

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY MONTHLY MEETING

Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2011

1. Call To Order - Chairman Montgomery called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00 am EST on October 27, 2011 in Port St. Joe, Florida at the Gulf County Commission Meeting Room.

Members Present:

Robert B. Montgomery, Chairman

Stephen K. Norris, Vice Chairman

James F. Anders, Secretary/Treasurer

J. Carey Scott III

Cheryl Sanders

Wakulla County (Vacant)

Escambia County (Vacant)

Staff Present: Nick Beninate, General Counsel

Members Absent: Bob McGill

2. **Welcome** Chairman Montgomery welcomed everyone to the NFTCA meeting in Port St. Joe, Florida
3. **Approval of Minutes** Monthly Meeting July 28, 2011
Mr. Scott made motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Norris and unanimously approved.

4. **Financial Report**

Chairman Montgomery asked if anyone had any questions regarding the Financial Report.

5. New Business

A. Approval of Invoice – Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Duncan & Jackson, General Counsel, \$70.00

Mr. Norris made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Anders & unanimously approved.

B. Approval of Invoice – Harrison, Sale, McCloy, Duncan & Jackson, General Counsel, DR/GCI, \$57.50

Mr. Norris made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Scott & unanimously approved.

C. Approval of Invoice – HDR/GCI, \$25,303.50

Mr. Norris made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Scott & unanimously approved.

D. Approval of 2011/2012 Budget

Mr. Anders made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Mr. Norris & unanimously approved.

E. Election of Board Officers

Chairman Montgomery stated he had contacted the Governor's office regarding the Board vacancies for Escambia and Wakulla Counties. He was told no one had applied for the Escambia County vacant position. The Chairman also stated there was only one applicant for the Wakulla County vacancy. The applicant Scott Gaby would have to re-apply through the new Governor. Mr. Anders stated he would contact Mr. Gaby. Chairman Montgomery stated he would try to find someone to apply in Escambia County. Nick Beninate stated Resolution 10-01 gave the Board the authority to address elections every two years or more frequently if needed. Mr. Beninate stated there were no rules regarding term limits. Mr. Scott made a motion to keep the officers as they were, seconded by Mr. Norris & unanimously approved. (Officers: Chairman – Robert Montgomery, Vice Chairman – Stephen Norris, Secretary/Treasurer – James Anders). Chairman Montgomery thanked the Board.

F. Discussion/Approval of Traffic Study for SR 123

Chairman Montgomery stated he had met with the Secretary in Tallahassee to review the Business Plan and discuss the study. The Secretary suggested the projects be broken down into smaller segments. Bob Kellner stated the study limits were SR 123 to SR 85. This would be an origin and destination study to find out major components of traffic flow. Cell phone data would be studied as well. The cost of the study would be approximately \$35,000 to see if it warrants advancement. Mr. Norris made motion to approve the traffic study, seconded by Mr. Anders & unanimously approved.

G. Discussion of proposed meeting dates for 2012

Chairman Montgomery listed the proposed dates for 2012: January 26, April 26, July 26 & October 25. Mr. Norris made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Scott & unanimously approved.

H. Update on Gulf Coast Parkway

Rosemary Woods updated the Board on the project. The project started with an original 18 alignments, was reduced to 12, then to 5. Jason Peters stated the project was broken down into corridor segments. These smaller 3-4 mile segments would be more cost feasible. Ms. Woods stated only US 98 and SR 22 segment will move forward at this

time. Mr. Norris stated he felt it was important to have a northern connector for any potential growth to the port.

I. Update on Port of Port St. Joe

Larry Kelley with Atkins, stated he was under contract with FDOT for Miscellaneous Planning services to better identify project needs and to perform market research. He stated FDOT had formed an advisory team that consisted of Port Authority members and private businesses. Mr. Kelley stated it wasn't just about the port, but also about the economy. The port could serve as a catalyst for economic recovery for the area. Mr. Kelley stressed the importance of private investments and reviewed the Strategic Growth and Capital Improvement Financing Plan the team and Atkins had developed. Mr. Kelley stated he hoped the document would be used as a marketing tool to bring industry to the area. Tommy Pitts, Port Director, stated they hoped to revitalize the area around the port to encourage jobs back to the community. He also stated there were partners who were interested in developing property near the Port. Chairman Montgomery stated the Board would continue to coordinate and support the efforts of the Port. He also stated the Port was well represented on the Board by Mr. Norris. Mr. Norris thanked Mr. Pitts, Mr. Kelley and FDOT for their efforts to promote the success of the Port.

J. Update on Regional Transportation Finance Authority

Mary Robinson with the West Florida Regional Planning Council gave the Board an overview of the Regional Transportation Authority. She explained the West Florida Regional Planning council provides staff services to agencies from the west end of Florida to the Florida-Alabama line. She stated that based on urbanized population and the last census, the MPOs were strongly urged to regionalize. She also stated that partnerships with other transportation entities such as the corridor Authority are being explored. There will be a presentation at the next Northwest Florida Regional TPO meeting on November 2nd. Chairman Montgomery stated the Board had bonding capacity and the TPOs did not. He stated the Authority needed to coordinate more with the TPOs.

K. Update on Hurlbert/US98

Corey Wilkinson with HDR gave the Board a status update on Hurlbert/US 98. He stated the FDOT project manager was Howard Hodge. He also reviewed the relocation, right of way, construction and engineering inspection impacts of the project. He also outlined the briefings that had been held with the Okaloosa-Walton TPO and the Hurlbert Field Wing Commander. He stated the Wing Commander was very supportive of the project. The next public hearing will be held in Fort Walton Beach on November 1st.

L. Update on Master Plan/Business Case Statement

Bob Kellner with HDR reviewed the Business Case statement and the three activities associated with the plan. These were Project Management & Administration, Business Case Analysis and Corridor Master Plan update. The Business Case Statement was developed to be a guiding document to keep the Authority relevant. Mr. Kellner also stated the Business Case would establish credibility with stakeholders. Chairman Montgomery stated the Business Case Statement was tangible and outlined deliverables. It also made it possible to look at the entire region and encouraged more involvement with the TPOs.

M. Discussion of proposed Authority newsletter

Bob Kellner stated he wanted to start sending out an electronic newsletter outlining the latest actions of the Authority. He stated this would be a proactive approach at keeping everyone informed of the Board and their purpose.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm, EST.