

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

## Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2007

1. **Call To Order-** Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00am on June 21, 2007 at the Board of County Commissioners Board Room in Crawfordville, Florida.

### **Members Present:**

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Jay Odom, Vice-Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer

James Anders

Cheryl Sanders

Maurice Langston

Jason Alderman with FDOT

**Staff Present:** Robert Fleming, General Counsel

**Members Absent:** Eddie Dixon, Stephen Norris

### **Pledge of Allegiance-**

2. **Welcome-** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Crawfordville, Florida.
3. **Approval of Minutes -** Monthly Meeting May 17, 2007.

**Motion by** Mr. Montgomery: To approve minutes of meetings.

**Second by** Mr. Odom

**Approved by** All

#### **4. Old Business -**

- A. Mrs. Sanders asked Mr. Reissener if Ms. Linda Young with The Cleanwater Network of Florida had received the information she had requested at the previous board meeting and if Ms. Young's questions had been answered.

Mr. Reissener replied the information Ms. Young requested had been sent to her.

Chairman McElheney stated he had reviewed Ms. Young's letters she had previously submitted and the letters were given to the General Counsel, Mike Duncan to respond. Mr. Duncan responded to Ms. Young by form of a letter.

- B. A discussion began regarding a ranking system for the Master Plan fold out maps. Mr. Odom suggested ranking the projects by the Top 5, Mid-range and Long-range.

Chairman McElheney showed the Master Plan fold out map to the public and stated if they would like to have one, it could be requested from HDR Engineering, Inc. and a map would be sent to them. HDR gave all available maps on hand to the majority of the public citizens in attendance.

#### **5. New Business -**

- A. **Master Plan Phase II Status Report-** Mr. Ray Reissener provided an update on the status of Master Plan Phase II. He stated that the total project completion as of May 31, 2007 is 97.91%.

- B. **Approval of Invoices-** Mr. Reissener provided the invoices to the board for NFTCA Task #1, Task #2, Task #3 and Task #4. He also submitted the invoice for General Counsel, Mike Duncan.

Mrs. Sanders asked Mr. Reissener if there were enough funds to cover the invoices. Mr. Reissener explained the financial breakdown of the budget and stated that funds were included in the budget to cover the invoices for the PD&E studies.

**Motion by** Mrs. Sanders: To approve invoices.

**Second by** Mr. Montgomery

**Approved by** All

- C. **Status Report on Task #2, Franklin County Study-** Mr. Reissener gave an update on Task #2 and stated the study had started and was going well.

**D. Status Report on Task #3, Eglin Study-** Mr. Reissener updated everyone that the Eglin Study is also underway.

**E. Status Report on Task #4, Public Outreach with County Commissioners -** Mr. Reissener talked about the presentation he has been giving at different meetings he has attended with County Commissions and other Organizations. He stated the meetings have been a great source to inform people about the Master Plan and to clarify information that may be misunderstood. He said these meetings will continue to take place for several months.

**F. Status Report from Chairman McElheney on his meeting with The Nature Conservancy-** Chairman McElheney reported on his meeting with The Nature Conservancy. He stated it was a good meeting.

Chairman McElheney also spoke about his meeting with The League of Women Voters. He stated he explained to them the process of public involvement opportunities. He also said a comment was made at the meeting that if a limited access expressway was going to be built, it would be the ultimate time to include a bike path along the expressway. He said he agreed it was a great idea and should be considered if a limited access expressway was built.

Mr. Anders asked what the NFTCA was attempting to help government organizations with. Mr. Odom replied the authority would be asked to assist them but there were not specifics at this time.

**G. Discussion of Future Meeting Locations-** Chairman McElheney opened discussion on locations for future meetings. A list of suggested meeting locations was given to the board members that suggested having the meetings in a different county each month. Mr. Langston asked why not keeping the meetings centrally located such as in Bay County. He stated it would be more convenient due to travel time. The board agreed that it was more important to make it easier for the public to have the opportunity to attend more meetings and moving the location each month to a different county would assist in doing that.

**Motion by Mrs. Sanders:** To approve future meetings to be held in different counties.

**Second by Mr. Montgomery**

**Approved by All**

**FDOT Agreement-** The board voted to authorize Chairman McElheney to sign the amended agreement between the FDOT and the NFTCA for an extension of the agreement once the language had been changed and approved by the General Counsel.

