

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

## Meeting Minutes

February 19<sup>th</sup> 2009

1. Call To Order-Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am CST on February 19, 2009 at the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

### **Members Present:**

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Jay Odom/Vice Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer

Eddie Dixon

Cheryl Sanders

James Anders

Stephen Norris

Jason Alderman with FDOT

### **Staff Present:**

Mike Duncan, General Counsel

Nick Beninate, General Counsel

### **Members Absent:**

Maurice Langston

2. **Welcome** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.
3. **Approval of Minutes** Monthly Meeting January 22, 2009.

**Motion by Jay Odom** To approve minutes as amended.  
**Second by Eddie Dixon**  
**Approved: 7-0**

#### **4. New Business**

##### **A. Status Update on US 98 Franklin County**

Mr. Ray Reissener gave a status update on US 98 Franklin County with discussion regarding Project Number 13 being put into the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) System. The US 98 Franklin County website is up and running. Everything is on schedule with the Franklin County project.

##### **B. Status Update on Eglin Bypass**

Mr. Jay Odom read letter from Hurlburt Field (see attached) and held brief discussion regarding the two-day Eglin Bypass working group meeting with public agencies, Eglin Air Force Base & the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority. Hurlburt Field conducted a route analysis and provided four route alternatives, with highest preference being routed in blue. These preliminary routes will now be sent back to the Eglin working group participants to seek approval. Eglin Air Force Base's conceptual alignment has been agreed to. The next step in the Eglin Bypass project is the Environmental Impact Statement.

##### **C. Advertise for Environmental Impact Study (EIS) on Eglin AFB**

Mr. Ray Reissener suggested advertising Eglin Air Force Base in order to federalize the project, allowing use of federal funds. Chairman McElheney expressed support of this suggestion. Vice Chairman Odom added to stipulate project numbers 18, 24 & 33 from the Master Plan with exemption of Mid-Bay Bridge. Legal Counsel gave recommendations regarding appropriate legal phrasing of project advertisement. Mr. Tommy Barfield with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) suggested executing a Local Agency Program (LAP) Agreement and giving Chairman McElheney authorization to execute said agreement. Mr. Barfield stated that the FDOT would make the legal advertisement.

**Motion By**     **Vice Chairman Odom**             To Approve Advertising for EIS  
**Second By**    **Stephen Norris**  
**Approved**      **7-0**

Mr. Eddie Dixon mentioned the possibility of funding issues with advertising. Mr. Tommy Barfield with FDOT stated that advertising would be paid for by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

#### **D. Master Plan Project Websites**

Board members heard discussion on possible project website domain name registrations. Suggestions were made to modify the 30A project website name to 30E. Board members commented that the list was satisfactory, but would like to wait to reserve domain names until funding is received. Board members requested that existing sites be linked to the master site.

#### **Unsolicited Proposal from Moving US 331 Forward, LLC**

Chairman McElheney announced the receipt of an unsolicited proposal from Moving US 331 Forward, LLC. Legal Counsel, Mike Duncan discussed Florida Statutes Chapter 343, authorizing the NFTCA to receive such unsolicited proposals and discussed legal requirements for advertising the proposal stating that the proposal must be advertised within 60 days in order to allow other offers to receive equal consideration. Advertisements must be run in the Florida Administrative Weekly and local newspapers and the Board may choose to accept or reject submittals after the 60 day time period. Mr. Duncan stated that the Authority will adopt the standard Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) fee of \$50,000 for review of the proposal or any following. HDR Engineering confirmed \$50,000 standard as a starting point. Mr. James Anders asked if any other Corridor Authorities have ever went through this process. Legal Counsel, Mike Duncan stated that they had, as his office has confirmed the process with the Florida Department of Transportation. Vice Chairman Odom read aloud the letter/proposal and proposed responsibility for public outreach to be held by company bidding. Lole Clairry (current FL Assistant Transportation Secretary) and Denver Stutly (former FL Transportation Secretary) requested the advertisement and specific proposals in order to take to other stakeholders. Dawn \_\_\_\_\_ with the Chamber of Commerce offered assistance with the Town Hall meetings.

**Motion By**     **Eddie Dixon**     To Adopt the FDOT fee structure for review of unsolicited Proposals

**Second By**     **Jay Odom**  
**Approved**     **7-0**

Vice Chairman Odom commented that the Authority should move forward as quickly as possible. Legal Counsel, Mike Duncan stated that his office would provide a letter discussing fees to Moving US 331 Forward, LLC. The Authority would handle the legal advertising.

**Motion By**     **Cheryl Sanders**             for NFTCA Attorney to send letter to Walton County Commissioners

**Second By**     **Jay Odom**  
**Approved**     **7-0**

**Motion By Cheryl Sanders** for NFTCA to send Moving US 331 Forward, LLC a Letter of fee structure and all associated details regarding advertising the proposal

**Second By James Anders**  
**Approved 7-0**

**Motion By Jay Odom** to Advertise in accordance with FL Statute once fees are obtained

**Second By Robert Montgomery**  
**Approved 7-0**

Chairman McElheney stated that the next NFTCA Meeting would be:

Chairman McElheney called to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion by Jay Odom** : To adjourn the meeting.

**Second by Robert Montgomery**

**Approved 7-0**

The meeting adjourned at 11:05am CST

**Executive Committee Meeting Immediately Following**