary referenced the busy legislative session, at which he and the staff have conducted numerous presentations.
- Further topics addressed included the Department's legislative priorities in SB 1250 and HB 1305, the Governor's Moving Florida Forward initiative, a focus on Workforce Development, and the expansion and extension of Florida's Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Program (SUN Trail), connecting it to the Florida Wildlife Corridor.

Chairman Howse then opened the meeting to questions.

- Commissioner Browning commended Secretary Perdue on the presentations shared with the Florida Legislature.

New Business

- Chairman Howse recognized the challenges faced by the Department and the transportation industry to attract quality employees (engineers, attorneys, project managers, etc.) to careers in the infrastructure sector.

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- Secretary Perdue concurred, citing the rate of Florida’s population growth, and raised the concern of where to find interested and qualified personnel for the entire transportation industry.
- The Chairman then solicited questions that could aid the Department. Vice-Chairman Genson supported the Chairman’s recommendation to assist the Department in addressing workforce development challenges. Secretary Perdue noted he is in favor of the recommendation.
- Vice-Chairman Genson made a motion that the Commission assist the Department in this area. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Browning. Commissioner Lastra and Commissioner Roberts noted their support, including the importance of internship opportunities and partnerships with local colleges. The vote on the motion to assist the Department in this matter was unanimous.

Public Comment

The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. Comment was heard from the Chair of the Palm Tran Service Board Carmencita Mitchell, voicing interest in SB 256 and HB 1425, and the effect of the legislation on specific communities (students, visually impaired, aging, etc.) The Chairman offered to share pertinent Commission reports with Ms. Mitchell.

Executive Director Update

- Executive Director Ralph Yoder provided an update on the upcoming FTC meetings and industry events scheduled for Summer 2023.
- The Commission’s next in-person meeting will be held in Orlando on May 18-19 to include tours of Terminal C in the Orlando International Airport and the Brightline Orlando station.
- Executive Director Yoder noted President of the Florida Transportation Builders’ Association Ananth Prasad’s Transportation Hall of Fame nomination.

Commissioner Updates

- Each Commissioner provided updates of their recent activities.
- Chairman Howse opened a second public comment portion of the meeting. There were no additional public comments.

Adjourn

With no other business to address, Chairman Howse adjourned the meeting at 10:46 am.