

# NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

## Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2007

1. **Call To Order-** Chairman McElheney called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 1:00pm on August 16, 2007 at the Board of County Commissioners meeting room in Port St. Joe, Florida.

### **Members Present:**

Randall A. McElheney, Chairman

Jay Odom, Vice-Chairman

Robert B. Montgomery, Secretary/Treasurer

James Anders

Cheryl Sanders

Maurice Langston

Stephen Norris

Tommy Barfield with FDOT

**Staff Present:** Mike Duncan, General Counsel

**Members Absent:** Eddie Dixon

### **Pledge of Allegiance-**

2. **Welcome-** Chairman McElheney welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Port St. Joe, Florida.
3. **Approval of Minutes-** Monthly Meeting August 16, 2007.

**Motion by** Mr. Odom: To approve minutes of meeting.

**Second by** Mr. Montgomery

**Approved** 7-0

**4. New Business –**

- A. Status Report on Task #2, Franklin County Study-** Mr. Ray Reissener provided an update on the status of the Franklin County PD&E study. He stated he planned to give a presentation at the next board meeting to show information and data.
- B. Status Report on Task #3, Eglin Bypass Study-** Mr. Reissener stated he had a meeting with Eglin. He said Eglin asked HDR to come back to them with a preferred alternate alignment. The alternate alignment has been sent for mission impact analysis. HDR will send intersections to Eglin also. He said the Eglin executive meeting went very well. Also, there will be a meeting with Eglin on Friday, August 24, 2007. The board requested an email be sent to update them.
- C. Status Report on Task #4, Public Outreach –** Mr. Reissener reported he had met with all county commissioners except Bay County. He plans to set a meeting with them as soon as possible. He has also met with Rotaries, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations. He stated he would be happy to meet with any group that requested a meeting. The City of Carrabelle Chamber of Commerce wants to be involved to promote that area. Mr. Reissener has scheduled to meet with the mayor on September 6, 2007.
- D. Approval of Invoices-** Chairman McElheney presented the invoice for the Franklin County Corridor Study to the board for approval. The Chairman abstained from voting.

**Motion by** Ms. Sanders: To approve the invoice for Task #2 Franklin County Corridor Study.

**Second by** Mr. Norris

**Approved** 6

**Abstained** 1

Chairman McElheney presented the invoices from HDR for Task #3 and Task #4 for approval.

**Motion by Ms. Sanders:** To approve the invoices.

**Second by Mr. Odom**

**Approved 7-0**

Chairman McElheney presented the invoice from Harrison, Sale, Thompson, McCloy, and Duncan for approval.

**Motion by Ms. Sanders:** To approve the invoice.

**Second by Mr. Langston**

**Approved 7-0**

#### **E. Public Comments-**

1. **Leslie Cox** from Carrabelle, FL said she is for the No-build alternative and that road building promotes sprawl. She said money should be spent in better locations in Florida.
2. **Mel Kelly**-Mayor of Carrabelle said there should be communication with the City of Carrabelle. She gave her business card to Mr. Reissener to set up a meeting. They will be having a meeting on September 6, 2007.
3. **Bill Rose** stated his concern that Hwy 98 washes out. He said he would like Lanark Village to be included in the public meetings.
4. **John McGee** from Ft. Walton said he supports the Eglin bypass. He's concerned with Brooks Bridge and he would like more information. He said he favors a new bridge to move more traffic around the downtown area.
5. **Pete Doherton** from Ft. Walton Beach stated he agrees with Mr. McGee. He stated the Brooks Bridge is a problem but we should acquire right-of-way first. He said it is possible to transfer SIS funds to the District. He said there was an Okaloosa/Walton County TPO meeting next week. He stated it may be possible to receive assistance to leverage funds for TPO projects.
6. **George Newman** stated there were people willing to donate money for right-of ways and we should work with them, TPO and FDOT to keep the money in Walton County.
7. **John Broxson**, Santa Rosa County Commissioner reminded the board of the funding sources. He said the board needed to go ahead and prioritize the projects

and get them done. He stated he hoped the board would make their decisions and do what's right to make it happen.