**Motion by Mrs. Sanders:** To authorize Chairman McElheney to sign the amended agreement between the FDOT and the NFTCA.

**Second by Mr. Odom**  
**Approved by All**

## **5. Public Comments-**

- 1. Andy Smith** with The Riverkeepers asked about the Franklin County meeting. He was told the meeting was held on May 5, 2007 with the county commissioners. Mr. Smith asked about the timeline for the TRIP PD&E studies. Mr. Reissener with HDR Engineering responded the Franklin County study was one year. Mr. Smith asked after the study was complete would that determine the exact locations of roads specifically US98. Ms. Sanders responded when this started in 2005, she wanted something to happen in Franklin County because of hurricane evacuation issues. She stated this was a work in progress.
  
- 2. Manley K. Fuller** with the Florida Wildlife Federation. Mr. Fuller stated he was confused with what the chairman said about meetings. He stated it was his understanding that all meetings with more than one representative had to be public notice. Chairman McElheney stated that was correct. He said it is usually one representative of the NFTCA attending these meetings. Mr. Fuller stated he thought it was very important to use wildlife crossings and he encouraged the Authority to consider the wildlife crossings. Mr. Fuller expressed his concerns about segment 40. He stated he has worked with Mr. M.C. Davis in regards to the property he owns. He mentioned segment 74 was extremely filled with sink holes and asked the board to consider the sensitivity of that site. Chairman McElheney stated the attempt was being made to meet with Mr. M.C. Davis to discuss the process of this plan and why the studies are taking place and the purpose of the studies.
  
- 3. Bonnie Hollub** with Big Ben Scenic Byway of Franklin County. Ms. Hollub the Big Ben Scenic Byway is one third of Hwy 98. She said the state designated the Scenic Byway and it was in the process of being a National designated Scenic Byway. She stated a lot of locally owned businesses would be highly affected by whatever happens with this project and asked the board to be aware of the Big Ben Scenic Byway. Mrs. Sanders told her they were working with others on the Scenic Byway and it would not be forgotten.
  
- 4. Giant Peoples-** He stated he was disappointed with the elected members of the board. He asked if he could participate in the studies when someone actually goes out in the field. Mr. Reissener told him to provide his contact information and he would have someone contact him at that time.

5. **Kenneth Osborne** with Alligator Point. Mr. Osborne stated his concerns were structure, public input and balance. He said the public hearings that were held had a good presentation but no one there could answer any questions. He said there were a lot of questions that need to be answered but are not being answered. He asked whatever happens that St. James Island not be impacted.
6. **Jack Rudlow**- He stated what the Corridor Authority was proposing is bad. Mr. Rudlow said he was against all of it and wished it would go away.
7. **Page Colleen**- Ms. Colleen said the people are concerned about the changes and impacts this would make on the small business owners. She asked the board to please consider them when making there decisions.
8. **Leslie Cox**- Ms. Cox asked why highway 67 in Carrabelle going north was not on the map. Mrs. Sanders said that was being funded separately with 1.5 million dollars to widen and raise the road. Ms. Cox stated the taxpayers would be paying the bill for the NFTCA projects and the purpose of this was for one developer. She said that developer should pay for the roads to develop the property they intend to develop. Ms. Cox said she has requested to be notified of meetings and has not been notified.
9. **Cal Jamison**- Mr. Jamison from Wakulla Springs stated his concerns with the springs. Chairman McElheney told him highway 267 is not on the map for changes.
10. **Rhonda Griffin**- Ms. Griffin stated she was a Panacea business owner. She told the board they should be aware they are not dealing with Panama City or Destin. She said that any changes with traffic flow affect their community and their business. She asked the board to realize this was a different environment.
11. **Frank Venable**- Eastpoint, FL - Mr. Venable stated he appreciated the sincerity of the NFTCA board. He said he's concerned about the timeframe of these projects. He also said he felt that the relocation of highway US 98 in Franklin County was primarily based on benefiting St. Joe Corporation.

**Motion by** Mrs. Sanders: To Adjourn

**Second by** Mr. Montgomery

**Approved** All

Chairman McElheney adjourned the meeting at 12:00 P.M.