

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: August 25, 2022

Gainesville, Florida

Attendance:

Members in attendance: Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman David Genson, Commissioners John Browning, Richard Burke, Julius Davis, Alex Lastra, and Rusty Roberts.

Call to Order and Chairman's Opening Remarks:

Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Commission Business Discussed:

- On a motion by Commissioner Browning and seconded by Commissioner Burke, the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) voted unanimously to elect David Genson as Vice-Chair of the FTC.
- On a motion by Vice Chairman Genson and seconded by Commissioner Lastra, the FTC unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included the meeting minutes from June 23, 2022.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Jared Perdue provided an agency update.
 - Leda Kelly has been appointed as FDOT's Chief of Staff.
 - Brett Tubbs has been appointed as Legislative Affairs Director.
 - FDOT has a strong mission in the state and the core values of One FDOT are at the core of what FDOT does.
 - Trust, loyalty, commitment, and respect are principles that should be reflected in FDOT's work.
- Since the Governor signed the Freedom First \$12.6 Billion budget, the investments into Florida's transportation network have been diverse and include:
 - Maintaining existing infrastructure
 - \$4.4 Billion in highway construction; adding 307 New Lane Miles
 - \$236.6 Million to Bridge Maintenance Repairs and Replacements
 - \$1.2 Billion Resurfacing of 3,033 Lane Miles
 - \$135.9 million to Seaports
 - \$252.7 million to Aviation
 - \$672.8 million to Transit
 - \$61.8 million to Spaceports
 - \$194.3 million to Rail/Freight
- Florida will experience a 35% increase in funding from Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, as compared to the FAST Act.
 - An additional \$187 Billion is available in potential discretionary funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Florida's population is growing at record pace.
 - 60% of the population growth is concentrated in 10 Florida Counties:

- Osceola, Orange, St. Johns, Santa Rosa, Sumter, Manatee, Walton, Nassau, Lake, and Lee.
- FDOT's strategic focus areas to accommodate growth include:
 - Resiliency
 - Technology
 - Supply Chain
 - Workforce Development
 - Target Zero
- Commissioner Davis asked about FDOT's priorities in terms of spending on transportation related to shifts in regional traffic patterns, including commuter travel and public transportation?
 - Demand on the network is still there but has shifted. In Central Florida, non-commuter peak times have increased. The key is to be strategic based on the needs of the community. Regional transportation is a priority, particularly in moving freight.
- Chairman Howse asked if there is a study that looks at ridership on public transportation, including buses? (Addressed below by Assistant Secretary Thoburn)
- Commissioner Davis commented that the City of Austin (in Texas) invested in light and commuter rail.
 - In certain areas in Florida, there is some effort related to enhancing transit options, including rail.
- Commissioner Browning asked if Florida would have the number of charging stations needed to handle electric vehicle (EV) growth?
 - This is being considered during the EV implementation planning process.
- Commissioner Lastra asked if air mobility is on FDOT's radar.
 - FDOT wants to be in the forefront and is keeping up with air mobility as a means of transportation in the future.
- Chairman Howse shared that EV charging takes too long.
 - There are some aggressive forecasts about EV rapid charging. The infrastructure will have to include EV charging.
- State Safety Engineer Brenda Young provided the commission with an update on Transportation Safety: Recognizing Human Factors of Drivers.
- Assistant Secretary of Strategic Development Brad Thoburn provided a general update on questions related to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (also referred to as IIJA), EV charging in the State of Florida, along with discussion related to public transportation.
- Assistant Secretary of Strategic Development Brad Thoburn introduced Research Center Manager Darryll Dockstader to provide an overview of the Transportation Management Master's Degree Program, administered through the University of Florida.

Public Comment:

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

Adjourn:

Chairman Howse adjourned the FTC meeting at 4:35.