

NORTHWEST FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2016

1. Call To Order

Chairman Montgomery called to order the meeting of the Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority at 10:00 am CT on April 28, 2016 at the Gulf Breeze Recreational Center, Gulf Breeze, FL.

Members Present:

Robert B. Montgomery, Chairman
James F. Anders, Vice-Chairman
J. Carey Scott, Secretary/Treasurer
Peter Bos, Member
Scott Gaby, Member
Cheryl Sanders, Member
Gordon Sprague, Member

Staff Present:

Steve Schnell, Project Manager
Nick Beninate, Attorney
Alicia Stephen, Administration

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge was conducted and Chairman Montgomery welcomed everyone.

3. Approval of Minutes

Review of meeting minutes from December 10, 2015. Mr. Gordon Sprague made a motion to approve meeting minutes and Mr. James Anders seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Financial Report

Mr. Carey Scott asked Alicia Stephen if the financials were prepared and contained the same information as when they were originally prepared by Anita Meyer. Ms. Stephen said yes. Mr. Scott then suggested that a date be shown on the financials in the future. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the financials as presented and Mr. Sprague seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. New Business

At this point in the meeting, