



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Florida Transportation Commission Minutes of Meeting

Date: November 9, 2022

Time: 1:30 pm

Location: Tallahassee, Virtual Teams/Conference Call

In Attendance

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

Welcome and Call to Order

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

Approval of Consent Agenda and Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Roberts, the consent agenda was unanimously approved, which included the meeting minutes from August 25, 2022.

Executive Director Opening Remarks

- Executive Director Ralph Yoder thanked everyone for attending and for being flexible for shifting from the planned in-person to a virtual meeting.
- Executive Director Yoder provided a brief overview of the Florida Transportation Commission's charge covering the history, mission, and roles and responsibilities for the benefit of the public/online guests.
- Executive Director Yoder announced that due to rescheduling of meetings the Transportation Authority Monitoring and Oversight Report will cover two fiscal years.
- Executive Director Yoder expressed his appreciation to the Tolling Authorities working group for their engagement, including members of each tolling authority, CUTR staff, and Commissioner Burke who represented the Commission. The working group, along with FTC staff, worked together to review and update the Performance Metrics for the Tolling Authorities.
- Executive Director Yoder further stated that the tolling report for FY 2022 would be based on the new Performance Metrics.
- In the coming months Executive Director Yoder plans to review and update the Performance Metrics for the Transit Authorities in a similar process.

Reports and Presentations

- Presentation of the Transportation Authority Monitoring and Oversight Report for FY 2020 and FY 2021 by Executive Director Yoder.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the individual authority results and representatives from each Toll/Transit Authority were given the opportunity to respond to their respective portion of the report.
- The Toll and Transit Authorities monitored in these reports by the Florida Transportation Commission include:
 - Toll – Florida’s Turnpike System (Turnpike)
 - Toll – Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)
 - Toll – Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA)
 - Toll – Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority (THEA)
 - Transit – Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (CFRTA/LYNX)
 - Transit – Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)
 - Transit – South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA/Tri-Rail)
 - Transit – Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA)
- Executive Director Yoder presented the Florida Turnpike System (Turnpike) results.
- Executive Director Nicola Liquori presented on behalf of the Florida Turnpike System (Turnpike).
- Commissioner Davis inquired about the removal of the existing cash toll collection facilities.
 - Executive Director Liquori replied that a construction project is currently in place for demolition of the existing toll booths.
- Commissioner Burke inquired about the customer service numbers falling short.
 - Executive Director Liquori replied staffing continues to be a challenge. They are steadily working towards getting staff numbers back to pre-pandemic numbers. They also encourage customers to use the self-service options, while rolling out improvements to the mobile app and the website in the early part of next year.
- Commissioner Genson asked about the consulting contract management metric results that were out of line from the metric objective.
 - Executive Director Liquori replied that it has to do with the way the Turnpike executes consultant contracts and issues task work orders.
- Executive Director Yoder presented Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) results.
- Executive Director Laura Kelley presented on behalf of the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX).

- Commissioner Roberts commented he was really excited about the ASPIRE project. He stated, “I think this is the way of the future if we continue this accelerated trend of electric vehicles.
- Commissioner Roberts expressed concerned with the wrong way drivers who did not turn around and inquired about the design of space so that drivers don’t have to complete a 3-point turn.
 - CFX Executive Director Laura Kelley responded that the existing shoulder space allows for vehicle turn arounds, without having to make a 3-point turn.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the results for the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA).
- New Executive Director and CEO Greg Slater presented on behalf of the Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA).
- Commissioner Davis stated that he looked forward to meeting Executive Director Slater.
- Commissioner Genson inquired if the West Selmon elements above the columns in the median are the strictly aesthetic or did they have any structural value?
 - Executive Director Slater replied they are of structural value with added aesthetics.
 - Executive Director Slater invited all the Commissioners to visit.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA) results.
- Executive Director Van Fuller presented on behalf of the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA).
- Chairman Howse stated, with no further questions received from the Commissioners this ends the Tolling Authority reports and we will continue with the Transit Authorities Reports.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the results for the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (CFRTA/LYNX).
- Leonard Antmann, CFO, presented on behalf Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (CFRTA/LYNX).
- Executive Director Yoder presented the results for the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA).
- Chief Financial Officer Nathaniel (Nat) Ford presented on behalf of the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA).

- Commissioner Browning stated what an outstanding job the JTA and Nat Ford are doing, especially the amazing and beautiful transformation completed downtown.
- Commissioner Lastra commented on JTA's focus on transit-oriented development (TOD).
- Commissioner Roberts inquired about how many TOD units are currently in place or in the pipeline?
 - Nat Ford replied that much of the work on TODs is in the private sector and not completely controlled by JTA.
- Commissioner Roberts also inquired, regarding the ultimate urban circulator.
 - The ultimate urban circulator will be implemented in several phases, with phase 1 at ground level, with subsequent phases utilizing the existing elevated structure.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the results for the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA/Tri-Rail).
- Executive Director David Dech presented on behalf the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA/Tri-Rail).
 - Executive Director Dech invited all the Commissioners to come and ride one of their trains.
- Commissioner Lastra commented he was a little surprised about the challenges with passenger fare collection and inquired about any technology solutions?
 - Executive Director Dech indicated that there are technology solutions, but SFRTA will be reviewing existing contracts to see if there is more that can be done with existing systems.
- Commissioner Roberts stated he is pleased to see that SFRTA is moving forward in getting the downtown Miami connection complete.
- Commissioner Roberts expressed concern with the ongoing issue of suicide by train.
- Executive Director Yoder provided a brief overview of the Tampa Bay Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA).
- Executive Director David Green presented on behalf the Tampa Bay Area Transit Authority (TBARTA).
- Executive Director Green gave a brief historical overview and addressed the challenges TBARTA faces. Executive Director Green stated he is currently developing a plan to present to the board in January. The plan will be to ask the Legislature to repeal TBARTA's enabling statute.

- Chairman Howse thanked Executive Director Green for making the Commission aware of the situation.
- Chairman Howse asked if any of the board members had questions regarding the Transit Authorities. No further questions were presented.

Public Comments

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

FTC General Business and Issues

- Executive Director's Report.
 - Executive Director Yoder assured Chairman Howse that staff will work as instructed to finalize the reports and remit them to the Governor and Legislature.
 - Executive Director Yoder presented the proposed meeting dates for 2023, requesting that the board review the meeting schedule before the next meeting, in the event any adjustments need to be made.
 - Executive Director Yoder announced that the Legislature had recently released the schedule for upcoming committee weeks.
 - Executive Director announced that the next scheduled meeting is set for December 8 and will be another Microsoft TEAMS meeting.
 - Lastly, Executive Director Yoder announced interviews were conducted and are working to on-board an Administrative Assistant to replace the previous Administrative Assistant.
 - Executive Director Yoder concluded his report and turned the meeting back over to the Chairman for any further business to be conducted.

Adjourn

Chairman Howse addressed the board asking if any further business needed to be discussed. With no other business addressed, Chairman Howse adjourned the meeting at 3:24pm.