

Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission
Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, February 3, 2010

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Florida Department of Transportation

Orlando Urban Office

133 South Semoran Blvd.

Orlando, Florida 32807

- Call to Order – TAC Chairman Roger Neiswender
 - Chairman Neiswender called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Confirmation of Quorum
 - Members in attendance were:
 - Tawny Olore, Florida Department of Transportation
 - Todd Hammerle, Florida Department of Transportation
 - Roger Neiswender, City of Orlando
 - Jim Harrison, Orange County
 - Jerry McCollum, Seminole County
 - Tura Schnebly for James Dinneen, Volusia County
 - Karl Welzenbach, Volusia County MPO
 - John Omana, City of Lake Mary
 - John Sember for Frank Martz, City of Altamonte Springs
 - Charlie Wallace, City of Maitland
 - Don Marcotte, City of Winter Park
 - Tiffany Homler, Osceola County
 - Jim Arsenault, City of Kissimmee
 - Lisa Darnall, Lynx
 - Ken Fischer, VoTran
 - David Grovdahl, Metroplan Orlando
 - Members not in attendance were:
 - City of DeBary – Alan Williamson, Safety Coordinator, attended for Interim City Manager Kassandra Blissett, but is not a designated voting alternate on the TAC
 - Katrina Powell, City of Longwood
 - Dale Arrington for Michael Pleus, City of DeLand
 - Kristi Aday, City of Sanford
- Agenda Review – SunRail Project Manager Tawny Olore, P.E.
 - Ms. Olore provided the agenda review

ACTION ITEMS

1. Adoption of minutes from January 6, 2010
 - a. The minutes were unanimously adopted on a motion by Mr. McCollum; seconded by Mr. Harrison.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Chairman's Report – Mr. Neiswender
 - a. High Speed Rail update
 - i. Mr. Neiswender said the Florida Department of Transportation recently announced that Kevin Thibault will serve as interim executive director of the newly created Florida Rail Enterprise and that Nazih Haddad will serve as the COO of the Enterprise. He said that lawmakers essentially set up a separate operating unit, with an independent budget, in preparation of major efforts that will be forthcoming with high speed rail and other rail initiatives. He extended his congratulations to Mr. Thibault and Mr. Haddad.
 - ii. Mr. Neiswender introduced Todd Hammerle, the Florida Department of Transportation's District 5 point of contact for the SunRail project.
 - iii. Mr. Neiswender also reviewed the state of Florida's \$1.25 billion award of High Speed Rail stimulus funds from Washington D.C. for the Tampa to Orlando leg. He said the award represented the second highest award, second only to the California's Los Angeles to San Francisco project. Mr. Neiswender provided TAC members with a recap of other awards. He said that Florida was one of only just a handful of applications to get significant major funding in this first round. That was partially because we had a project ready to go and, secondly, because the project had been so far advanced by the Florida Department of Transportation. He also said that an application for \$270 million for the Central Florida Rail Corridor was found eligible for federal stimulus funds and ready to go. And for those of you who have followed the efforts all through the years, those are huge hurdles to achieve, Mr. Neiswender said. But due to the competition, it was decided that funding could not be stretched to include the Central Florida Corridor project in the first round of grants. But he said it is very significant that we proceeded as well as we did in this first round. Two other projects were deemed not ready at this time by the Federal Railroad Administration: The FEC corridor from Jacksonville to Miami and high speed rail from Orlando to Miami. But it's encouraging that all four of our major projects were encouraged to proceed, work with federal funding agencies and advance those efforts. Most of us believe that there will be additional funding opportunities for finishing up the first round projects, and additional funding

opportunities probably in a reauthorization for more significant commitments to high speed rail and the interconnected systems that support high speed rail. All in all, he said, Florida received very good news for rail transit in the state. Mr. Neiswender thanked the Florida Department of Transportation for leading those efforts.

