

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2009

1. Call To Order: Vice Chairman Stephen Norris called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am EST on November 19th 2009 at the Apalachicola Courthouse Annex, Apalachicola, Florida.

Members Present:

Stephen K. Norris/Vice-Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery/Secretary/Treasurer

T.W. Maurice Langston

James F. Anders, II

Cheryl K. Sanders

Ashton J. Hayward, III

Robert E McGill, III

J. Carey Scott, III

Jason Alderman with FDOT

Staff Present: Mike Duncan, General Counsel

Members Absent:

2. Welcome Vice Chairman Norris welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Apalachicola, Florida.

General Counsel, Mike Duncan, stated the new vacancy for the NFTCA Secretary/Treasurer position.

Motion by Cheryl Sanders To appoint James Anders as NFTCA Secretary/Treasurer
Second by Stephen Norris
Approved 8-0

General Counsel, Mike Duncan, recommended that the Board may want to consider officer rotations and terms. Chairman Montgomery recommended two year rotations. Mr. Duncan stated a resolution would be drafted and presented at the next board meeting for adoption.

Mr. Bob McGill inquired if the Board had adopted bylaws for the duties of the NFTCA Officers. Mr. Duncan responded that nothing was officially drafted, but that an orientation session would be presented to the Board regarding an overview of the Florida Sunshine Laws. Chairman Montgomery recommended scheduling a meeting to go over the Sunshine Laws as soon as possible.

Motion by Cheryl Sanders To authorize the draft of a letter to former Chairman Randall McElheney thanking him for his years of service to the NFTCA.
Second by Stephen Norris Would also like to add letter to former member Eddie Dixon
Approved 8-0

E. Approval of US 98 Franklin County Invoice No. 143070-H for \$114,400.33

Motion by Cheryl Sanders To approve Invoice Item E
Second by Maurice Langston
Approved 8-0

F. Approval of US 98 Franklin County Invoice No. 150438-H for \$78,000.23

Motion by Cheryl Sanders To approve Invoice Item F
Second by Stephen Norris
Approved 8-0

G. Discussion/Vote 2010 Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. James Anders mentioned that the FDOT Executive Board meets on the third Thursday of each month, therefore limiting the amount of participation of the FDOT Secretary at the NFTCA Board Meetings. Mr. Anders inquired if the NFTCA could schedule the board meetings at a date. A recommendation was made to move the NFTCA meetings from the third Thursday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month, except the Month of November 2010 due to the Thanksgiving Day holiday. The 2010 scheduled dates and locations were read out loud before the board and public for decision.

Motion by Bob Montgomery To approve 2010 Board Meeting Schedule

Second by Bob McGill
Approved 8-0

H. Introduction of the new NFTCA website design (Informational Item Only)

Mr. Ray Reissener introduced the new draft website design to the Board Members, and included website design handouts for board member review. This item will be discussed and voted on at a later board meeting.

I. West Bay Bypass Presentation by PBS&J (Informational Item Only)

Mr. Hugh Williams and Ms. Rosemary Woods from PBS&J gave a presentation to the Board regarding the West Bay Parkway project, and provided informational project maps during their presentation.

Public Comments:

Mr. Frank Vendible, Eastpoint, introduced himself and stated that the NFTCA is trying to justify their existence. Mr. Vendible commented that the NFTCA should not put any roads behind Eastpoint, and asked what proof existed that public comment had been relayed to the Legislature. Mr. Reissener responded that the same question had been presented numerous times and responded that the Board had initially looked at Option Four on the Master Plan and has documented that a road there is not needed. Since there has been a documented process determining no need for a road on Option Four, the Board has since removed that alternative from the Master Plan. The Master Plan then goes to the Legislature. Mr. Reissener responded that public comments are included in the Master Plan, which is sent to the Legislature.

Mr. Bob McGill thanked Mr. Vendible for his comments.

Mr. Vendible responded that he was not finished with his comments, and further stated to the Board that they are to not relocate US98 through North Bay Shore Drive. Mr. Vendible commented that he was still waiting on a response that all public comments are relayed to the Legislature.

Ms. Cheryl Sanders responded to Mr. Vendible that she has personally conveyed to the Legislature the wishes of Franklin County residents.

Ms. Linda Young commented that the public is interested in the issues facing the NFTCA and that she would like to see the Board consider establishing a citizen advisory committee. Ms. Young asked the Board to consider placing on the next meeting agenda an item to discuss establishing a citizen advisory committee. Ms. Young also commented that she would like to volunteer to serve on that committee.

