

Minutes of Meeting

Date: November 8, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: FDOT Burns Auditorium, Tallahassee

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairman Howse called the meeting to order.

In Attendance

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

FDOT Agency Update, Leda Kelly, Chief of Staff

- Chief of Staff Kelly provided a synopsis of the recent FDOT Career Expo in Tallahassee.
- Chief Kelly reviewed presentations made during interim legislative committee weeks including Governor DeSantis' proposed budget, Sun Trail network and an Impaired Driving panel.
- Chief Kelly discussed Crash Responder Safety Week, and the Toll Relief Program which provided more than \$343.4 million in toll relief credits since January 2023.

SunTrax Update, Nicola Liquori, Executive Director, Florida Turnpike Enterprise

- Executive Director Liquori introduced the Commission to the mission and vision of the SunTrax facility and provided an informative presentation regarding the testing environment.

Annual Transportation Authority Oversight Report, Ralph Yoder, Executive Director, Florida Transportation Commission

- Executive Director, Ralph Yoder provided an overview of the Commission's Charge from the Legislature for the Annual Transportation Authorities Monitoring and Oversight Report.
- Mr. Yoder reminded the Commission that this year's tolling review utilized new performance metrics which were recently updated.
- Executive Director Yoder presented the individual transportation authority results, and representatives from each authority were given the opportunity to respond to their respective portion of the report.

The tolling authorities monitored include:

- Florida's Turnpike System (Turnpike)
- Mid-Bay Bridge Authority (MBBA)
- Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX)
- Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority (THEA)
- The transit authorities monitored include:
- South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA/Tri-Rail)
- Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)
- Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (CFRTA/LYNX)

Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), Nicola Liquori, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

- The Turnpike met fifteen (15) of eighteen (18) performance measure objectives.
- Executive Director Liquori identified the Turnpike as the tolling system with the largest number of transactions and number of facilities in the country.
- Executive Director Liquori stated substantial focus has been on the SHS maintenance rating program (MRP), which previously had been below the benchmark.
 - For FY22, the FTE's MRP is 90, meeting that performance metric.
- Executive Director Liquori then reported on national interoperability progress and indicated SunPass Pro is the most accepted transponder in the nation and is accepted in 23 states.
 - The Turnpike is looking to connect with the statewide tolling programs in CA, CO and WA.

Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, Van Fuller, Executive Director

- MBBA met eight (8) of twelve (12) performance measure objectives.
- Commissioner Howse asked for clarification of MBBA's cost per toll collected compared to others. Executive Director Fuller responded that the labor cost due to cash collections pushes MBBA's cost higher than other tolling authorities.

Central Florida Expressway – Michelle Maikisch, CEO

- CFX met fifteen (15) of eighteen (18) performance measure objectives.
- Mrs. Maikisch reported on the financial perspective for the authority and their five investment areas:
 1. Safety
 2. Customers
 3. Infrastructure
 4. Innovation
 5. Partnerships

Tampa-Hillsborough Expressway Authority, Greg Slater, Executive Director/CEO

- THEA met sixteen (16) of sixteen (16) performance measure objectives.
- Mr. Slater reported that the Tampa Bay region is experiencing tremendous population growth.
- Mr. Slater stated THEA is also experiencing increased traffic volume during the middle of the day.
- Commissioner Burke commended the concept of a congestive toll metric, stating it is good service to constituents. He also questioned if the annual revenue growth by THEA, which is up 26%, is attributed to volume and why the cost to collect the toll is increasing.
 - THEA is experiencing growth in the most expensive toll transactions.
- Commissioner Burke also referenced the average revenue per toll.
- Commissioner Davis expressed the need for THEA to be very strategic in keeping up with the growth.

- Vice-Chairman Genson referenced his membership on the Department's committee to update the Florida Transportation Plan and stated resiliency, which is a focus area for THEA, is also important to the Department.

South Florida Regional Transportation Authority - David Dech, Executive Director

- SFRTA / Tri-Rail met four (4) of eleven (11) performance measure objectives.
- Executive Director Dech discussed increased ridership and plans for improvement which include overhauling current locomotives and purchasing new locomotives, federal grants to enhance safety, track replacement and fouled ballast replacement.
- Executive Director Dech also discussed new station developments and the Downtown Miami Link.
- Commissioner Roberts provided historical context by sharing he was part of a group in 1985 who delivered the ceremonial check to begin construction on the rail to mitigate construction delays and traffic issues on I-95.
- Discussion ensued related to non-paying customers between Mr. Dech and Commissioners Roberts and Lastra.
- Chairman Howse commented on the transit performance metrics and the need to look at updating the metrics for all transit authorities.
- Vice-Chairman Genson stated his agreement with the Chairman that reviewing and updating the metrics is overdue.

Jacksonville Transportation Authority – Cleveland Ferguson, Executive Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer

- JTA met three (3) of twelve (12) bus performance measure objectives.
- JTA met three (3) of eleven (11) skyway performance measure objectives.
- JTA met four (4) of four (4) highway performance measure objectives.
- Executive VP Ferguson reported that JTA's focus is on creating connectivity and mobility.
- Chairman Howse expressed interest in the idea of having density bonuses around transit hubs.
- Commissioner Roberts added his agreement in looking at new performance metrics, stating additional consideration could be related to the number of agency employees.
- Commissioner Howse agreed and suggested adding a comparison of percentage of ridership growth with community growth.

Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (Lynx) – Tiffany Hawkins, Executive Director and CEO

- LYNX met five (5) of twelve (12) performance measure objectives.
- Executive Director Hawkins shared how transit authorities such as LYNX serve their communities during emergency situations, including assisting with evacuations during hurricanes.
- Mrs. Hawkins updated the Commission on the Lynx Operation Center expansion and other operational improvements.
- Executive Director Hawkins stated LYNX is transitioning from diesel buses to compressed natural gas and electric.

- Chairman Howse commented that the Commission should schedule a workshop to discuss the transit performance metrics. He further encouraged staff-to-staff meetings prior to the workshop.
- Commissioner Browning agreed and stated a desire to make sure that the updated performance metrics are attainable.

Approval of 2022 Transportation Authority Oversight Reports

- On a motion by Commissioner Lastra, seconded by Commissioner Browning, the Commission unanimously approved the reports as submitted.
- Chairman Howse stated the transmittal letter should include reference to revising and updating the transit metrics.

Executive Director Update, Ralph Yoder

- Executive Director Yoder reviewed the commission's 2024-2025 meeting schedule.
- Mr. Yoder discussed upcoming opportunities for the Commission to attend including the Florida Chamber of Commerce virtual Transportation and Growth Infrastructure Conference, and the Legislative Fly-In on January 9, 2024.

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 3:46 pm.