



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Date: August 22, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: SunTrax Conference Center, Auburndale, Florida

1. Call to Order

- **Roll call**

- Chairman Ron Howse called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
- In attendance was Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman David Genson, Commissioners John Browning, Barbara Haselden, Alex Lastra, Hung Mai and Rusty Roberts.

- **Recognitions**

- Chairman Howse announced that Commissioner Burke recently resigned.
- Executive Director Ralph Yoder introduced Ms. Taryn Bellflower as the Administrative Assistant to the Florida Transportation Commission, who will be replacing Mrs. Karen Peddie, who is retiring in September.
- Mr. Yoder thanked Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Nicola Liquori and her team for coordinating the meeting at SunTrax.

2. Consent Agenda

- **FTC Meeting/Workshop Minutes**

- **March 3, 2025**
- **June 5, 2025**

- On a motion by Vice-Chairman Genson and seconded by Commissioner Lastra, the March 3, 2025, and June 5, 2025, Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

- **Renewal of Attorney General retainer agreement**

- On a motion by Commissioner Browning and seconded by Commissioner Roberts, the renewal of Attorney General retainer agreement was unanimously approved.

3. Reports/Presentations

- **Annual Transportation Authority Oversight Report and Responses from the Transportation Authorities – Ralph Yoder, Executive Director, FTC**

- 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 for Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX), Turnpike System (Turnpike), Greater Miami Expressway Agency (GMX), Florida's Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA), and Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority (THEA) for Fiscal Year 2024. Following his overview, each authority's executive presented an update on their respective agency.

- **Central Florida Expressway (CFX)**

- CFX CEO Michelle Maikisch provided a presentation that reviewed the current CFX board members, performance measures progress on safety, preservation & maintenance of assets, as well as toll revenue management.
- Ms. Maikisch highlighted CFX's recent awards, milestones, and innovations - including continuous improvement initiatives, a monthly performance dashboard, real-time impact detection technology, and the agency's transition to full cashless operations. She also outlined the 5-Year Work Plan focused on expanding capacity and enhancing regional connectivity.
 - Commissioner Roberts inquired about the Desk Trooper Pilot Program, and Ms. Maikisch explained that CFX is partnering with FHP to support and promote the pilot initiative.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked whether CFX has experienced improvements in revenue collection rates, and Ms. Maikisch confirmed that overall collections have improved.
 - Commissioner Mai asked about collaboration with local sheriff's departments similar to the FHP partnership, and Ms. Maikisch noted that while CFX works closely with all law enforcement agencies, the Desk Trooper Pilot Program is specifically conducted through FHP.
 - Vice Chairman Genson stated his interest in the tolling authorities' financials and commented favorably on the CFX dashboard suggesting that this tool be a model for other agencies.

- **Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE)**

- Nicola Liquori, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Turnpike Enterprise (Turnpike) presented the Florida Turnpike Enterprise highlights which included an overview of the Turnpike since it first opened in 1957, along with the Turnpike's performance as measured by the FTC from the 2022 FY through the 2024 FY.
- Ms. Liquori gave an update on three expansion projects designed for improvements.
 - The First Coast Expressway.
 - The Suncoast Parkway, which will be opening soon.
 - Central Polk Parkway.
- The Turnpike's Road Ranger Program responded to over 97,000 calls so far for FY 2025.
 - Commissioner Browning commented on the aesthetics and cleanliness of the Turnpike's service plazas. He also requested maps that depict the Turnpike's transportation network be provided for future meetings.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked how the Turnpike's revenue variance is trending and how it is affected by toll-by-plate collections, and Ms. Liquori responded that the current 8% variance remains within industry standards and near the upper range of acceptable levels.
 - Commissioner Mai commended the Turnpike for its proactive efforts to reduce smishing text scams in Florida, and Ms. Liquori noted that toll agencies nationwide collaborated on public education campaigns to raise awareness about avoiding fraudulent links.