- b. Mr. Neiswender also provided some additional information about the 2011 funding cycle for SunRail. Last year in the President's 2010 budget, the project received a \$40 million commitment against the future Full Funding Grant Agreement, he said. We have a similar amount in the 2011 appropriation, as it applies to the Full Funding Grant Agreement. I think it indicates a continuing commitment on behalf of the Federal Transit Administration for SunRail to advance through the system. As some of you know, sometimes this is just an endurance and longevity contest. I think we are moving forward and making good progress.
 - c. Mr. Neiswender reviewed scheduled meetings of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission. Those dates are February 26, 2010; June 25, 2010; September 17, 2010; and December 17, 2010. Mr. Neiswender noted that if something major comes up, the schedule may have to be adjusted.
 - d. Mr. Neiswender also briefed TAC members on recent meetings of the five funding partners. As we all know we had a successful special session that in addition to creating the new Florida Rail Enterprise and building a foundation for state rail projects, helped us relative to the insurance indemnification provisions. He said there were other items in the bill that will require us to conform the various local agreements to be consistent with the new law and the new direction. Local funding partners had some preliminary discussions with FDOT on that issue a few weeks ago, and that likely will be an item of discussion at the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission meeting on February 26th. As much as we hope this will be the last time, Mr. Neiswender stressed that it is not unusual in any of these endeavors to have to revise original concepts to match how things develop. So we're going to stay flexible and positive and negotiate hard to build a successful system within parameters that our local agencies can afford, he said.
2. Project Update – Ms. Tawny Olore, P.E.
- a. Ms. Olore welcomed Mr. Hammerle to the SunRail team, and said that she and Mr. Hammerle will be working closely to move from project development into operations. She said that Mr. Hammerle will be instrumental in getting the system up and running working with our chief operating officer, while work advances on project development for Phase II.
 - b. Ms. Olore said that FDOT is reviewing schedules, as the project is pretty dynamic, with a lot of moving parts. She said that FDOT currently expects a Full Funding Grant Agreement in the fall of this year, looking to begin

construction late this year, followed by a two-year construction window. Phase II will follow two years later.

- c. Mr. McCollum asked whether construction later this year will include actual track construction. Ms. Olore said it will include construction within the CSXT right-of-way. And then there will be a lag time because the DBM contractor will also construct platforms. That construction will be followed by a station contractor to put the items on the platform and build the parking lots. Mr. McCollum asked whether the stations will be fully complete before SunRail opens for passenger service. Ms. Olore said there will be a period of operating, testing and start-up prior to passenger revenue operations and that platforms will be complete.
- d. Federal Transit Administration
 - i. Supplemental EA for Phase II
 - 1. Ms. Olore said that FDOT submitted a Second Supplemental Environmental Assessment to the FTA in December regarding the change in vehicles and station footprint alterations. FDOT also submitted a number of technical reports, which are being reviewed by the FTA and PMOC. Once FDOT gets those comments, we can send out the notifications and locations of public hearings, hopefully within the next month. FDOT currently expects to hold one public hearing in each county, Ms. Olore said.
 - ii. FFGA
 - 1. Ms. Olore said that a number of items are required for the Full Funding Grant Agreement, including a list of about 10 plans that FDOT must develop and resubmit to the FTA. FDOT is in the process of resubmitting those plans. FDOT is also working on a level boarding proposal required by the FTA, which should be submitted within the next week or so.
- e. CSXT
 - i. Ms. Olore said that FDOT is holding bi-weekly transition meetings with CSX to discuss all aspects of the project, including the contract of sale, operating and management agreement, transition plans and train the trainer courses so that all personnel are up and running when FDOT closes on the corridor. The SunRail COO is involved with that, as well as Mr. Hammerle and Ms. Olore.
- f. Federal Railroad Administration
 - i. Ms. Olore said that the FRA will have jurisdiction over the corridor once operations begin. FDOT will be meeting with the divisional administrator at the beginning of March to bring him up to speed on the project, and start working very closely with his people. FDOT has already had some preliminary discussions with the FRA. Ms. Olore said that safety is a huge issue for the FRA, so coordination is necessary to ensure that CSX and Amtrak trains run in a safe and efficient manner during construction and beyond.

- g. Procurement update
 - i. Ms. Olore said that FDOT met with the DBM contractor, and another meeting is scheduled to advance contract negotiations. FTA has indicated that we can't get them under contract until the SEA process is complete. In the interim, FDOT is negotiating with Archer Western for date and scope changes in the contract. Those discussions have already started and will continue.
 - ii. HNTB was selected for the CEI contract, and Amy Scales will be negotiating that scope within the next couple of weeks.
 - iii. FDOT is actively working on the procurement of ticket vending machines, coordinating with LYNX and VoTran, and making in-house policy decisions. That scope should be advertised within the next few months. FDOT will continue coordinating with LYNX and VoTran on TVM issues.
 - iv. FDOT also must have \$30 million in transition insurance in place when we take over the corridor. That procurement is moving forward.
 - v. The Public Involvement/Marketing contract should be advertised within the next few months.
 - vi. FDOT is still working on and reviewing the joint use agreements. They are drafted in house and FDOT expects to meet with local partners within the next few months to talk through outstanding issues and obtain approval from local governing boards.
- h. Mr. McCollum asked about the Seminole County earmarks for station enhancements, as Seminole County will request FDOT apply for the earmarks on behalf of the four cities. Ms. Olore said that the earmark money will be divided four ways and that FDOT has already talked to the cities about enhancements. She said the project has received a number of earmarks, including a \$13 million earmark a year ago, in addition to the \$1.4 for Seminole County. The project recently received a \$40 million appropriation, as well. In all, about \$60 million has been appropriated for the project that will be applied to the Full Funding Grant Agreement. That represents a pretty significant commitment by the Federal Transit Administration, she said. Those earmarks will help pay for a lot of the right-of-way acquisition and Final Design costs.
 - i. Ms. Olore said that FDOT also plans to start work on the Operations and Maintenance procurement. Mr. Hammerle will be leading that effort.
- i. Right-of-Way acquisition
 - i. Debbie Lynch of FDOT's right-of-way group said that FDOT has one order of taking scheduled in Seminole County next week. Six additional OT hearings are to be scheduled. One, possibly two, OT's may be contested by opposing counsel. FDOT does have agreements on 7 parcels, and one is getting ready to close. Three other parcels are waiting on appraisal updates. Once that's done, FDOT will work on a negotiated settlement. Six additional corridor

