

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2008

1. **Call To Order-** Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am CDT on June 19, 2008 at Troy University in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

Members Present:

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer

Eddie Dixon

James Anders

Cheryl Sanders

Maurice Langston

Jason Alderman with FDOT

Staff Present: Mike Duncan, General Counsel

Members Absent: Jay Odom, Stephen Norris

2. **Welcome-** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

3. **Approval of Minutes-** Monthly Meeting March 20, 2008.

Chairman McElheney requested that item number 4 of the public comments in the March minutes be amended from stating:

“Chairman McElheney stated he has affiliation with members of Preble-Rish, Inc. and Preble-Rish is a sub-consultant to HDR on this project, therefore it could be considered that Chairman McElheney could benefit from PRI’s profits.”

To: “Chairman McElheney stated he owns real estate with some of the owners of Preble-Rish, Inc. and Preble-Rish, Inc. is a sub-consultant to HDR on the Franklin County project. To be cautious, Chairman McElheney abstained from voting because it is possible that this relationship could be considered a conflict with regard to the vote. He further stated he would submit Form 8B, “Memorandum of voting conflict for County, municipal, and other local public officers”, to HDR to add to the public record.

”

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve minutes as amended.

Second by Mr. Dixon

Approved: 6-0

4. New Business –

A. Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) Update

Mr. Reissener stated that the FTC requested that the Board Members receive refresher training on the 120 process and the Florida Sunshine Laws.

Mr. Duncan stated that he had the refresher training prepared and requested that a 20-minute seminar type training be added to the agenda for next months meeting.

B. 2008 Master Plan revisions

Mr. Reissener briefed the following changes to the 2008 Master Plan:

i. SR 87 would be continuously 4-laned from the Eglin Bypass (Project 18) north to Interstate 10.

ii. SR 85 4-laning would continue south to the Eglin Bypass (Project 24).

iii. The north/south routes: SR 65, CR 67 & 370, and US 319 in Franklin County would be included.

There were no comments by the board members.

C. Status Report on Task #2, Franklin County Corridor Study-

Mr. Arnio gave a brief slide presentation and project update. He stated that there was a Public Alternatives Meeting held in Carrabelle, FL on April 23rd. The outcome of the Corridor Analysis, in brief, was that the flood prone portions of the north/south routes should be included and HDR should consider several different alternatives that “Improve the Existing” roadway including; offshore break waters, live beach renurishment, and raising the roadway above the Category 2 storm surge where needed.

Ms. Sanders stated that she had received positive public comments based on the April 23rd meeting. Ms. Sanders also stated that if HDR must look at alternatives to the north of existing US 98, they should look south of the existing power line. She also said that Franklin County has applied for TRIP funding for improvements to the Crooked River Bridge on CR 67 in Franklin County.

Ms. Sanders asked if the Bald Point area was added to the 2008 Master Plan for improvements for hurricane evacuation.

Mr. Reissener state yes.

Ms. Sanders stated she had received a letter from members of the Magnolia Bluffs Homeowners Association in Eastpoint and they are opposed to relocating US 98 north through Eastpoint on the existing N. Bay Shore Drive.

Mr. Langston asked if Tate's Hell State Forest would be impacted.

Mr. Reissener stated that based on meetings with State and local agencies, the impacts to the forest would be too great.

D. Status Report on Task #3, Eglin Corridor Study-

Mr. Reissener gave an update on the Eglin Corridor Study. He stated that HDR is currently looking at corridors that would avoid and minimize impacts to the Flat Wood Salamander habitat on the southern boundary of Eglin A.F.B. He stated that HDR is currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife in regards to the salamander impacts.

Mr. McElheney read a letter from Mr. Bob Arnold about the current status of the Eglin Bypass. The letter is attached.

Mr. Dixon asked if copies of the maps and presentations were available.

Mr. Reissener stated that HDR would provide hard copies upon request and that they were also available online at www.nwftca.com.

E. Authorize Task Order #5 for US 98 in Franklin County

Mr. Reissener explained that Task Order #5 would be the Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for US 98 in Franklin County. He explained that the Joint Project Agreement (JPA) would be necessary for the TRIP funding for the project. Mr. Reissener stated that the FDOT District 3 TRIP funds were cut by 60% this year, so the funding for this project was cut in half.

Mr. Alderman stated that he was working with Mr. Reissener to rework the scope of the project to fit the budget by extending the schedule and developing milestones.

Mr. Reissener proposed that Mr. McElheney be allowed to sign the JPA and approve the scope when an agreement was made by FDOT and HDR.

Mr. Duncan requested that Mr. Odem sign the JPA because of the possible conflict with Mr. McElheney and the owners of Preble-Rish (sub-consultant to HDR) whom he owns property with.

Motion by Mr. Langston: To allow Mr. Odem to sign the JPA when approved by FDOT.

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 5-0

Abstained 1 (McElheney)

Chairman McElheney stated he owns real estate with some of the owners of Preble-Rish, Inc. and Preble-Rish, Inc. is a sub-consultant to HDR on the Franklin County project. To be cautious, Chairman McElheney abstained from voting because it is possible that this relationship could be considered a conflict with regard to the vote. He further stated he would submit Form 8B, "Memorandum of voting conflict for County, municipal, and other local public officers", to HDR to add to the public record.

