

# FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MAY 23, 2006

MEETING NUMBER 155

The one hundred and fifty-fifth meeting of the Florida Transportation Commission was held Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority, Third Floor Boardroom, Orlando, 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, Gabriel Bustamante, Marshall Criser, Earl Durden, Marty Lanahan, Marcos Marchena and David Straz.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

## MINUTES

Minutes from the March 7, 2006 Commission Meeting were approved.

**Chairman Holton** reported on the following:

- Welcome David Tassinari to the Florida Transportation Commission staff as the new Manager of Finance and Performance Monitoring. He has decades of experience in finance and comes to us from the Turnpike Enterprise.
- The Truck Study has been concluded and each of you received the final report.
- At our last meeting we were briefed on the Highway Safety Study, and in particular, we were presented the recommended Performance Measure for safety. The Performance Measures Task Force decided to accept the primary measures that were recommended in Mr. Ham's report – the fatalities in Florida will be reported and continue to report it as a secondary measure for now. In the meantime, Commission staff will continue working with the Department's Safety Office to come up with a way to quantify the Department's effort in addressing Highway Safety in the State of Florida. The Task Force did recommend, starting this fall, the production of an Annual Safety Report that will include the proposed measures presented as indicators. It will be used as a way of informing the Commission and other partners on conditions of Highway Safety in the State of Florida.
- We have been apprised of the potentially devastating impacts on the construction industry that could result if the Lake Belt Area Mining in South Florida is shut down by order of the Federal Court, during a permit review that may take 18 months. If this should occur, Florida's entire economy would be in peril within a week, we are told. These permits were issued after six years of meetings with a diverse group of stakeholders. The Department has weighed in on this issue, and Commissioner Lanahan suggested that, as a policy board for statewide transportation issues, the Commission adopt a resolution urging the Court NOT to halt mining during the permit review. Commissioner Calloway made the motion to adopt the resolution, Commissioner Straz seconded. Motion carried. That resolution will be signed by Commissioners and distributed to all appropriate parties.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Durden made the motion for the following nominations: Chairman – Jim Holton, Vice Chair – Janet Watermeier, Secretary – Sidney Calloway. Commissioner Straz seconded. A vote was called and the officers were elected as nominated.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

Mark Reichert gave a brief update on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Performance Review.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Sally Patrenos gave a brief update of the results of the 2006 Legislative Session.

## **GREATER ORLANDO AVIATION AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Jeff Fuqua, Chairman of the Board made a presentation to the Commission on the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority.

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

## **FDOT AGENCY REPORT**

Secretary Denver Stutler gave the following report:

- The Department survived a very successful session. Only \$14 million earmarked out of the trust fund which is one of the lowest years the Department has had in recent history. The budget was about \$9.1 billion for transportation – it’s the largest budget in DOT history. Some legislation passed that affects the bond caps for Turnpike revisions related to the fixed guide way statutes that the Department needs for commuter rail and revisions to the surety bond statute needed for the tunnel on I-75.
- On a safety note, a bill passed during the year changing the hours of operation for truck drivers. It puts the Department in compliance with the Federal Law and gives the Department \$3.5 million additional federal allocation to continue enforcement. It is very important that tired truckers are not out on the road – it is a serious safety concern.
- The Department’s bill has not been presented to the Governor officially. Once that happens he will have 14 days to sign.
- Secretary Stutler thanked the Commission for the resolution regarding the Lake Belt. The Department has been working with the industry regarding this. The Department did file an amicus brief, there is an evidentiary hearing scheduled for June 13. An unfavorable ruling would cause more the fifty percent of the Department’s construction program to come to a halt within sixty to ninety days of an unfavorable ruling. The Department is still working on a contingency plan.

- CSX – the Department continues to have negotiations and hopes to get commuter rail in Central Florida as a result. But it is more than just that, it is about safety, mobility of freight on rail, etc.
- The Department continues to work on a Port strategy; it may be discussed more at the September Commission meeting. The goal is to look at the ports in terms of capacity and identifying critical success factors at each of the critical nodes in the movement of freight and people at ports.
- The Department is currently doing a lot of advertising on the use of seat belts. Currently the Department is at 73 percent seat belt average and is trying to bring that up to 85 percent. That would give the Department a benefit of a \$35 million investment from federal government.
- The Department has been working with the Southwest Florida Transportation Authority and the Northwest Florida Transportation Authority. The Department needs to focus on these new partnerships in implementing transportation projects.
- Corridors – This is the 50 year anniversary of the Interstate System. Secretary Stutler would like to propose that we have a strategy that allows us to move through existing processes without being afraid to look at those processes and see if there is something that the Department can do to streamline them. FDOT will not hold up the forward movement on corridors to go through these evaluations of environmental processes, eminent domain processes and possible restructuring of related laws and policies. Those debates are going to take far longer than we want, but there is a lot work that the Department can do within existing processes. The Department’s goal is the mobility of goods and people throughout the State of Florida. The corridors initiative is about the mobility of goods and people.

## **INNOVATIONS IN AVIATION**

William Ashbaker, Manager FDOT Aviation Office and Trever Grun-Kennedy, Vice President of Community and Governmental Affairs, DayJet, Inc. made presentations to the Commission on the Innovations in Aviation.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website ([www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us)) under “Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings” to view these presentations.

## **BRIEFING ON “NEW STARTS” PROGRAM**

Ed Coven, FDOT State Transit Manager made a presentation to the Commission on the “New Starts” Program.

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

## **CUTR GROWTH MANAGEMENT STUDY**

Ed Mierzejewski, Director of Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) made a presentation to the Commission on the CUTR Growth Management Study.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website ([www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us)) under "Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings" to view this presentation.

## **VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE INTEGRATION (VII)**

George Gilhooley, FDOT District 5 Secretary made a presentation on Vehicle Infrastructure Integration.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website ([www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://www.ftc.state.fl.us)) under "Presentations Made Before the Commission at Commission Meetings" to view this presentation.

## **FLORIDA'S FUTURE CORRIDORS**

Ysela Llord, FDOT Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development and Bob Romig, Director, Office of Policy Planning gave a presentation on Florida's Future Corridors.

Please refer to the Florida Transportation Commission website ([www.ftc.state.fl.us](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2006

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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.