

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2007

I. **Call To Order-** Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am on March 15, 2007, at Gulf Power in Pensacola, Florida.

II. **Members Present:**

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Jay Odom, Vice-Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer

Eddie Dixon

James Anders

Stephen K. Norris

Cheryl Sanders

Tommy Barfield with FDOT

Staff Present: Mike Duncan, General Counsel

Members Absent: Maurice Langston

III. **Pledge of Allegiance-**

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

V. **Approval of Minutes from last meeting-** Monthly Meeting February 15, 2007.

Motion by Mr. Dixon: To approve the Minutes

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 6-0

VI. Old Business

- a) **Eglin Update-** Chairman McElheney stated a meeting was held with the General and staff at Eglin AFB. He said the General was in favor of the Corridor. During the meeting they reviewed 17 stipulations in managing this portion of the corridor. Tommy Barfield said the FDOT will be getting the SR 87 easement from Eglin this week.

VII. 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 February 28, 2007, the Master Plan development is 79.40% complete and on schedule.
- b) **Approval of Invoices-** Steve Wilson presented the invoices from HDR, Inc. and Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Thompson and Duncan covering the period from February 1, 2007 to February 28, 2007. He requested approval of the invoices.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve Invoices

Second by Mr. Dixon

Approved 6-0

- c) **Time Order #1 Time Extension-** Steve Wilson informed the Authority that the end date for Task Order #1 is March 15, 2007. Work will continue on this task under the current scope and fee until the Master Plan is sent to the legislature for approval. Given the deadline for submission to the legislature is July 1, 2007, Mr. Wilson proposed changing the end date to July 1, 2007. Mr. Duncan advised the Authority to grant the chairman the authority to send a letter to HDR changing task order end date to July 1, 2007.
- d) **Master Plan Public Meetings Report-** Steve Wilson with HDR gave a report on the public involvement effort to date regarding the development of the Master Plan. The report primarily focused on the recently held four public workshops. Mr. Wilson stated that the majority of comments were in opposition to a new bridge connecting Wright Parkway to Ft. Walton Beach. He also reported that a number of comments were received voicing concern over impacts to existing communities and neighborhoods. Also, primarily in the eastern counties, environmental concerns have been expressed regarding impacts to existing public lands and the Apalachicola River.
- e) **Presentation – Master Plan Recommendation-** Steve Wilson with HDR presented the recommended Master Plan. He identified the individual projects that would comprise the plan. Jason McGlashan with HDR gave a report on

the performance measures for the Master Plan comparing the results with the previously reported results for the four alternatives that have been developed.

The Authority discussed the need to not take any action on the plan at this meeting in order to grant additional time for the public and other agencies to review and comment on the recommended plan. Formal action on the plan would be taken at a special Authority meeting to allow for dialogue with the legislature during its current session which ends in late April.

Mr. Tommy Barfield with FDOT pointed out that prior to adopting its transportation plans an advertised public hearing is conducted. Authority Counsel Mike Duncan pointed out that he had researched the provisions of Chapter 120 and in his opinion adopting the Master Plan did not fall under Chapter 120. However, to err on the side of safety, he suggested the Authority notice the special meeting as a public hearing. Mr. Duncan agreed to develop the requisite language for advertisement of the public hearing.

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To extend public comment deadline to March 29, 2007 and hold a special public hearing on April 5, 2007 in Panama City, FL
Second by Mr. Montgomery
Approved 6-0

VIII. Public Comments -

1. Andy Smith-Director of Apalachicola Riverkeepers. Stated that two weeks was a quick turn around time for public comments. He requested to extend the comment period 1 week to April 05, 2007 and have a special meeting on April 12, 2007. He stated his main concern was the Apalachicola area and he was looking forward to hearing about the individual projects and how the public involvement will transpire.
2. Phillip Babiak- Destin, FL- Mr. Babiak commented the proposed corridor through the Destin, Florida area needs to provide relief for through traffic by providing an alternate route. He stated during a hurricane evacuation each County needs a north-south four-laned corridor to accommodate evacuation traffic. He expressed his concern over the proposed master Plan and felt the proposed projects failed to address his concerns.
3. Ellen Roston- Pensacola, Florida. Ms. Roston commented there has not been enough time for public input. She made references to the website stating there were no Biographies for the board members. She also stated that the public

comments should be posted on the website for the public to view others comments.

4. Linda Young- Clean Water Network of Florida. Ms. Young stated two weeks was not enough time for public input, even three weeks was not enough. She commented if the board cared about the public comments more time would be given. She said the public should be given at least 30 days minimum. In addition, the project plans were going too fast.
5. Mike Anderson- Mayor of Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. Mr. Anderson stated the more time was needed for public review. His primary concern was the planned six-laning at the Brooks Bridge in Ft. Walton Beach.

Motion by Mr. Dixon: To adjourn

Second by Mr. Norris

Approved 6-0

Chairman McElheney adjourned the meeting at 11:25AM.