

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes

April 05, 2007

I. **Call To Order-** Chairman McElheney called to order the public hearing meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am on April 5, 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

Cheryl Sanders

Maurice Langston

Larry Kelley with FDOT

Staff Present: Mike Duncan, General Counsel

Members Absent: All members present

III. **Pledge of Allegiance-**

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

V. New Business

- a) **Task Order No. 4 Public Outreach-** Steve Wilson stated the scope of work was completed to date. Mike Duncan asked if the Task Order covered the legislative meetings which were required. Steve replied some meetings had already taken place but it did cover legislative meetings.

Steve Wilson requested approval of Task Order #4.

Motion by Mr. Norris: To approve Task Order # 4.

Second by Mr. Montgomery

Approved 7-0

Steve gave an overview of the two week extended time frame for public comments through March 29, 2007. He stated there were a total of 252 comments received. Steve said there was a lot of the concern from the public regarding the location of the lines on the maps. He stated in order to conduct traffic modeling, you have to come up with approximate geographical locations. He said the next level of studies would go into much more detail and the “No Build” alternative would still be an option. Mike Duncan recommended adding language on the maps to indicate the lines were approximate locations only. Steve replied there would be no problem adding the language to the maps. He also stated this plan is dynamic and not set in stone. He said things can change throughout the process of the plan. Mike Duncan stated it is required by the legislature to update the plan each year. He recommended a motion be made to add the language to the maps.

Motion by Mr. Anders: To include language on the maps.

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 7-0

Jay Odom stated he had received many comments about the Okaloosa area, specifically Okaloosa Island. He recommended requesting all data and studies from the Emerald Coast Bridge Authority on any project involving Hwy 98 and Wright Parkway Bridge and that data be incorporated with future studies. He motioned to place a footnote in the project table of information that the previous studies would be utilized in any activity including Highway 98 in Okaloosa County.

Motion by Mr. Odom: To include a footnote on the project table that previous studies would be utilized.

Second by Mr. Langston

Approved 7-0

Mr. Montgomery asked if the website would be updated. Steve replied the map of the Recommended Master Plan would be posted on the website.

Mr. Anders expressed concerns about the Bridge in at Gulf Coast Parkway. He stated the alignment varies from all other alignments. He requested to show the alignment going back to Highway 386 from Gulf Coast Parkway.

Motion by Mr. Anders: To show alignments going back to Highway 386 from Gulf Coast Parkway.

Second by Mr. Odom

Approved 7-0

Mr. Norris submitted Resolution No: 2007-04 to the Authority from the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners that states the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners seek to protect navigation on Wetappo Creek from being obstructed or blocked entirely by the erection of low bridges or any other obstruction that would limit the use of Wettapo Creek during times of hurricanes or other inclement weather as has been its history.

- b) **Public Hearing** – Chairman McElheney began the Public hearing at 10:20am to provide the public an opportunity to make comments on the Recommended Master Plan. There were 19 citizens who made comments. The public comments may be received by request. All requests should be submitted on our website at www.nwftca.com or by email to denise.curry@hdrinc.com. The public hearing concluded at 11:40 am.

Chairman McElheney adjourned the meeting for a 10 minute break at 11:40am and proceeded with the meeting at 11:50am.

- c) **Master Plan Phase II** – The Authority began discussion on the Recommended Master Plan. Jay Odom stated the FDOT is on board with the Master Plan and they had control for the first six months of the Master Plan development. He said he was glad to see the turn out of the public. He also stated that all the projects are a long term process and are mandated to be evaluated each year. He said the plan may look different from year to year. He also said the board will do the very best job they can and hopes the public understands that nothing will be done until studies are done. He stated this plan was a starting point and there is no simple solution to any problems. Mr. Odom said the board looks forward to everyone being involved throughout the process.

Mr. Odom also stated the board wants to be involved with The Fish & Wildlife Organization and to work with the ETDM Water Management. He said he wants the public to be aware that the Authority must comply with to the same laws and regulations as the FDOT.

Mr. Anders stated the reason the Authority was here is to solve transportation problems. He said it was a desire to meet or exceed the time frame for the plan.

Motion by Mr. Norris: To adopt the Recommended Master Plan with the stated amendments incorporated.

Second by Mr. Langston

Approved 7-0

Motion by Ms Sanders: To adjourn.

Second by Mr. Dixon

Approved 7-0

Chairman McElheney adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.