



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Date: January 12, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: FDOT Burns Building Auditorium, Tallahassee, Florida

1. Call to Order

- **Roll call and Recognitions**
 - Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.
 - In attendance was Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman David Genson, Commissioners John Browning, Barbara Haselden, Alex Lastra, Hung Mai, Thomas C. Nash, and Rusty Roberts.
- **Commissioner Introductions**

2. Consent Agenda

- **FTC Workshop Minutes – October 20, 2025**
- **FTC Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2025**
- **FTC Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2025**
 - On a motion by Vice Chairman Genson and seconded by Commissioner Lastra the workshop and meeting minutes on the consent agenda were unanimously approved.

3. Statewide Public Hearing on the FDOT Tentative Work Program

- **FTC Review of the Tentative Work Program – Ralph Yoder, Executive Director**
 - Executive Director Yoder provided an explanation and overview of the purpose and process of the Tentative Work Program.
- **FDOT Agency Update and Secretary's Response to the Tentative Work Program Review – Jared W. Perdue, P.E., FDOT Secretary**
 - Secretary Perdue previewed the Governor's recommended 2026-2027 budget of \$15.4 billion and the \$59.25 billion tentative five-year work program for 2027-2031.
 - The Secretary provided an overview of statewide program stability.
 - Secretary Perdue noted that Florida's growing population is driving expansion in both the economy and tourism, which in turn is leading to increased gas tax revenues.
 - Secretary Perdue reported that FDOT manages more than 12,000 active contracts valued at approximately \$22 billion and processes an average of \$45 million in cash payouts each workday.
 - The Secretary also highlighted emerging initiatives, including the Florida Transportation Research Institute, the Florida Transportation Academy, and the Moving I-4 Forward Construction Training Program, which has produced more than 133 graduates since June 2025.
 - Secretary Perdue outlined three critical focus areas for the 2026 Legislative Session: talent, tools, and technology.



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- Following Secretary Perdue's presentation, he had an open dialogue with Commissioners. The discussion between the Commissioners and Secretary Perdue reflected a broad examination of FDOT's financial outlook, project delivery trends, and strategic priorities moving forward.
 - o Commissioner Roberts opened the dialogue by asking about the impact of declining documentary stamp revenues. The concern about revenue stability continued throughout the conversation. Vice Chairman Genson noted that while District 1's work program has increased significantly, revenue sources have remained relatively flat, emphasizing the need to explore alternative funding mechanisms. Commissioner Mai echoed this concern, highlighting the strain on revenues tied to documentary stamps and encouraging consideration of innovative financing strategies.
 - Secretary Perdue acknowledged that innovative financing is an important tool within FDOT's funding mechanism but emphasized that any such approach must still be supported by reliable underlying revenue sources to manage financial risk.
 - o On project delivery and market conditions, Commissioner Lastra observed that recent bid pricing has been coming in more favorably than expected and asked whether this trend was consistent statewide.
 - Secretary Perdue confirmed that over the past two fiscal years, FDOT has seen encouraging trends, including lower-than-expected bid prices and increased contractor participation, indicating stronger competition across the state.
 - o Commissioner Browning inquired whether cost savings are being used to advance additional projects or enhance existing ones within the five-year work program.
 - Secretary Perdue explained that FDOT strategically reinvests bid savings as they materialize, balancing contingencies with opportunities to advance project elements or address unforeseen needs.
 - o Commissioner Browning also raised the question of whether a softening real estate market could shift contractor availability toward transportation projects.
 - Secretary Perdue noted that while FDOT does not directly track impacts from other industries, there is a clear relationship between construction sectors. Fluctuations in areas such as residential construction can influence labor availability and, in turn, affect FDOT's project delivery environment.
 - o Commissioner Mai praised the Moving Florida Forward initiative for its positive impact on congestion and then asked several forward-looking questions. These included the status of PD&E timelines under the NEPA assignment, coordination with the FAA on Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) planning, and efforts to address employee retention and compensation.
 - Secretary Perdue shared that FDOT has implemented a policy to complete all PD&E studies within 18 months under its NEPA



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delegated authority. He also noted that the department's COO is actively working with the FAA to develop network plans and route structures for Advanced Air Mobility.

- Regarding workforce challenges, he confirmed that FDOT has conducted extensive research on employee retention and salary competitiveness, particularly for critical roles, to better align with market conditions.

• **Districts, Turnpike Enterprise, Modal Development Presentation of Respective Work Programs**

The Commission received a comprehensive series of presentations from the Executive Director of the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, FDOT's Assistant Secretary and Chief Strategy Officer for Modal Development, and each of the seven District Secretaries, highlighting key elements of their respective work programs and ongoing initiatives across the state.

