

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR
AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING
December 21, 2006

LOCATION: Franklin County Courthouse Annex, Apalachicola, FL

Members Present: Randall A. McElheney, Chairman
Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer
Eddie Dixon
James Anders
Stephen K. Norris
Cheryl K. Sanders
Maurice Langston
Denny Wood with FDOT for Edward Prescott

Staff Present: Mike Duncan, General Counsel

Members Absent: Jay Odom

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Call to Order-** Chairman Randall McElheney called the meeting to order at 10:00am. A quorum of 7 was in attendance.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance-**
3. **Welcome-** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Franklin County.
4. **Approval of Minutes-** Monthly Meeting on 11/16/06
Motion by Mr. Dixon: To approve the Minutes
Second by Mr. Montgomery
Approved 7-0
5. **Old Business**
 - A. Steve Wilson with HDR gave an update on the involvement with Eglin

AFB. He stated we were close to getting a letter from the Air Force granting conceptual approval for a new transportation facility to be located along the southern boundary of the base. Mr. Anders asked if SR 87 and US 331 would be connected to the Mid-Bay Bridge extension project. Mr. Wilson responded that the new facility on Eglin would connect to the Mid-Bay extension forming a continuous highway between SR 87 and US 331.

Mr. Montgomery asked about the time frame we were expecting approval from the Air Force. Steve Wilson replied we should be receiving a letter of approval in January 2007.

Mr. Dixon asked if it would fall in line with the Master Plan schedule. Mr. Wilson responded that it would fall in line and would be shown in the Master Plan Phase II presentation.

Chairman McElheney concluded discussion on old business.

6. New Business

A. Master Plan Phase II Status Report- Steve Wilson gave a status report on the Master Plan Phase II. He reported that as of November 30, 2006, the Master Plan development is 33.97 % complete and on schedule.

B. Approval of Invoices- Mr. Wilson presented the invoices from HDR, Inc. and Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Thompson & Duncan covering the period from November 1, 2006 to November 30, 2006. He requested approval of the invoices.

Motion by Mr. Dixon: To approve the invoices

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 7-0

C. Consideration of Task Orders #2 & #3- Steve Wilson presented Task Orders #2 and #3 to the board members. Mr. Wilson explained Task Order #2 would complete a corridor feasibility study evaluating the possible relocation of US 98 in Franklin County from Eastpoint to the Wakulla County line. He further explained that this project would use the recently approved TRIP funds through FDOT and that a JPA would need to be

executed between FDOT and the Authority before the work could begin. Task Order #3 would conduct a corridor feasibility study for a new transportation facility located on the Eglin Military Reservation between SR 87 and US 331. Funds for this study are currently available as part of the Phase II Master Plan under the JPA executed between the Authority and FDOT in August 2006. This task would not begin until the letter granting conceptual approval from the Air Force has been received.

Chairman McElheney asked Mr. Duncan to explain how the task orders work. Mr. Duncan explained that these task orders fall under the provisions of the engineering services contract already in place with HDR. He further explained that the Authority could advertise for one or both of these tasks to be completed by another consultant firm, but this would take several weeks to complete.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve Task Order # 2.

Second by Mr. Langston

Approved 7-0

Motion by Mr. Anders: To approve Task Order # 3.

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 7-0

Mr. Duncan stated the Board needed to make a motion to grant Chairman McElheney the authority to sign the JPA for the Franklin County TRIP funds.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To grant authority for chairman to sign the JPA.

Second by Mr. Dixon

Approved 7-0

E. Presentation – Draft Alternatives Development\Analysis-

Mr. Wilson introduced Rob Schiffer with Cambridge Systematics and Jason McGlashan with HDR. Mr. Wilson, Mr. Schiffer, and Mr. McGlashan then presented the results of the draft alternatives development and analysis. Mr. Wilson informed the Board that the primary purpose of the presentation was to update the Board on the work completed to date and to solicit Board input regarding the alternatives being considered. Five alternatives were

presented including four build alternatives and a no-build alternative. Preliminary results for travel times across the eight county region and hurricane evacuation times were also presented.

Mr. Wilson concluded the presentation and asked for input from the board members on any modifications or changes. Chairman McElheney responded by stating that this was a lot of information to digest at one time. He instructed the Board members to provide any comments or suggestions directly to HDR as soon as possible.

Mr. Wilson reiterated that in order to meet the established project schedule, the alternatives analysis will need to be completed by the end of January 2007. He further informed the Board that data such as costs and other performance measures would be reported to the Board at the January 2007 meeting as a continuation of this presentation.

Chairman McElheney stated that it would be valuable for him to know the time for traveling from Pensacola to Panama City or from Pensacola to Mexico Beach. He asked what speed limit was being used to evaluate the travel times. Jason McGlashan of HDR replied the travel time was based on a speed limit of 65mph. Chairman McElheney asked how Mr. McGlashan came up with this rate of speed. Mr. McGlashan answered that it was an average computed speed to include different roads, stop lights, etc.

Mr. Dixon asked what the time frame was before making final decisions on the Master Plan. Steve Wilson said the plan was to meet with the FDOT and TPO's in late January 2007. Public meetings will be scheduled in late February 2007 for the general public to review the information and provide comments in regard to the development of the Master Plan.

A final recommended plan would be presented to the Board for adoption at the March 2007 meeting.

Ms. Sanders stated there would be major environmental issues.

Mr. Wilson commented there would be significant environmental challenges especially in Gulf, Franklin and Wakulla counties.

Chairman McElheney asked about the status of costs and possible finance plans for the projects.

Mr. Wilson said the cost data would be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Norris commented it was important to look at all points regarding roadways in Gulf and Franklin counties. He stated there will be more traffic traveling from the East.

6. Public Comments- Chairman McElheney asked if there were any public comments.

1. Ms. Ann Maruszak of Alligator Point commented she really appreciated the availability of information for the public on the website and the website was a great improvement from the previous website.
2. Commissioner Ed Brinner of Wakulla County stated he would love to host a board meeting in Wakulla County and if there was anything he could do to assist in any way to please let him know.
3. Mr. Andy Smith of Apalachicola, FL stated he would like to look at all aspects of corridors and the variety of alternatives in each corridor.

Chairman McElheney announced the next meeting will be held on January 18, 2007, in Bay County at the Panama City Commission Chambers.

Motion by Mr. Dixon: To adjourn

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 7-0