



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Date: August 21, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: SunTrax Conference Center, Auburndale, Florida

1. Call to Order

- **Roll call**
 - Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.
 - In attendance was Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman David Genson, Commissioners John Browning, Barbara Haselden, Alex Lastra, Hung Mai and Rusty Roberts.

2. Reports/Presentations

- **FDOT Agency Update – Jared W. Perdue, P.E., FDOT Secretary**
 - Secretary Perdue discussed the 2025-2026 Department's budget that was approved by Governor DeSantis and reviewed FDOT's Five-Year Work Program for FY 2026-2030.
 - Secretary Perdue also shared a recap of the 2025 Legislative Session, including SB 1662 creating the policies to establish the Florida Transportation Research Institute, the Florida Transportation Academy, and Advanced Air Mobility as a mode of transportation.
 - Secretary Perdue reported that FDOT is actively implementing several new legislative directives including the Department's efforts to ensure adherence to state and federal engineering standards, particularly in relation to pavement markings.
 - Chairman Howse asked whether the new standards apply to state or local roads and whether FDOT is now responsible for enforcement.
 - Secretary Perdue clarified that the standards apply to all public transportation infrastructure—state, county, and municipal—and confirmed that FDOT is responsible for enforcement on all public roads.
 - Secretary Perdue briefed the Commission on the 2026 Federal Reauthorization, recent international trade efforts, and FDOT's focus on emergency preparedness.
 - Secretary Perdue shared that FDOT received two awards at the annual SASHTO conference.
 - Secretary Perdue announced leadership changes, including Tim Smith as District 3 Secretary and Jamie Driggers as Interim District 1 Secretary.
 - Secretary Perdue announced FDOT's commitment to the America 250 Celebration.
- **Commission Discussion**
 - Commissioner Roberts asked what the Department would be prioritizing during the next legislative session.



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- Secretary Perdue stated that FDOT will monitor tax relief and spending discussions, as they may impact the Department's Work Program.
 - Commissioner Roberts raised concerns about the challenges of collecting revenue from electric vehicles.
 - Secretary Perdue noted ongoing legislative proposals on electric vehicles, including new fees and redirecting charging-related revenue, and emphasized the need for FDOT to stay actively engaged as discussions continue.
 - Commissioner Haselden asked how FDOT integrates new legislative directives into its operations and delivers on newly approved initiatives.
 - Secretary Perdue responded that FDOT approaches new initiatives by developing a clear plan, setting timelines and engaging in extensive collaboration, especially for complex efforts.
 - Commissioner Mai noted FDOT's multimodal portfolio and asked which legislative items typically impact different modes.
 - Secretary Perdue responded that funding for seaports, airports, rail, and space remains strong, with most projects fully funded by the Legislature.
 - Chairman Howse noted the expansion of FTC oversight from 3 to 31 transit agencies, emphasizing the need to re-evaluate performance metrics and account for each agency's unique role, citing JTA's broader community services as an example.
 - With committee meetings approaching, Chairman Howse emphasized the need for a coordinated plan, calling for collaboration among FTC staff, FDOT, and transit agencies, with potential support from the Florida Transportation Institute. He noted the importance of staff engagement and ongoing policy discussions to determine next steps.
 - Secretary Perdue supported the need for meaningful, performance-based metrics, noting FDOT's executive team meets monthly to review progress against FTC standards. He encouraged the Commission to proactively recommend revised metrics and acknowledged legislative interest in efficiency and emerging technologies to improve service and reduce costs.
 - Vice Chairman Genson thanked Secretary Perdue for his presentation and suggested a future presentation on the Florida Transportation Research Institute (FTRI), with a focus on artificial intelligence (AI).
 - Secretary Perdue agreed, noting significant opportunities to leverage AI in asset and inventory management, and the delivery of new infrastructure.
- **Annual Transportation Authority Oversight Report and Responses from the Transportation Authorities – Ralph Yoder, Executive Director, FTC**



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- Executive Director Yoder provided a brief overview of the history of the Transportation Authorities Monitoring and Oversight Report, while highlighting the Commission's legislative mandate to monitor and report on the performance of the Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX), Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA), and South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA/Tri-Rail) for Fiscal Year 2024.
- **Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX)**
 - LYNX CEO Tiffany Homler Hawkins provided a presentation covering ridership, operating expenses, revenue miles, and other performance measures. She also highlighted the full range of services offered by LYNX and provided an update on the Pine Hills Transfer Center.
 - Commissioner Roberts noted post-COVID ridership growth and asked about LYNX's long-range plan to further improve it.
 - CEO Hawkins shared that LYNX is eliminating late-night routes with low or no ridership and collaborating with Seminole County on microtransit initiatives to better meet localized demand.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked whether LYNX plans to increase fares, to which CEO Hawkins responded no.
 - Commissioner Haselden commented on the number of new capital projects implemented in recent years and asked whether these efforts might be diverting staff from existing operations.
 - CEO Hawkins responded that only one LYNX staff member oversees capital projects and noted that 50% of capital investments are for vehicle replacements, which ultimately support and reduce operating costs.
 - Chairman Howse noted the influx of COVID-related funding and asked how the expiration of those funds would impact LYNX's operations.
 - CEO Hawkins explained that 75% of LYNX's funding is local, with a budget stabilization fund built during the pandemic. She noted they are mindful of potential property tax reform and do not receive sales tax revenue.
- **Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)**
 - Nathaniel P. Ford, Sr., CEO of JTA, presented an overview of JTA, covering ridership and revenue, operating expenses, on-time performance, safety incidents, and customer concerns. He also recommended that the Commission adopt transit agency scorecards that include performance targets.
 - Commissioner Mai noted that JTA's operating expenses are rising faster than revenue and asked if there were plans to address the imbalance.
 - Mr. Ford responded that JTA is considering a fare modification or increase, noting that a planned biennial adjustment tied to CPI and wages was delayed by the pandemic, resulting in 6–7 years without an increase, which may now require a larger adjustment than originally planned.
 - Commissioner Mai inquired about JTA's success with transit-oriented development (TOD).



