

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting Minutes

November 20, 2008

- 1. Call To Order**-Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:05am EST on November 20, 2008 at the Main Courthouse in Apalachicola, Florida.

Members Present:

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Jay Odom/Vice Chairman

Eddie Dixon

James Anders

Stephen Norris

Maurice Langston – via conference call in

Jason Alderman with FDOT

Staff Present:

Nick Beninate, General Counsel

Members Absent:

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer, Cheryl Sanders

- 2. Welcome** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority meeting in Apalachicola, Florida.

- 3. Approval of Minutes** Monthly Meeting September 18, 2008.

Motion by Jay Odom To approve minutes as amended.

Second by Eddie Dixon

Approved: 5-0

4. New Business

A. Status Report on Franklin County

Mr. Reissener began discussion of current status of Franklin County project. Numerous questions arose from public regarding alternate road routes. Numerous public comments arose. Mr. Randall McElheney called the meeting to order.

B. Status Report on Eglin Bypass

Mr. Jay Odom discussed Eglin Bypass routes and described project detail and affected communities. Discussion of alignments began with an update on the current status on the environmental process. Mr. Odom discussed that the Eglin Bypass project would be a toll road and that discussion has been started with other agencies to find environmental solutions. Mr. Odom proposed to draft a resolution to commit a portion of future toll fund revenue, generated by Eglin Bypass traffic, to environmental concerns created by construction of the toll road.

Motion by Jay Odom To draft resolution to commit designated toll revenues

Second by Mr. James Anders

Approved 5-0

C. Approval of Revised Task Order #3

Mr. Ray Reissener gave explanation of Amendment to Revise Task Order #3

Motion by James Anders To approve Revised Task Order #3

Second by Stephen Norris

Approved 5-0

D. Invoice 46088-H

Objection by Pinki Jackel, Franklin County Commissioner District 1, to approve invoices for Franklin County project due to quorum concerns by Franklin County residents.

Mr. Jay Odom commented that out of abundance of caution invoices for Franklin County Florida would be tabled during this meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority.

Motion by Jay Odom To table Invoices No. **46088-H, 51425-H, 60568-H**

Second by Eddie Dixon

Approved 6-0

E. Invoice 51425-H

INVOICE TABLED

F. Invoice 60568-H

INVOICE TABLED

G. Invoice 60566-H

Motion by Stephen Norris To approve Invoice No. 60566-H

Second by Jay Odom

Approved 5-0

H. Approval of NFTCA Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2009

Mr. Stephen Norris inquired about central meeting location in order to alleviate traveling burden and rotate county locations on quarterly schedule.

Numerous public opposition of approving meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2009 due to physical absence of three Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority Board Members.

Mr. Jay Odom requested that the January 22, 2009 meeting be held in Panama City, Bay County, Florida in order to establish a revised meeting calendar.

Board Member Comments

Nick Beninate, General Counsel, discussed drafting A Resolution of The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority (NFTCA) Authorizing and Delegating Authority to the Executive Committee the Task of Approving Invoices; Repealing Previous Resolution to the Extent of Any Conflict; and Providing an Effective Date.

Motion by Eddie Dixon To approve drafting Resolution presented by Mr. Beninate

Second By Jay Odom

Approved 5-0

Public Comments

Gathana Parmenas: Involved in hazard mitigation planning in risk analysis. Stated that the regional hurricane study shows no problems with hurricane safety. Commented that post-hurricane is where the problems are. Would like to see data of why this is needed for safety.

Mary Mittiga, USFWS: Would like to know if this is going through the Department of Transportation approval process. Response was given by Mr. Ray Reissener that it was.

Leslie Cox: No build proponent. Disturbed with the considering of putting a road on Franklin County dune systems. Stated that the dune systems are home to endangered species and would like to see the road kept where it is. Ms Cox added that instead we should do shoreline restoration.

Paul Valkuchak: Found it curious that the divergent of US 98 was on a section of road that was never washed away. Mr. Valkuchak commented that the alternative did not make sense.

Merilyn (last name not given): Commented that it would be nice to ask the people who opposed the road to stand.

Mary Ann (last name not given): Your map is ludicrous. Proposed a better route. We don't want this to go through our homes.

Francyne Wells: How far does this go through North Bay Shore? Response to question was given by Mr. Jay Odom that none of these have been officially determined as of yet. Mr. Ray Reissener followed with explanation that the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority has been encouraged to show all alternatives to be either approved or disqualified.

Ms. Wells' final comment was that North Bay Shore was not equipped to handle the proposed options.

Andy Smith: Stated that Franklin County is concerned about this project. Would like to know if the next meeting would have schedule for public workshops and if alternatives would be shown. Mr. Ray Reissener commented that everything up to date would be presented. Mr. Smith asked what the cost would be for the Environmental Impact Study for Franklin County. Mr. Reissener responded the cost would be \$8 million estimated. Mr. Smith inquired if this was funded and what were the actual alternatives and actual process of making those decisions and the potential public impact. Mr. Ray Reissener responded that public impact and public opinion would have a huge impact on alternatives and the approval process, and in addition to all the environmental impacts, that economic and property impacts would be balanced as well. Mr. Jay Odom commented that this was the standard process to determine what to do, and that we have not made final decision yet. Mr. Ray Reissener commented that it is not a capacity issue but rather a safety issue, the only thing being addressed is regarding safety. Mr. Smith inquired about the absence of Board Member Cheryl Sanders. Mr. Reissener responded that Board Member Sanders was absent due to out of town meeting for League of County Commissioners.

Frank Vinnebol: Stated that he wants proof of where the comments of these citizens have been provided to the bosses of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority. Mr. Randall McElheney responded that the Governor was the boss and that information is passed. Mr. Vinnebol inquired if comments are communicated that the Franklin County residents do not want this road and that evacuation is not an issue. Mr. Vinnebol then read an article from USA Today and made a comment that this project has not gotten "personal". Mr. Reissener responded that an entire new road is not being proposed. Mr. Vinnebol asked, "Why come behind Eastpoint?" Mr. Reissener responded that it was only an alternative. Mr. McElheney explained that the Authority was only studying options due to road erosion during hurricanes, and that the goal was to improve conditions for the public citizens of Franklin County and that public input will be considered. Mr. Vinnebol responded that The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority should vacate Franklin County due to being outsiders. Mr. McElheney stated that Mr. Vinnebol's comments have been taken. Mr. Vinnebol responded that he would like to know where there is evidence of comments being presented to the government. Mr. Jay Odom responded that copies would be sent to the Speaker of the House. Mr. Vinnebol responded that he would like Ms. Pinki Jackel to receive a copy as well. Mr. Stephen Norris inquired what Mr. Vinnebol's suggested recommendations would be in order to find a solution to the road alternatives. Mr. Vinnebol suggested a 2-mile barrier be constructed. Mr. Norris responded that the Authority would look at those as well.

Joe Eckstein: Opposed to concept of hurricane relief road right passed his house. Would like to see it scrapped.

This Ended Public Comments for the Meeting Held November 20, 2009

Chairman McElheney stated that the next NFTCA Meeting would be: December 18, 2008

Chairman McElheney called to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Randall McElheney To adjourn the meeting.

Second by Jay Odom

Approved 5-0

The meeting adjourned at **11:26** EST