

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: May 27, 2021

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:

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

Commission Business Discussed:

- Two new commissioners were appointed by Governor DeSantis to the Florida Transportation Commission on May 21, 2021.
 - Alex Lastra and Rusty Roberts both introduced themselves.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Chief of Staff Torey Alston provided an agency update.
 - FDOT is working to fill the vacancies for Chief Technology Officer and Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration.
 - Secretary Thibault recently attended a meeting hosted by Manatee County Commissioner Kevin Van Ostenbridge, Port Manatee and the Manatee Chamber of Commerce to discuss transportation needs in the community.
- FDOT Emergency Coordination Officer Irene Cabral presented on the Department's hurricane preparedness efforts.
 - Preparedness efforts included but were not limited to:
 - Addition of approximately 161 Emergency Shoulder Use (ESU) miles
 - Tabletop exercises with other state agencies and FDOT districts
 - FHWA emergency relief training for FDOT districts
 - Cyber-attack preparedness
 - Chairman Howse asked about the funding process during emergency response by the Department.
 - The Department's funds are expended, then qualifying expenditures are reimbursed by FEMA.
- State Aviation Manager Aaron Smith provided an update on the FDOT aviation program.
 - The mission of the aviation office is to provide a safe and secure air transportation system that ensures the mobility of goods, enhances economic prosperity, and preserves the quality of the environment and communities.
 - Florida is the only state to have four large airports (Miami International Airport, Fort Lauderdale International Airport, Tampa International Airport and Orlando International Airport).

- Commissioner Genson inquired about the funding split if commercial service airports receive FAA funds.
 - The 50/50 funding split applies to the remaining balance for the specific project.
- Commissioner Genson also inquired about aviation pavement assessments.
 - Pavement assessments are completed every three years, as required by FAA regulations.
- Commissioner Roberts asked about local airport safety and security funding coordination with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).
 - Airport security officials develop safety assessments that outline funding needs. Funding allocations target specific needs as determined by the safety assessments.
- Commissioner Browning asked about funding to support emerging aviation markets. As the state grows, smaller airports could alleviate the growing demand at commercial airports. What kind of data and information is available for the smaller airports to use to expand?
 - Chief of Staff Torey Alston stated he will work with Executive Director Yoder to gather this information.
- Commissioner Davis asked what most of the FAA funding is used for.
 - Most of the funding goes towards runways, taxiways, safety issues, etc.
- On a motion by Commissioner Genson and seconded by Commissioner Browning, the Commission unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the May 13, 2021, conference call.
- Executive Director Yoder reminded the Commission of upcoming meetings and events.
 - The 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 2021 Transportation Achievement Awards will be held November 9, 2021.
 - Executive Director Yoder stated that the FTC may hold a meeting the following day in Tampa.
 - Chairman Howse mentioned coordinating a tour of Port Tampa Bay.
 - The FTC is in the process of updating the Tolling Authorities performance measures.
 - Commissioner Burke will represent the Commission.
 - The next meeting will be on June 2, 2021 at the Turnpike Headquarters in Ocoee. Attendance is also available via Microsoft Teams.
 - All commissioners are invited to participate in each meeting of the working group as individual schedules allow.
 - Executive Director provided an update to Commissioners related to ongoing litigation involving the FTC.

- Chairman Howse entertained a motion to change FTC's counsel related to ongoing litigation from Glen Bassett to Brian Keri.
 - On a motion by Commissioner Browning and seconded by Commissioner Genson, the Commission unanimously approved this change.
- Commissioner Genson provided an update on the Florida Transportation Plan.
 - The most recent FTP Implementation Committee meeting was held on May 26, 2021.

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 10th DAY OF JUNE 2021

CHAIRMAN