

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF: October 30, 2019

Workshop

Attendance:

Members in attendance were: Chairman Howse, Vice Chair Trumbull, Commissioners Browning, Genson, Sarnoff, Davis and Burke.

Call to Order and Chairman's Opening Remarks:

Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM CT.

Chairman Howse presented Vice-Chairman Trumbull with a plaque for his time as Chairman.

Commission Business Discussed:

- Dr. John Holdnak, President of Gulf Coast State College welcomed everyone to the campus. He spoke briefly about how hurricane Michael impacted the college, stating the campus experienced around \$50 million worth of damage.
- Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Jimmy Patronis spoke about Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Michael.
 - The state's CFO serves as the State Fire Marshall. Roads had to be cleared to ensure first responders could deploy.
 - The CFO's office assisted individuals dealing with damage claims and insurance companies after both storms.
- Next to speak was Mark McQueen, city manager for Panama City.
 - Mr. McQueen moved into his role as city manager two weeks before hurricane Michael hit.
 - An estimated 1 million trees in Panama City were destroyed, and historic amounts of debris needed to be picked up.
 - The storm caused extensive damage to the Bay county economy.
 - More than 7000 linemen came in to help replace poles, wire, etc.
 - Damage to drainage systems from the storm caused an increase in flooding.
 - Initial focus was placed safety and security, critical infrastructure, the economy and quality of life.
 - Panama City received lots of support through volunteers - an estimated 820,000 volunteer hours.
 - Operation Clean Sweep assisted with debris cleanup.
 - Trees are being replanted, with a goal of planting 100,000 trees in the next five years.

- Panama City is now one of the first cities in the nation to receive 5G wireless network.
- Citizen involvement was embraced while Panama City was recovering.
- Emphasis was placed on waterfront access, downtown activity, safety and security, sustainable building, resilient infrastructure, gathering spaces, updated standards, etc.
- Representative Jay Trumbull provided a legislative update.
 - A large percentage of the population lived in rental housing. Many of the residents lost housing accommodations.
 - With so many displaced, focus was put on helping residents find ways to remain in the community.
 - Funding from Florida Housing Finance Corporation provided up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance after the storm to a limited number of recipients.
- Next to speak was District Three Secretary Phillip Gainer.
 - Secretary Gainer provided an update on the US 98/ 23rd street flyover.

Public Comment:

Chair Howse asked for any public comments.

Andrew Rowell, Chair Elect of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, thanked everyone for coming and recognizing the needs of Bay County and the surrounding areas impacted by Hurricane Michael.

Adjourn:

Chair Howse adjourned the workshop.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 14th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2019

CHAIRMAN