Chairman Montgomery responded to Ms. Young that an advisory committee was definitely worth discussing in further detail, and that another idea would be to do a county-by-county

advisory committee. Ms. Young responded that she would like to see people from all of the different counties in a single advisory committee talking together.

Ms. Cheryl Sanders asked Mr. Reissener to include the advisory committee item on the next meeting agenda.

Ms. Young commented that she has seen expanded efforts to include public involvement.

Mr. Andy Smith asked Mr. Reissener how far along the US 98, Franklin County Project, was. Mr. Reissener responded that US 98 was a few months short of the scoping process. Mr. Reissener also commented that the North/South connectors would be separated from the project. Mr. Smith inquired if the Franklin County project was approximately 86% complete in the month of September. Mr. Reissener responded that the project was not 86% complete, but rather the task, and that each project usually contained multiple task orders.

Mr. Smith inquired if when submitting the PD&E Study to the different agencies, when the public would be able to view the report. Mr. Nick Arnio responded that once the Class of Action was complete, the FDOT would issue a Notice of Intent, and all information would be made available to the public.

Mr. Smith commented that there have been problems with the North/South connectors, and he'd like to see solutions to the issues that are currently arising.

Ms. Leslie Cox, a Green Guide, commented that they are very concerned with any roads or transportation issues. Ms. Cox noted that some confusion is coming from the Project Priority List – a new section of US 98 is being proposed as a priority on the list.

Ms. Cheryl Sanders commented that a new road is not needed.

Ms. Gathonia Parmados expressed appreciation for Board Member Cheryl Sanders and commented that she did not believe that Franklin County had an evacuation problem, but rather a problem with post flooding damage. Ms. Parmados suggested that US 319 to “the river” should be looked at. She urged the Authority to step back from relocating US 98 and instead concentrate on the areas with heavy flood activity.

Ms. Cheryl Sanders stated that there was recent heavy rain which caused flooding issues near the 10-Mile line. She requested that area of road be addressed. Mr. Jason Alderman with the Florida Department of Transportation responded that he was not aware of the problem in that area and requested Ms. Sanders have someone contact him so he could look further into the problem.

Mr. Allen Pierce stated his appreciation for the Authority and the work they have been doing, and commented that problems are evident when trying to come back into Franklin County after hurricane evacuations. Mr. Pierce pointed out that US 98 through Franklin County is now a National Scenic Byway. Mr. Pierce commented that he supported upgrading Highway 67, and recently after the hurricanes he found that much of US 98 in Franklin County was washed out.

Board Comments:

Mr. Jason Alderman with the Florida Department of Transportation announced the selection of Mr. Tommy Barfield to the position of FDOT District Three Secretary. Mr. Alderman also discussed the recent Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) meetings/workshops, and the addition of military bases to the SIS.

Mr. James Anders made a recommendation to take the NFTCA budget to the Legislature and inquired of Mr. Ray Reissener regarding this recommendation. Mr. Reissener encouraged the board to begin working together with other regional transportation planning organizations to see if they could come up with a joint funding mechanism. Chairman Montgomery stated that he would set up a meeting.

Mr. Anders inquired why the Eglin Bypass Project has been renamed to the Northwest Florida Bypass. Mr. Reissener responded the change was per United States Air Force request.

Mr. Bob McGill inquired if there would be a Sunshine issue with the NFTCA talking to other transportation planning bodies. General Counsel, Mike Duncan responded that individually there would be no problems, but when there were parties of two or more meeting that the meeting would need to be a public meeting and advertised according to Sunshine Law.

Mr. McGill asked how the NFTCA projects would tie into the Mid-Bay Bridge project in Okaloosa County, FL. Mr. Reissener responded that the Department of the Air Force was currently working with the Authority on that issue and that the corridors would work with the NFTCA Master Plan. Mr. McGill inquired if it would save money since the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority had already begun studies. Mr. Reissener stated that it would lower project costs.

Ms. Cheryl Sanders commented that there might be some funding available for Highway 67 in Franklin County, FL. She commented that she would like to have a letter of support to send to the Florida Department of Transportation in order to receive assistance on Alligator Point Road.

Motion by	Bob Montgomery	To write a letter of request for support to FDOT regarding the Alligator Point Road
Second by	James Anders	
Approved	8-0	

There was a Motion by Cheryl Sanders to Adjourn the Meeting

Motion by	Cheryl Sanders	To Adjourn the NFTCA Board Meeting
Second by	James Anders	
Approved	8-0	

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 EST