

# **NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**July 16, 2009**

**1. Call To Order:** Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:15am EDT on July 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Emergency Operations Center, Port St. Joe, Florida.

### **Members Present:**

Randall McElheney/Chairman

Stephen Norris/Vice-Chairman

James Anders

Jason Alderman with FDOT

**Staff Present:** Nick Beninate, General Counsel

**Members Absent:** Robert Montgomery/Secretary/Treasurer, Cheryl Sanders, Eddie Dixon, Maurice Langston

**2. Welcome** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Port St. Joe, Florida.

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

**A. Regular Authority Meeting & Executive Committee Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup> 2009**

Quorum not present – No vote on Meeting Minutes

### **4. New Business**

### **A. Discussion of 2009 Master Plan & Updated Priority List**

Discussion by Chairman McElheney on the 2009 Master Plan and updated Project Priority List was held. Chairman McElheney suggested the Master Plan be included on each Agenda for all future NFTCA meetings, which will accommodate any modifications to the Master Plan.

Mr. Ray Reissener noted that a major change to the Master Plan was the removal of the project road from US 331 to SR 79, as well as the ranking of project priorities on the Master Plan Map.

### **B. Public Comments on 2009 Master Plan & Updated Priority List**

Mr. Andy Smith with the Apalachicola Riverkeepers asked the Board to discuss the purpose for listing Franklin County US 98 as second on the Project Priority List, and if this designation was due to the fact that funding was available for this project. Mr. Reissener responded that funding is not how rankings are determined, but rather priority is given to projects that show the most need in areas of hurricane evacuation, safety, traffic congestion, and other transportation concerns the NFTCA addresses. Mr. Smith inquired if the NFTCA would have placed US 98 in Franklin County as second on their priority list if funding was not available. Mr. Reissener responded that US 98 Franklin County would be ranked second on the Project Priority List, whether funding was available or not, and gave example that the Eglin Bypass is currently ranked as project priority number one, and currently no funding is available for the Eglin Bypass project.

### **C. Adoption of 2009 Master Plan & Updated Priority List**

Quorum not present – No vote on 2009 Master Plan & Updated Priority List

### **D. Resolution for the exchange of \$2 million in Federal Funding for \$2 million in State Funding**

The Board made recommendation to the Florida Department of Transportation to proceed with current work on the exchange of project funds, and commented that there was consensus of agreement from the board members regarding this request. Chairman McElheney noted that voting would take place at a later meeting.

Mr. Ralph Yoder with the Florida Department of Transportation discussed the fund swap process to the board members and public. Chairman McElheney gave further explanation how this swap would affect NFTCA project goals. Mr. Andy Smith with the Apalachicola Riverkeepers asked which public and/or governmental officials were currently working on the funding swap. Chairman McElheney stated that area representative Congressmen were currently working on the swap.

**E. Approval of US 98 Franklin County Invoice No. 118962-H for \$166,400.48**

Quorum not present – No vote on Invoice No. 118962-H

**F. Added Item: Audit Engagement Letter from Carr, Riggs & Ingram**

Nick Beninate, General Counsel, read to the Board and public the audit engagement letter received from Carr, Riggs & Ingram for NFTCA Auditing Services. Mr. Andy Smith with the Apalachicola Riverkeepers asked what the cost would be for the services. Mr. Beninate stated that the costs for auditing services for the first three years were not to exceed \$5,000 per year. Chairman McElheney noted that the auditor firm selected by the board was the most economical of all firms who submitted proposals for services.

**G. Added Item: Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Workshop**

Jason Alderman with the Florida Department of Transportation spoke on the Public Regional SIS workshops which were to be held on September 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. CST, located in Milton, Florida at the Santa Rosa County Auditorium and also on September 15<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Marianna, Florida at the Jackson County Agricultural Center. Mr. Alderman stated that two signification issues would be discussed at these meetings; designations of rural areas and military bases and funding. Mr. Alderman asked everyone who could, to please attend the SIS Workshops.

Nick Beninate, General Counsel, noted to the Board that if more than one board member was to attend, no discussion of NFTCA business should take place.

**Public Comments:**

No Public Comments

**Board Comments:**

Chairman McElheney announced that he has not sought reappointment for position on the Board, and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve.

Chairman McElheney called to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am EDT