- Discussion began with the Florida Turnpike Enterprise. Commissioner Browning inquired about the timeline for the Suncoast Parkway extension. Executive Director Nicola Liquori explained that the project is being delivered in two separate segments, with one segment already under construction and the second scheduled for construction letting in 2026.
 - Vice Chairman Genson shifted the focus to Turnpike financing, asking about bond issuance practices and interest rates. Ms. Liquori described a predominantly competitive bond sale process, with recent interest rates around 4.1% and historically closer to 3%. She emphasized that these bonds are backed solely by Turnpike net revenues.
 - Commissioner Mai followed up with questions on financial metrics, confirming that the Turnpike's debt ratio is currently in the range of 3.5 to 3.6. He inquired how Florida's toll rates per mile compare nationally, with Ms. Liquori noting that Florida's rates are generally lower than those in other states. When asked how revenue impacts from emergency toll suspensions are handled, she explained that while such events are not forecasted, the Turnpike adjusts and recalibrates projections annually as needed.
- Commissioner Browning asked Chief Strategy Officer Dan FitzPatrick about the potential use of former military airfields, to which he responded that FDOT has evaluated such opportunities and will continue to do so as updates to the statewide aviation master plan are made.
 - Vice Chairman Genson also asked how FDOT balances funding across multimodal investments. Mr. FitzPatrick explained that each mode - aviation, seaports, rail, and transit - has distinct funding structures and constraints, with aviation heavily influenced by federal participation and seaport investments guided by capacity and project readiness.
- At the district level, Commissioner Lastra highlighted District 4's enhanced safety program and asked about coordination along the Brightline corridor. District



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- Secretary Steve Braun confirmed ongoing collaboration with rail partners and local governments to address safety at crossings and intersections.
- Vice Chairman Genson also asked about the timeline for implementing all-electronic tolling on Alligator Alley, with Secretary Braun noting that the specific timing is not yet finalized.
 - Commissioner Roberts asked District 5 Secretary John Tyler about the budget for the I-95/US 1 project, which he estimated at approximately \$250 million.
 - Commissioner Nash raised questions about arrangements with spaceport operators such as SpaceX. Secretary Tyler explained that FDOT partners with Space Florida in a model similar to airports and seaports, investing in shared-use infrastructure while private entities also contribute within that framework.
 - Commissioner Browning inquired about congestion relief efforts in the Ocala area, where Secretary Tyler highlighted ongoing work on the I-75 corridor, including a 30-mile auxiliary lane project advancing under the Moving Florida Forward initiative.
 - District 1 discussions included Vice Chairman Genson's question about evaluating the effectiveness of projects such as the Colonial Boulevard/I-75 diverging diamond interchange. Interim Secretary Jamie Driggers confirmed that FDOT routinely conducts post-project evaluations to assess both operational and safety outcomes.
 - District 2 Secretary Greg Evans provided an overview of the district and highlighted several innovative projects. Among them, a uniquely designed interchange, referred to as the "amoeba", which incorporates two rail lines within a five-point intersection using a modified roundabout. The project has been well received by both the railroad and the surrounding residential community, supported by proactive outreach efforts. Additionally, Secretary Evans discussed improvements with Commissioner Browning at the SR 16 and I-95 interchange, which has been converted to a diverging diamond configuration to enhance traffic flow and improve safety.
 - Chairman Howse asked District 3 Secretary Tim Smith about contractor participation trends, with Secretary Smith noting an increasing presence of contractors from neighboring states such as Georgia and Alabama.
 - Commissioner Lastra emphasized the importance of coordination in District 6, recognizing Miami-Dade's built-out environment. Secretary Daniel Iglesias responded that FDOT is actively working with local governments to leverage the full transportation network beyond just state highways.
 - Commissioner Mai asked about the integration of autonomous vehicle technologies, such as Waymo, in Miami. Secretary Iglesias noted that the region's grid-based roadway system provides a favorable environment for such technologies, positioning Miami-Dade as well-suited for continued advancement in this area.
 - Commissioner Haselden expressed appreciation to District 7 Secretary Justin Hall, noting the significant progress taking place throughout District 7, particularly in Tampa and Pinellas County. She highlighted the ongoing expressway projects and



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shared that these improvements are making a noticeable positive impact and are well received by the community.

- Commissioner Mai also commended Secretary Hall for his ability to effectively engage with the community. He further emphasized the importance of the district's truck parking initiative, describing it as a meaningful advancement for the region

Approval of 2026-27 through 2030-31 FDOT Tentative Work Program

- On a motion by Commissioner Haselden, and seconded by Commissioner Lastra, the Commission unanimously approved the FDOT Tentative Work Program for fiscal years 2026-2027 to 2030-2031.

4. Reports/Presentations

- **Transit Performance Measure Development Update – Executive Director, Ralph Yoder**

- Executive Director, Ralph Yoder, gave an update to the Development of the Transit Performance Measures that the FTC staff in collaboration with FDOT transit staff have developed.
 - Chairman Howse requested that the Commission review transit agency balance sheets and confirm that each agency has undergone an audit. He also emphasized the importance of evaluating performance at the individual mode level and expressed interest in encouraging both ridership and non-ridership surveys to be conducted by transit agencies.
 - Commissioner Haselden noted the importance of capturing revenue associated with the Transportation Disadvantaged program, including funds that are reimbursed back to transit agencies for door-to-door services.
 - Commissioner Browning raised concerns regarding the challenges associated with electric buses, particularly the number of vehicles currently inoperable across transit agencies.
 - Vice Chairman Genson suggested that it would be helpful to include a clear metric showing subsidy per trip, such as cost per ride, to better understand system efficiency.
 - Commissioner Mai recommended that transit agencies clearly identify whether administrative costs are borne by or shared with local governments as part of their reported financial data.

5. Public Comment and Adjournment – Ron Howse, Chairman

- Chairman Howse opened the meeting for public comment. There were no public comments.
- With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 PM.