parcels were added last week to clean up title on track crossings. Ms. Lynch said that FDOT is working aggressively to complete acquisition requirements.

- ii. Ms. Olore said that ROW acquisition should be complete by the end of October.
- j. Station coordination
 - i. Ms. Olore said that station plans are undergoing internal FDOT review to make sure they are ready for construction bid documents. A station meeting also is scheduled with Orange County. Pending review, FDOT is pretty much 100 percent complete on station designs.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Committee comments

- a. Mr. Marcotte asked about the status of the Amtrak Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Hammerle said that FDOT is working through those issues, and that a delegation of senior FDOT personnel recently met with Amtrak in Washington D.C. We heard back that the meeting was positive and FDOT looks forward to hashing out an agreement, Mr. Hammerle said.
- b. Mr. Marcotte asked whether subordination agreements are directly connected to acquiring the right-of-way. Ms. Lynch asked whether he was speaking about the crossing parcels. Mr. Marcotte said that in Winter Park, one donation and subordination agreements for three different crossings are required. He said that the city attorney was going to review and send something within the next couple of days.
- c. Mr. Neiswender said that it would be helpful for TAC members to get a general briefing on how different rail projects will interface, what needs to be done, and how best to coordinate so that local governments can get proactively involved at possible re-routings.
- d. Mr. Harrison concurred and asked that a briefing be held at the next TAC meeting.
- e. Mr. Hammerle said that he and Mr. Haddad recently talked about keeping one another abreast of what's going on with rail projects in the state.
- f. Mr. Neiswender said that we want to look up to High Speed Rail, but we also need to make sure that we're coordinating with LYNX and VoTran. He said it would be helpful for LYNX and VoTran to give TAC members an update on future connectivity plans. He said there are new buses associated with Phase I of SunRail operations, and requested a general update on connectivity options. Now that station plans are complete, he said, local governments need to focus on interface issues, including pedestrian walkways, bike access and bus access.
- g. Mr. Harrison said he felt it would be appropriate for TAC members to get a refresher on the number of new buses planned and any potential route adjustments.

- h. Ms. Olore said that FDOT is working on that coordination now. Bus planning team members are here working with LYNX, going through route by route. Last time we did that was in 2007. A meeting is scheduled with LYNX tomorrow to talk about what the technical planners have developed. She noted that SunRail will not begin operations for another two-plus years, so FDOT will have to continually work with LYNX as LYNX modifies and updates its bus routes. She said that FDOT is also meeting with LYNX every other month to ensure coordination with ticket vending machines.
- i. Mr. Harrison asked if a March 3 briefing was possible.
- j. Ms. Olore said she would make every effort to make sure that happens.
- k. Mr. Harrison said he understood that all the answers may not be available, but that an update and overview would be fine.
- l. Mr. Neiswender said he presumed that similar discussions were being held with VoTran in Volusia County.
- m. Ms. Olore said that FDOT met with VoTran after the last TAC meeting to have those discussions.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- 1. Ms. Joanne Cournellis of Lake Mary said she wanted to thank President Barack Obama for getting SunRail and High Speed Rail. I also like it when we have the buses running so that none of us get stranded, she said. And we need to get the train at daytime, as well as at night.
- 2. Mr. Neiswender said that trains are initially scheduled in the morning and afternoon with fill-in routes during the day. Once that's up and running, we'll see how the rest of it goes.

NEXT MEETING

- 1. Review of next meeting date
 - a. The next meeting date was set for 1:30 p.m. March 3, 2010 at the FDOT Orlando Urban Offices, 133 South Semoran Blvd., Orlando, FL

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.