

## **FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**MINUTES OF: June 10, 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, 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:**

- On a motion by Commissioner Browning and seconded by Vice-Chairman Trumbull, the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) unanimously approved the consent agenda.
  - Meeting minutes from the May 27, 2021, conference call
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin Thibault provided an agency update.
  - Secretary Thibault welcomed FTC's newest commissioners, Alex Lastra and Rusty Roberts.
  - On June 2, 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the Florida Leads state budget for fiscal year 2021-2022.
    - Investments in FDOT total \$10.3 billion, including \$9.44 billion for the Department of Transportation Work Program.
    - In addition, up to \$2 billion in federal COVID-19 relief funding is appropriated to the State Transportation Fund.
      - \$1.75 billion for State Highway System Projects.
      - \$250 million for port operation grants.
  - The Department recently announced an expansion of toll transponder interoperability with states using E-ZPass transponder.
    - Customers using SunPass PRO can travel toll roads in 18 states along the East Coast and in the Midwest.
    - The SunPass Mini and older portable transponder are only operational in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.
  - Secretary Thibault explained the Vital Few to the new Commissioners. The vital few includes:
    - Improving Safety
    - Enhancing Mobility
    - Inspiring Innovation
- FDOT District 5 Secretary Jared Perdue provided a district update.
  - Central Florida is a diverse community with challenges to engage the uniqueness of each community and meet their diverse needs.

- Another section of the Coast-to-Coast trail was completed.
- Portions of the general use lanes on the I-4 Ultimate project have been completed.
  - Currently finishing up the dynamic tolled express lanes.
- I-4 Beyond the Ultimate will continue the improvement of I-4 for an additional 21.2 miles.
- District 5 recently added a new Office of Safety.
- FDOT State Safety Engineer Brenda Young presented on traffic safety campaigns.
  - The department's goal is zero fatalities and serious injuries (Target Zero).
  - Influencing behavioral change requires a better understanding of the human factors that contribute.
    - Who are we trying to reach?
    - What behavior are we changing?
    - Where are we changing the behavior?
    - Why do people behave the way they do?
    - Who or what influences road user behavior?
    - How do we change behavior?
    - Utilizing other behavior change campaigns.
- Executive Director Yoder recommended that Brenda Young provide the same presentation at the Commission's networking session with fellow southern state commissioners at SASHTO and focus the gathering on traffic safety.
- Executive Director Yoder reminded the Commission of upcoming meetings and events.
  - 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.
  - The next Tolling Authority Performance Measure review meeting will be held June 21, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.
- Executive Director Yoder also reminded commissioners that financial disclosure forms are due July 1, 2021.
- Commissioner Richard Burke provided an update from the tolling performance measure meeting held on June 2, 2021.
- Commissioner Burke also mentioned that he had the opportunity to tour the Turnpike office.
  - He recommended that Commissioners tour the Traffic Management Center and Sunwatch Center at the Turnpike headquarters if they have the opportunity.

#### **Public Comment:**

- Chair Howse asked for any public comments.
- Keith Krieger commented on how FDOT engineering contracts have been distributed. He asked if the Department could provide the Commission engineering consultant data by district.

**Adjourn:**

Chair Howse adjourned the conference call.

MINUTES APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ AS READ \_\_\_\_\_ AS AMENDED  
THIS 24<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE 2021

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CHAIRMAN