F. Approval of Invoices Task #2, Franklin County, Invoice No. 11246-H for March 2008, Invoice No. 17113-H for April 2008, and Invoice No. 23264-H for May 2008- Chairman McElheney abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

Motion by Mr. Dixon: To approve Invoice No. 11246-H for March 2008, Invoice No. 17113-H April 2008, and Invoice No. 23264-H for May

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 5-0

Abstained 1 (McElheney)

Chairman McElheney stated he owns real estate with some of the owners of Preble-Rish, Inc. and Preble-Rish, Inc. is a sub-consultant to HDR on the Franklin County project. To be cautious, Chairman McElheney abstained from voting because it is possible that this relationship could be considered a conflict with regard to the vote. He further stated he would submit Form 8B, "Memorandum of voting conflict for County, municipal, and other local public officers", to HDR to add to the public record.

G. Approval of Invoice Task #3, Eglin Bypass, Invoice No. 11247-H for March 2008, Invoice No. 17111-H for April 2008, and Invoice No. 23275-H for May- Chairman McElheney presented the invoice for Eglin Bypass Study Invoice No.11247-H for March 2008.

Motion by Mr. Anders: To approve Eglin Bypass Invoice No. 11247-H for March 2008, Invoice No. 17111-H for April 2008, and Invoice No. 23275-H for May.

Second by Mr. Langston

Approved 6-0

H. Approval of Invoice for Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Thompson, Duncan & Jackson, General Counsel, Account No. 110480 for March 2008, April 2008 and May 2008- Chairman McElheney presented the Invoice for Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Thompson, Duncan & Jackson, Invoice Account No.110480 for March 2008, April 2008 and May 2008.

Motion by Mr. Langston: To approve invoice for General Counsel, Invoice Account No. 110480 for March 2008, April 2008 and May 2008.

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 6-0

I. Approval of the remaining 2008 NFTCA Meeting Schedule-Meeting times will be at 10:00 am in the time zone of the meeting place (i.e. Crawfordville is Eastern Time).

Motion by Ms. Sanders: To approve the remaining 2008 meeting locations.

Second by Mr. Dixon

Approved 6-0

J. Board Member Comments-

1. Mr. McElheney explained that the FDOT's total annual budget has be cut nearly \$1.6 billion due to a decrease in gas consumption. He stated that the taxes from gas fund the FDOT and the improvements to our state roads.
2. Mr. Anders asked if Mr. Reissener could give a brief overview about the I-10 connector that has been proposed from Alabama to Panama City Beach.

Mr. Reissener explained that it was a private group from Alabama proposing to do the work. He stated that since they are a private entity, they do not have eminent domain. The project was a good idea to help alleviate the congestion of hurricane evacuation. because I-10 is so congested, He stated that he had been to the first Public Meeting, but not the second.

3. Ms. Sanders asked if Mr. Alderman could brief the Board Members on the status of US 331.

Mr. Alderman stated that the FDOT is currently working on 4-laning that road to the north. There is currently a bid out to 4-lane the existing bridge.

Mr. Reissener stated that the NFTCA's next two priorities for hurricane evacuation are US 331 and the Pensacola Bay Bridge.

K. Public Comments-

1. Ms. Nancy Model of the Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization spoke about the status of FDOT widening SR 87. She stated that there is a Feasibility Study upcoming
2. Mr. Chris Stahl of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection asked why the previous changes to Project 40 were not included in the 2008 Master Plan revisions.

Mr. McElheny stated that he has yet to speak with Mr. Davis about the use of his land, but there are negotiations ongoing. He stated that the Board is in favor of using the existing SR 20 Right-of-way to help Mr. Davis preserve his land. He also stated that he would let the Board know when a finalized agreement was achieved with Mr. Davis.

3. Mr. Stahl asked if US 319 was already in the FDOT 5-year work plan.

Mr. Tommy Barfield of FDOT stated that there was a capacity study previously completed, but there is no further funding planned for the project.

Mr. Reissener stated that a further study of US 319 is not related to capacity, but would ensure that the flood prone areas were improved for hurricane evacuation purposes.

4. Mr. Stahl stated that he was glad to see the improvements to the existing US 98 in Franklin County as opposed to a new alignment through Tate's Hell State Forest. He also stated that the FDEP would be open to off-shore break waters and beach renurishment projects in efforts to keep that roadway in its existing location.

Ms. Sanders stated that the State has to fund the renurishment off the coast of Franklin County, the County does not have the funds.

Chairman McElheny stated that the next NFTCA Meeting would be July 17th at the Port St. Joe Chamber at 10:00 EDT.

Chairman McElheny called to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Mr. Langston: To adjourn the meeting.

Second by Ms. Sanders

Approved 6-0

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 CDT.

NFTCA Board Meeting Schedule
Year 2008

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
07/17/2008	Port St. Joe, FL – Gulf
08/21/2008	Pensacola, FL – Escambia
09/18/2008	Apalachicola, FL – Franklin
10/16/2008	Gulf Breeze, FL – Santa Rosa
11/20/2008	Santa Rosa Beach, FL – Walton
12/18/2008	Panama City, FL - Bay