

# FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**MINUTES OF: September 23, 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:**

- On a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Browning, the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) unanimously approved the consent agenda, which included the meeting minutes from August 26, 2021, and September 9, 2021.
- Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Chief of Staff Torey Alston was presented with a plaque on behalf of the FTC. The plaque was for distinguished service and outstanding leadership as Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Transportation and in partnership with the Florida Transportation Commission.
- FDOT Assistant Secretary for Strategic Development Brad Thoburn provided an agency update.
  - FDOT recently submitted its Legislative Budget Request.
  - FDOT presented the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Master Plan to the Senate Transportation Committee.
    - The Electric Vehicle Master Plan was also posted to the Department's webpage: [Electric Vehicles \(fdot.gov\)](http://fdot.gov)
  - FDOT announced the completion of dynamic envelope installations at 620 state-maintained rail crossings.
    - This was completed ahead of schedule and is part of Operation STRIDE (Statewide Traffic and Railroad Initiative using Dynamic Envelopes).
  - Governor Ron DeSantis, Senate President Wilton Simpson, House Speaker Chris Sprowls and FDOT Secretary Kevin Thibault announced three major transportation projects to improve and modernize Tampa's Interstate System. The three projects include:
    - the Howard Frankland Bridge,
    - the Westshore Interchange, and
    - the Downtown Tampa I-275, I-4 Interchange.
- Commissioner Roberts recommended that Assistant Secretary Thoburn provide a presentation on the Electric Vehicle Mater Plan to the FTC at a future meeting.
- FDOT State Seaport Manager Dan Fitz-Patrick provided an overview of the FDOT Seaports Office.
  - Seaports have a positive effect on the state's economy.
- Commissioner Genson asked about the economic impact to the cruise lines.

- The Federal Maritime Commission released a report on the initial impact of Covid-19 to the cruise industry on September 23, 2020.
- FTC Executive Director Ralph Yoder provided an update on upcoming meetings and events.
  - The next FTC meeting will be in Tampa on November 10, 2021, at Port Tampa-Bay.
  - FTC will meet January 10 and 11, 2022 to review the department's Tentative Work Program.

**Public Comment:**

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

**Adjourn:**

Chair Howse adjourned the conference call at 10:35 a.m.