



FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting

Date: October 26, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Teams Meeting

In Attendance

Chairman Ron Howse, Vice-Chairman David Genson, Commissioner John Browning, Commissioner Julius Davis, Commissioner Alex Lastra, and Commissioner Rusty Roberts.

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Howse called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Approval of Consent Agenda

On a motion by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Browning, the consent agenda was unanimously approved, which included the minutes from July 20, 2023 and August 26, 2022.

FDOT Agency Update presented by FDOT Chief of Staff Leda Kelly

- Chief of Staff Kelly provided staff updates, introducing Kim Holland as the Assistant Secretary for Strategic Development and Melissa Smith as the Chief of Modal Development. Both staff members spoke to the Commission and shared their experience and excitement at joining FDOT.
- Chief of Staff Kelly gave a robust report of recent events attended by Secretary Perdue and other FDOT leadership including:
 - Federal advocacy for Florida transportation in Washington DC
 - Helping Americans return home - airport emergency response protocols were implemented and the lighting of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge blue and white in solidarity with Israel.
 - FDOT Advanced Air Mobility presentation to House Modals and Transportation Subcommittee
 - 2023 World Road Congress in Prague
 - Moving Florida Forward local meetings were held around the state
- Chief of Staff Kelly urged Commissioners to vote for the Sanibel Island Emergency Access in AASHTO's America's Transportation Awards competition.

Chairman Howse then opened the meeting to questions.

- There were no questions.

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FDOT Work Force Development Update presented by FDOT Assistant Secretary Will Watts, P.E.

- Assistant Secretary Watts gave a thorough report of the FDOT Workforce Development initiative identifying key elements of support as Moving Florida Forward, the Recruitment and Retention focus, DROP extension, Commercial Driver's License Training and Workforce Development Funding
- The Assistant Secretary identified current strategies for continued Workforce Development progress including Construction Career Days in K-12 schools around the state, additional Academies to develop inhouse talent, Career Fairs with Universities, P.E. Trainee Program, Internships, Recruitment and Retention, DROP Extension, and Succession Planning
- Assistant Secretary Watts defined the Workforce Development Program Pillars as Promote, Partner, Purpose, Passion, Prosper
- The Assistant Secretary shared data showing indicators of a successful vacancy rate reduction from 12.94 to 10.67% and a challenge with the majority of the FDOT workforce now having 1-10 years of experience.
- Assistant Secretary Watts provided a view of what's next for the initiative stating current plans involve a Work Force Development Steering Committee with statewide representation, partnering with universities, agencies and vocational schools, enhancing the leadership program and internships, continuing the Co-Op program to align workforce and educational needs, and expanding the Step Programs and career paths.

Chairman Howse then opened the meeting to questions.

- There were no questions.

Chairman Howse then asked Commissioner Browning for an update.

- Commissioner Browning gave a report on his briefing from archaeologists of a boat projected to be approximately 200 years old which was located and recovered during a FDOT road construction project in St. Augustine.

Executive Director Update

- Executive Director Ralph Yoder reported on several industry meetings which he and the Commission recently attended.
- The Executive Director provided an overview of his September 19 presentation to the House Transportation & Modals Subcommittee including items discussed and his delivery of data and information to further the subcommittee's understanding of the role and responsibilities of the FTC.
- Executive Director Yoder provided information related to the upcoming meetings in Tallahassee on November 8 and 9 and presented the FTC Meeting schedule through March 2025, which includes five (5) in person meetings in 2024.
- The Executive Director furnished a listing of industry and legislative events for 2023 and 2024 including a reminder of the 2023 CUTR Transportation Achievement Awards on November 1, 2023

Chairman Howse then opened the meeting to questions.

- There were no questions.

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Chairman Howse then asked Commissioner Roberts for an update.

- Commissioner Roberts gave a brief report on the Brightline Grand Opening Ceremony he attended. The Commissioner stated the train occupancy is already at 75% and above and the project appears to be successful as it began with 8 trains each way daily, and now 15 trains operate each way per day. Commissioner Roberts concluded by declaring Brightline and Florida are proving the concept that private industry can do something like this successfully working hand in hand with public agencies.

Chairman Howse then asked Commissioner Lastra for an update.

- Commissioner Lastra gave a brief report on his attendance at the Florida Future Conference with the Speaker Designate Perez whose priorities are Education, Justice, Housing and Commerce which includes transportation. The Commissioner stated it was an opportunity to speak to leadership and stress the importance of continued funding for FDOT.

Public Comment

- The Chairman opened the meeting to public comment. There were no public comments.

Adjourn

With no other business to address, Chairman Howse adjourned the meeting at 11:02 am.