

## **FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF: May 13, 2021**

**Teleconference Call**

### **Attendance:**

Members on the call were: Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman Jay Trumbull, Commissioners Richard Burke, 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:**

- Chairman Howse congratulated Commissioner Burke for being inducted into the National Waste & Recycling Association Hall of Fame.
  - The award is presented annually to select industry visionaries and icons who have created an enduring legacy through their inspirational leadership, core values, and significant contributions.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Chief of Staff Torey Alston provided an agency update.
  - April Blackburn, FDOT Chief Technology Officer, retired April 30, 2021.
  - District 5 Transportation Support Manager Lorie Matthews is serving as Acting Chief of Technology.
  - Stacy Miller began her new position as District 6 Secretary.
  - District 1 Director for Transportation Development John Kubler will serve as acting Assistant Secretary for Finance & Administration.
  - On May 8, 2021, the Colonial Pipeline was shut down due to a cyber-attack.
    - On May 11, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 21-105.
    - FDOT Secretary Kevin Thibault issued an emergency order pursuant to EO 21-105 which suspended the effect of any statute, rule or order, as needed to allow the establishment of alternate size and weight restrictions divisible loads on any vehicles supporting emergency relief efforts by transporting gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and other refined petroleum products subject to limitations.
    - The emergency order also suspended enforcement of the registration requirements pursuant to sections 316.545(4) and 320.0715, Florida Statutes, for commercial motor vehicles that enter the State of Florida to provide gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and any other refined petroleum products.

- Operations of the Colonial Pipeline are back online, and fuel levels should begin returning to normal.
- FDOT Deputy Legislative Programs Director John Kotyk provided a 2021 post-session legislative update.
  - Among other transportation-related bills, the Department's legislative package, SB 1126, passed.
  - 2022 legislative session begins January 11, 2022.
- FDOT District 3 Secretary Phillip Gainer provided a district update.
  - Contractors continue work on the Pensacola Bay Bridge.
    - The targeted reopening of the bridge is the week of May 31, 2021.
  - The Port Panama City East Terminal recently held a grand opening and dedication ceremony.
    - This expansion project was a \$40 million-dollar collaborative partnership involving FDOT, the Federal government, local governments, and Triumph Gulf Coast.
    - The project is an economic driver for the Panama City area.
  - Secretary Gainer's safety message related to seatbelt use.
    - Data related to fatalities from accidents with confirmed "No Seatbelt" use was presented.
    - Discussion ensued related to seat belt use, as well as the fact that there are more cars on the road this year than last year due to COVID-19.
    - Chairman Howse asked how the data presented compares to data related to crashes where a seatbelt is worn, and fatalities resulted.
    - Chairman Howse requested statewide data related to seatbelt use and resulting fatalities. He also questioned what the data would show when rural counties were compared to urban counties.
    - Chief of Staff Torey Alston stated he would provide this information to Commission staff.
  - Commissioner Sarnoff stated the traffic seems to be back to normal in Miami. However, it seems that drivers are driving faster and more aggressively.
- On a motion by Commissioner Genson and seconded by Vice-Chairman Trumbull, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the April 15, 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.
    - There will be a networking session with Transportation Commissioners from other southern states.
  - The FDOT third quarter performance trends and scorecard has been added to the FTC webpage.

- Chairman Howse asked that FTC staff provide background information on Transportation Commissions from other SASHTO states.
  - Executive Director Yoder stated that FTC staff has developed a draft briefing document that will be distributed.
  - It was noted that the document will be reviewed and updated as prior to SASHTO.
- There is an upcoming review of the Tolling Authorities performance measures. Commissioner Burke will represent the Commission.
  - The first meeting of the working group is Monday, May 24 at 10:00 AM. It is a virtual meeting on the Teams platform.
  - All commissioners are invited to participate in each meeting of the working group as individual schedules allow.
- FTC staff recently worked with FDOT graphics design team to develop Teams background for use by FTC staff and Commissioners during virtual meetings.
- Commissioner Sarnoff presented a Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) update from the May 11, 2021 advisory board meeting.
  - CUTR is part of a team of surface transportation research organizations led by ENSCO, Inc. that was recently awarded a \$571 million USD contract by the Federal Railroad Administration to provide research, testing, engineering, and training services at the Transportation Technology Center.
  - The 2021 Transportation Achievement Awards will be held November 9, 2021.
    - Executive Director Yoder stated that the FTC may hold a meeting in conjunction with the CUTR awards ceremony.

**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 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021

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CHAIRMAN