

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

## Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2007

I. **Call To Order-** Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am on February 15, 2007, at the Panama City Commission Chambers in Panama City, Florida.

II. **Members Present:**

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Jay Odom, Vice-Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer

Eddie Dixon

James Anders

Stephen K. Norris

Maurice Langston

Cheryl Sanders

Denny Wood with FDOT

**Staff Present:** Mike Duncan, General Counsel

**Members Absent:**

III. **Pledge of Allegiance-**

IV. **Welcome-** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Panama City, Florida.

V. **Approval of Minutes from last meeting-** Monthly Meeting January 18, 2007.

Motion By Mr. Dixon: To approve the Minutes

Second By Mr. Norris

Approved 7-0

## **VI. Old Business**

- a) **Eglin Update-** Chairman McElheney announced receiving a letter from Eglin AFB approving in concept the evaluation of a new transportation corridor from SR 87 to US 331 located on Eglin property generally following the southern boundary of the reservation. He also stated there would be a meeting with the new General at Eglin AFB on Friday, February 23, 2007.

## **VII. New Business**

- a) **Master Plan Phase II Status Report-** Mr. Ray Reissener gave a status report on The Master Plan Phase II. He reported that as of January 31, 2007, the Master Plan development is 67.85% complete and on schedule.
- b) **Approval of Invoices-** Mr. Ray Reissener presented the invoices from HDR, Inc. and Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Thompson and Duncan covering the period from January 1, 2007 to January 31, 2007. He requested approval of the invoices.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve Invoices  
Second by Mr. Langston  
Approved 7-0

- c) **Consideration of Resolution to allow the Chairman to sign an amendment to the existing JPA with the FDOT to include feasibility studies-** Mr. Duncan stated the Authority has already approved funding to conduct a feasibility study for the possible new highway corridor on the Eglin AFB. This amendment adds language to the existing JPA with FDOT to include conducting feasibility studies as part of the Master Plan development. Approval of the Resolution was requested.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve Resolution 07-03  
Second by Mr. Dixon  
Approved 7-0

- d) **Consideration of Resolution to allow the Chairman to sign a JPA with the FDOT to convey funds for the corridor feasibility study in Franklin County after minor adjustments are made in the language-** Denny Wood with the FDOT stated the funds were approved for the project. Mr. Duncan commented only minor changes were needed in the insurance language of the Resolution. Chairman McElheney confirmed this is an important project and well deserved for safety improvement and hurricane evacuation. He also commended the FDOT for providing funds for the project. Approval of the Resolution was requested.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve Resolution  
Second by Mr. Langston  
Approved 7-0

- e) **Consideration of Resolution to allow the Chairman to sign a JPA with the FDOT to undertake design and right-of-way for Gulf to Bay segment 3-** Mr. Duncan stated that the problem with the Resolution was no exemption to matching funds of \$5,000,000.00. He also stated the land agreement with St. Joe was not complete and recommended the Resolution be tabled. No action was taken at this time.
- f) **Consideration of Resolution to Designate US 98 as a SIS Facility-** Mr. Ray Reissener stated more funding would be available with the SIS designation, however the level of service (LOS) standards and concurrency requirements would increase. He recommended not to pass the resolution. Mr. Duncan requested input from the FDOT. Denny Wood stated the FDOT agreed with the assessment. He also said this does not prohibit change in the future. Several board members agreed. Mr. James Anders asked how this impacted fund matching. Mr. Wood replied it would be more costly and more of a burden to developers due to higher LOS requirement. No action was taken at this time.
- g) **Master Plan Public Meeting Presentation-** Ray Reissener discussed the schedule for the four public meeting workshops. He requested at a minimum that the board members attend the meeting in their own county but all members were welcome at these meetings. Mr. Montgomery asked if these meetings were being advertised. He suggested there be a Press Release. Mr. Reissener replied he would check into doing that. Ms. Sanders asked how HDR would respond to individual alignments. Mr. Reissener responded that this was a Master Plan and alignments were not established at this time, but HDR would take information under advisement. Mr. Duncan reminded the board members of the Sunshine rules on talking among themselves about this project or anything that may be voted on. The presentation was played for the board and was well received. Mr. Reissener stated that copies of the presentation would be provided to all board members.
- h) **Presentation-** Jason McGlashan with HDR Engineering, Inc. gave a recap of the 4 alternatives from January's board meeting. He proceeded with presenting the revised drafts of the 4 alternatives showing changes and improvements. After presenting the revised alternatives, the board began discussion. Mr. Norris commented that the goal is to improve highway 98. Mr. Odom stated highway 98 and alternate routes needed to be combined to meet goals. Mr. Anders stated we need to work on the timing so that we don't lose out on options. Mr. Norris asked if HDR will be bringing one alternative to the next board meeting. Jason McGlashan replied it would be one alternative but it would include the best of the best. Mr. Montgomery asked if the board

should have a meeting before the scheduled board meeting on March 15, 2007. Mr. Reissener responded he would like to meet one on one or have a teleconference with all board members. He stated it was necessary for a successful alternative decision.

Chairman McElheney stated things would be based on the financing. He also said the NFTCA should not limit the goals at this time.

Chairman McElheney introduced Mr. Larry Kelley with the FDOT. He asked Mr. Kelley to look into reimbursement for the board members for their travel to the meetings. Mr. Kelley replied he would check into that request.

**VIII. Public Comments** - No public comments were made.

Chairman McElheney announced the next NFTCA meeting will be held on March 15, 2007 at 10:00 am CST in Escambia County at Gulf Power.

Chairman McElheney adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.

Motion by Mr. Dixon: To adjourn

Second by Mr. Norris

Approved 7-0