

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: August 26, 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 Davis and seconded by Vice-Chairman Trumbull, the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included the meeting minutes from July 22, 2021, and August 2, 2021.
 - The August 2, 2021, meeting minutes included minutes from the FTC meeting and Networking Session.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Kevin Thibault provided an agency update.
 - The vacancy for Chief Technology Officer has been advertised and interviews will be held following Labor Day.
 - FDOT Chief of Staff Torey Alston will be leaving the agency.
 - He will continue to assist the department over the next couple weeks during his transition.
 - The Florida Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report was recently released. The report showcases the role transportation plays in Florida.
 - The Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) 2021 Conference was held in Florida this year.
 - Secretary Thibault thanked FTC commissioners for their participation.
 - Charles Castagna is the newest member of the Federal Affairs team.
 - The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act was passed on August 10, 2021, by the US Senate.
 - The US House is expected to take up the legislation for consideration.
 - The Florida Revenue Estimating Conference recently completed a series of estimates updates.
 - Revenue gains are expected to significantly increase in fiscal year 2022 and 2023.
 - Secretary Thibault provided an update on recent industry outreach.
 - FDOT met with partners at the Florida Transportation Builders Association (FTBA) annual convention.
 - Other outreach included meeting with the Jacksonville Transportation Authority and attending the Florida Seaports Transportation & Economic Development Council meeting.

- Commissioner Genson mentioned that he visited Florida’s east coast and noticed that people are driving extremely fast on Alligator Alley.
 - Secretary Thibault stated that the enforcement must be with our local partners such as Florida Highway Patrol.
 - The Governor recently made an announcement regarding recruiting law enforcement.
- Commissioner Roberts stated that at the FTBA convention it was mentioned that there are around 400 Florida Highway Patrol vacancies.
 - Secretary Thibault stated that law enforcement retention is an ongoing challenge.
- Chairman Howse stated that there are workforce problems with contractors, which could make projects harder to manage. What can be done to help with retention?
 - Secretary Thibault stated having conversations with key industry leaders, as well as investing in Workforce Development Programs.
 - The engineering industry can draw on national resources.
 - Internally, the department has been developing practices and processes to recruit and retain talent.
 - What more can be done in outreach - how can we interest young professionals to join the transportation sector?
 - Targeted discussions with key universities in the state
 - FDOT also does presentations at the American Society for Civil Engineering.
 - The department has its PE Training and Intern program.
- Vice-Chairman Trumbull asked if FDOT was directed to do a study during the recent legislative session?
 - There was a proposal that was put in the budget that requires FDOT to conduct a review of consultant design service and construction engineering and inspection service charges related to construction projects.
- District Secretary Gerry O’Reilly provided an update on district 4.
 - Employee retention and attraction is difficult.
 - District 4 continues to make safety a top priority and appointed a safety coordinator.
- FTC Executive Director Ralph Yoder provided an update on the Tolling Authorities performance measure review.
 - Executive Director Yoder presented the updated performance measures and operating indicators recommendations, which were based on the working group discussions.
- Commissioner Roberts provided an update on the FTBA Convention.
- The next commission meeting will be on September 9, 2021, via Microsoft Teams.

Public Comment:

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

Adjourn:

Chair Howse adjourned the conference call.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED
THIS 23rd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2021

CHAIRMAN