- **Greater Miami Expressway Agency (GMX)**
 - GMX Interim Executive Director Rafael S. Garcia and Chief Operating Officer Claudio Diaferia shared that GMX's legacy is built on decades of expressway development in Miami-Dade County. The agency currently maintains and operates five major expressways and two county roads.
 - Mr. Garcia reviewed the 2024 Performance Report and discussed successful initiatives for operations & maintenance, completed projects, and upcoming projects.
 - Commissioner Lastra expressed enthusiasm about the agency's bond rating upgrade and suggested incorporating Transit-Oriented Developments and workforce housing opportunities at park-and-ride sites to help address Miami's housing crisis.
 - Commissioner Roberts noted that the national average for toll-by-plate collections ranges from 50% to 60%, observing the agency's rate is below the national average and inquired about the in place to improve performance.
 - Mr. Garcia invited COO Mr. Diaferia to the podium, who explained that the agency is still undergoing a modernization process and collection rates are already improving. He added that full interoperability is expected within the next month, which should further improve results once modernization is complete.
 - Commissioner Mai inquired about the agency's debt service coverage ratio, noting that it is currently below two.
 - Mr. Diaferia responded that with stabilized financials, the agency expects to return to the market within 10–12 months and anticipates future growth. He noted that figures may remain flat over the next year or two as they rebuild their work program but reported positive trends in traffic revenues.
 - Chairman Howse recommended for GMX to consider looking at the dashboard that the CFX Authority does to track their items.
- **Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA)**
 - Chairman Howse noted that Van Fuller, Director of MBBA, was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict. In his absence, Mr. Ralph Yoder presented on behalf of the agency.
 - Mr. Yoder delivered remarks emphasizing MBBA's core principles and reviewed key highlights, including performance measures met, debt service coverage, bond ratings, and rating agency assessments.
 - Vice Chair Genson inquired about toll collection expenses relative to overall operating expenses and requested an update on efforts to reduce this indicator.
 - Executive Director Yoder stated that staff will follow up with Mr. Fuller and provide the requested information to the Commission.

- **Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA)**
 - THEA Executive Director and CEO Greg Slater presented an update on the agency's Strategic Plan, highlighting the FY 2026 Work Program, system conditions and operations, organizational performance, project delivery, and key project highlights.
 - Commissioner Haselden asked who manages the Gateway Expressway, and Mr. Slater responded that it is managed by FDOT District 7.
 - Commissioner Mai asked Mr. Slater to elaborate on the reversible lane operations and coordination with the Tampa Police Department and the local sheriff's office.
 - Mr. Slater discussed new legislation from the recent legislative session targeting "super speeders" and noted THEA's coordination with local law enforcement where applicable.
 - Commissioner Mai commended THEA's expansion and suggested utilizing parking under the expressway for added revenue. He also asked about recent community space initiatives.
 - Mr. Slater noted that THEA is working with local partners to expand community use areas with funding provided by the local community.
 - Roberts noted that toll-by-plate collections typically take about two years to complete and suggested reconsidering the use of front license plates in the State of Florida.
 - Commissioner Lastra encouraged monitoring potential P3 opportunities related to construction, housing, and land development.
 - Mr. Slater noted that THEA has engaged a consultant to evaluate its real estate assets and explore creating a central hub to enhance community connectivity.

4. General FTC issues/business

- **FTC action items**
 - ❖ On a motion by Commissioner Mai and seconded by Commissioner Lastra, the 2024 Tolling Authority Report was unanimously approved.
- **Other items of discussion as needed – FTC Commissioners**
 - Chairman Howse requested a workshop to discuss how all the tolling authorities collect and transfer toll revenues, how they each set up their toll pricing and internal performance metrics.
 - Commissioner Browning requested that a map be displayed while each authority is presenting to show what roads they're discussing.
 - Commissioner Hung Mai suggested a workshop on the revised USDOT NEPA process. Chairman Howse supported this and expanded the suggestion into a broader workshop detailing the full FDOT project development lifecycle—from inception to construction completion.

5. Public Comment and Adjournment

- The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. There were no public comments.
- With no other business to address, Chairman Howse adjourned the meeting at 12:17 PM.