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- Mr. Ford reported significant progress, citing successful projects on underutilized JTA-owned land, adding that future TOD projects will include a workforce housing component, rather than being exclusively market-rate.
 - Commissioner Browning expressed concern about farebox revenue while commending Mr. Ford on JTA's facilities and inquired about the agency's transition to electric buses.
 - Mr. Ford stated that JTA has paused electric bus purchases, though all autonomous shuttles remain electric, and the agency is exploring hydrogen fuel cell options. Due to range limitations, JTA is approaching electrification cautiously, focusing on long-range, sustainable technologies.
 - Commissioner Roberts acknowledged the challenge of restoring ridership to pre-COVID levels, particularly alongside potential fare increases.
 - Mr. Ford noted that ridership recovery is a nationwide issue and explained that JTA is adapting by utilizing smaller vehicles and localized service models where appropriate, in response to changing travel patterns.
 - Commissioner Roberts added that limited residential development in downtown Jacksonville has constrained ridership but expressed optimism that future downtown development will help reverse that trend.
 - Chairman Howse asked if JTA is facing a post-COVID cash flow issue.
 - Mr. Ford stated that COVID relief funds were used exclusively for one-time capital projects, not operations. He added that while JTA continues to monitor its budget and consider fare adjustments, there is no financial shortfall tied to COVID funds.
 - Vice Chair Genson raised concern related to the public perception that transit agencies place a financial burden on taxpayers and asked how JTA is maintaining public confidence and accountability with tax dollars.
 - Mr. Ford stated that while transit may serve each community differently, it provides critical access to jobs, education, and healthcare. Mr. Ford highlighted JTA's mobility-focused approach, which helped secure local gas tax funding in 2015 and its expansion in 2022.
- **South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA/Tri-Rail)**
 - SFRTA Executive Director David W. Dech presented an overview of Tri-Rail, noting that service has operated since 1989 along the FDOT-owned South Florida Rail Corridor. He reviewed performance measures, ridership trends, on-time performance, ongoing maintenance, and future plans.
 - Commissioner Mai inquired about funding for Tri-Rail.



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- Executive Director Dech explained that Tri-Rail is funded through a mix of federal, state, local, and fare revenues, with current funding sustaining service through July 2027. He added that SFRTA is working with the three counties served by SFRTA on long-term funding solutions, with discussions tailored to each county's unique needs.
- Chairman Howse noted that Tri-Rail's metrics may differ from those of other transit agencies, prompting a brief discussion on rail-specific performance measures.
 - Mr. Dech shared that the Commuter Rail Coalition, a national organization he helps lead, currently has metrics for commuter rail systems, which could inform the Commission's approach.
 - Chairman Howse emphasized the need to revise transit performance metrics, recommending coordination between FTC staff, the Florida Public Transportation Association, and individual agencies to ensure alignment and consistency.
- Commissioner Roberts and Mr. Dech engaged in a discussion regarding Tri-Rail's expanded service into downtown Miami.

3. General FTC issues/business

- **FTC action items**

- ❖ On a motion by Vice Chairman Genson, seconded by Commissioner Browning, the 2024 Transit Authority Report was unanimously approved a motion by Vice Chair Genson and seconded by Commissioner Browning, the 2024 Transit Report was unanimously approved.
- Chairman Howse requested a detailed cover letter to accompany the report, highlighting the transition from a narrower oversight approach to a broader, forward-looking framework that ensures accountability and efficiency as performance metrics continue to evolve.

- **FTC informational items**

- Mr. Yoder briefed the Commissioners on the electric transit vehicle analysis performed by FTC staff, which was included as Appendix A in the draft report.
- He also shared informational updates, including the 2025–2026 FTC meeting schedule, the 2025–2026 interim committee week schedule, and an announcement regarding the CUTR Transportation Hall of Fame.

- **Other items of discussion as needed – FTC Commissioners**

- Chairman Howse recognized Mrs. Karen Peddie, Administrative Assistant to the Florida Transportation Commission, and thanked her for her dedicated service as she prepares to retire in early September. Executive Director Ralph Yoder presented Mrs. Peddie with a commemorative plaque in appreciation of her contributions.

4. Public Comment and Adjournment – Chairman Howse

- Chairman Howse opened the meeting for public comment; no comments were received.
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.