

FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MARCH 7, 2006

MEETING NUMBER 154

The one hundred and fifty-fourth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at the Florida Department of Transportation, 605 Suwannee Street, Tallahassee, Florida. Chairman Holton called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance were: Commissioners Jim Holton, Janet Watermeier, Sidney Calloway, David Straz, Marcos Marchena Marty Lanahan. Absent: Commissioners Earl Durden and Gabriel Bustamante.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MINUTES

Minutes from the January 4, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved.

Chairman Holton reported on the following:

- Welcome Commissioner Marty Lanahan. Commissioner Lanahan is from Jacksonville, she is the President of AmSouth Banks, and she is also involved in a number of civic boards and organizations.
- The Commission has appointed Sally Patrenos as the Executive Director and Mark Reichert as the Assistant Executive Director.
- Former Executive Director Laura Kelley was presented with a plaque for her service to the Commission. Her expertise in transportation finance made her an invaluable asset to the Commission at a time when we were exploring new funding sources and innovative methodologies for bridging the gaps.
- The Commission had a very informative joint meeting in January with TEAMFL.
- A productive meeting was held with Governor Bush, Secretary Stutler and I to discuss this year's transportation initiatives. Transportation corridors and the mounting problems associated with increasing costs of construction were among the major topics discussed.
- Commissioner Durden attended a meeting at the JAX Port to talk about the problems relating to ingress and egress to the port from the landside, and about a problem common to all of our major ports—how to be secure without impacting efficient operations.
- Commissioner Durden has been appointed to sit on the newly formed Ports Strategic Plan Steering Committee which will begin to address these ongoing issues.
- Speaker Bense, Commissioner Durden and I also participated in a highway dedication to Congressman William C. Kramer.
- Commissioner Calloway has been active in a South Florida, more particularly Broward County, effort to secure a local dedicated source of funding for transit and transportation projects. That is one of the important efforts we have been asking locals to help us with around the State. He has read proposed legislation in this year's bill that will revise Chapter 212 and the legislation he sees today is significantly different from the legislation he saw a few months ago. He would like to make a motion that the Florida

Transportation Commission would outline its support for all counties, not just charter counties, to have the ability to hold referendum to impose a surtax to fund transportation. The Chairman agreed that the Commission needs to take a look at the legislation, and he instructed the Executive Director to take a look into this issue and work with Commissioner Calloway to set up meetings to discuss.

- Commissioner Marchena had concerns regarding the Turnpike Bond Cap being part of the MPO legislation and urged staff to find an alternative vehicle for the Turnpike Bond Cap in the event that this legislation does not go the way we would like.
- Chairman Holton asked that the Commission support CUTR (the Center of Urban Transportation Research) efforts to strike the legislative draft committee proposal that would delete the statutory references to the centers for excellence in our colleges and universities. Commissioner Watermeier moved that Sally Patrenos, Executive Director of the Florida Transportation Commission, draft a letter in support of CUTR. Commissioner Lanahan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2ND QUARTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Mark Reichert gave a brief update on the 2nd Quarter Performance Review.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Sally Patrenos gave a brief update of the bills the Commission will be tracking this legislative session. A motion was made to develop a letter to the Legislature to support keeping CUTR intact, opposing any legislation that jeopardizes their operations. The motion was carried.

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM REVIEW FOR FY 2006/2007 – 2010/2011

Chairman Holton opened the Public Hearing on the Review of the Department of Transportation Tentative Work Program (TWP) for FY 2006/07 through 2010/11.

Mark Reichert presented the Commission's review of the TWP. The TWP totals a record level \$36.9 billion over the five year period. It constitutes an increase of \$7.1 billion, or 23.9%, over last year's level. Also, \$31.9 billion, or 86.5% of the work program is dedicated to Product and Product Support phases. This TWP will construct an additional 1,035 new lane miles of roadway, resurface/reconstruct 15,116 lane miles of existing roadway, repair 252 bridges and replace 68. Approximately \$4.3 billion is dedicated to the public transportation program - a 40% increase over the last Tentative Work Program.

Secretary Stutler presented his remarks on the TWP.

Lowell Clary, Assistant Secretary for Finance and Administration, Presented the Department's financial overview of the TWP. He stated the TWP is based on a balanced five-year financial plan and 36-month cash forecast of receipts and expenditures and that the lowest end-of-quarter cash balance is \$287.5 million. The average annual low point cash balance is projected to be only 9.5% of the forecasted average outstanding obligation of \$8.1 billion. He also touched on the issue of cost estimate increases which impacted the scheduling of projects in this TWP. Cost estimates in the adopted work program have increased by over \$2 billion. The Department was

able to cover approximately \$1 billion of the increase through new flexible funds. The remaining \$1 billion was mitigated through the deferral of projects both within and beyond the five-year Tentative Work Program.

Each district Secretary and the Turnpike Executive Director gave an overview of their respective district/Turnpike work programs.

Due to time constraints, the TWP Public Hearing was suspended for one hour for the Commission to view the State of the State Address by the Governor.

The Public Hearing resumed at 1:00 p.m. Mr. Reichert, in the interest of time, offered to forego the remainder of his presentation with the understanding that the Commissioners would accept that staff had conducted the Review of the TWP with due diligence. The Chairman agreed. However, before moving on to the Public Comment phase of the Review, Mr. Reichert noted there was a supplement to the Tentative Work Program Review entitled "Progress Report on the Implementation of the Strategic Intermodal System." The 2005 Legislature passed HB 1681 requiring the FTC to conduct an annual assessment of the progress made by the Department and its transportation partners to realize the goals of economic development, improved mobility, and increased intermodal connectivity of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). Because the mechanisms are not yet in place to meet the true intent of the legislation, this first assessment will focus primarily on funding and commitment levels. The Commission will continue working closely with the Department to identify baseline data and metrics which can be employed during the next annual assessment.

Mr. Reichert concluded by stating he is confident this Tentative Work Program was developed according to Florida State laws and Departmental policies and recommended that, after any public comments, the Commission vote to accept the findings.

Public comments were received from:

The Honorable Larry Bustle, Mayor of Palmetto, who addressed the Commission to voice his concern over the deferment of projects within and beyond the five year Tentative Work Program period. He also asked the Commission to recommend the Governor and Legislature use some of the State's budget surplus to restore projects to their original work program schedule.

The Honorable Elaine Tucker, Commissioner, Okaloosa County, who spoke about the SR 123 widening project and the interchanges at both ends. These projects were scheduled for construction in July of 2006, but were deferred until 2011 in this Tentative Work Program due to rising costs. Commissioner Tucker requested the Commission assist the Department in restoring these projects to their original schedules.

Commissioner Straz moved to find the TWP in compliance and Commission Calloway seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website (www.ftc.state.fl.us) under “Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings” to view this presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED _____ AS READ _____ AS AMENDED

THIS 23rd DAY OF MAY 2006

CHAIRMAN

NOTE: If further detail of these proceedings is required, please contact Commission staff at 850-414-4105 or write to 605 Suwannee Street, Mail Station 09, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450. Meetings of the Florida Transportation Commission are recorded on video and audiotape.