8. **Andy Smith** with Apalachicola Riverkeepers said he supports Ms. Cox's comments. He asked about the x's marked on project 62 and if they are proposed or already complete. He was informed that none are done ore complete.
  9. **Uma Outka** with 1000 Friends of Florida thanked the board for the public outreach. She encouraged the Authority to continue meeting with groups but also to coordinate with them on who can assist in the prioritization of projects. She said to improve land use planning to coincide with traffic planning.
  10. **Ronnie Bell** thanked the board for their efforts. He said he was very appreciative of hwy 331 being a high priority on the list of projects.
  11. **Linda Young** asked if hwy 87 intersections was part of the Eglin bypass. She asked when will the public be allowed to speak and it be a meaningful point of interest. She also asked when the statute 120 will be allowed.
  12. **Missy McKim** said Ft. Walton Beach voted against any new bridge. She said the Eglin bypass was the #1 priority. She urged the board to remove the Brooks Bridge from the priority list. She said that would eliminate the people's main concern in Ft. Walton Beach.
  13. **Mike Lawson** with the Walton County Chamber of Commerce thanked the board and HDR for their efforts. He asked that 331 remain at the top of the list.
  14. **Millie Thrush** from Ft. Walton Beach thanked the board for the work they've done. She said the priorities were good and they were on the right track with the 331 highway. She stated that the board's major support would come from the Niceville Bypass.
  15. **Tom Rice** with the Emerald Coast Bridge Authority stated the Brooks Bridge has failed and needs something done. It is way over capacity.
  16. **Cabe Woods** from Ft. Walton Beach said he supports the Eglin Bypass. He said the Brooks Bridge need to stay in the same location and they don't need a new bridge. He said getting traffic away from the bridge and having alternate routes is the solution. He said the best solution is the Ft. Walton Beach/Niceville Bypass.
- F. Prioritization of Projects-** The Mid Bay Bridge projects were removed from the Priority list. Highway 319 was moved up to the 3-5 year plan.

Ms. Sanders asked that the Brooks Bridge be moved down to the 5-10 year plan.

**Motion by** Mr. Odom: To move the Brooks Bridge to the 5-10 year plan.

**Second by** Mr. Norris

**Approved 7-0**

Mr. Norris asked to move project 54, Gulf Coast Parkway from the 5-10 year plan to the 3-5 year plan.

**Motion by** Mr. Norris: To move Gulf Cast Parkway up to the 3-5 year plan.

**Second by** Mr. Odom

**Approved 7-0**

**Motion by** Mr. Odom: To approve the Prioritization list with changes.

**Second by** Mr. Langston

**Approved 7-0**

**G. Applications for TRIP Funds-** Mr. Reissener requested to submit an application for TRIP funds for the Eglin Bypass. He stated he wanted to submit them now before the next board meeting because the deadline is in September.

**Motion by** Mr. Odom: To submit the application for TRIP funds for Eglin Bypass.

**Second by** Ms. Sanders

**Approved 7-0**

Mr. Reissener requested to submit an application for TRIP funds for Franklin County US 98.

**Motion by** Ms. Sanders: To submit an application for TRIP funds for Franklin County.

**Second by** Mr. Langston

**Approved 7-0**

Mr. Montgomery stated there was a group working on 4-laning Hwy 87. He asked Chairman McElheney to write a strong letter of support for this.

**Motion by Mr. Montgomery:** For Chairman McElheney to write a letter to the group.

**Second by Mr. Anders**

**Approved 7-0**

**Motion by Mr. Langston:** To adjourn the meeting.

**Second by Ms. Sanders**

**Approved 7-0**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm EST, 2:00pm CST.