

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: May 26, 2022

Teleconference Call

Attendance:

Members on the call were: Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman Jay Trumbull, Commissioners John Browning, Julius Davis, David Genson Alex Lastra, and Rusty Roberts.

Call to Order and Chairman's Opening Remarks:

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

Commission Business Discussed:

- On a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Vice-Chairman Trumbull, the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included the meeting minutes from April 28, 2022.
- Will Watts, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Assistant Secretary of Engineering and Operations provided an agency update.
 - John E. Tyler, P.E. has been selected as District 5 secretary.
 - Jessica Ottaviano has been appointed as the Department's communications director.
 - Interviews have been held for Executive Director of Transportation Technology.
 - Assistant Secretary Watts provided an update on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
 - The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$973 billion over five years, including \$550 billion in new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power and energy, environmental remediation, public lands, broadband and resilience.
 - FDOT will receive \$13.5 billion in formula funds.
 - FDOT focused on five competitive grant programs, including the Bridge Investment program, the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant program, the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability & Equity grants, the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements grant program and the National Infrastructure project Assistance program.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked how the Rail Crossing Elimination program is being prioritized around the state.
 - FDOT is currently working with rail owners across the state.
- June Mobley, FDOT State Preliminary Estimates Engineer, presented on the impact of inflation on the cost of construction.
 - The National Producer Price Index (PPI) for Highway and Street Construction measures the change over time in selling prices received by producers.
 - The PPI has increased by almost 40% since April 2020. It is up more than 20% from a year ago and has increased by more than 6% since the last quarter.

- The value of residential construction and permits were up 14% from last quarter and 20% from the previous year.
 - Housing construction competes for many of the same labor and material resources as highway construction.
- The cost of one mile of generic new roadway construction has increased more than 15% since the last fiscal year.
- The cost of one mile of generic roadway resurfacing has increased more than 7% since last fiscal year.
- Awarded bid cost trends for asphalt so far this quarter show an increase of 14% since last quarter.
- Operator shortages, higher fuel prices and equipment issues are affecting earthwork contractors, leading to higher costs.
 - Bids received are showing an almost 50% increase since last quarter.
- Commissioner Genson stated that some contracts can span the course of a couple years. Trying to estimate where pricing is going to be in the future while acquiring materials is uncertain. Is there a way for the Department to mitigate the uncertainty?
 - FDOT currently has developed indexes on diesel. Predictability is starting to normalize. Some of that risk is placed in the bid. Escalation clauses from suppliers are a lot shorter than they use to be.
- FTC Executive Director Yoder provided an update to Commissioners.
 - Adjustments were made to the meeting calendar for August and September.
 - A public comment form will be placed on the Commission website to help coordinate public comments during meetings.
- Chairman Howse asked Executive Director Yoder to provide the revenue estimating conference historical fuel consumption figures, as well as the projections at the next Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Roberts asked if the Commission could get a report on the performance of the new I-4 Express lanes at a future FTC meeting.
 - The I-95 Express lanes could also be included.

Public Comment:

- Chairman Howse asked for any public comments. No public comments were made.

Adjourn:

Chairman Howse adjourned the conference call at 10:39 a.m.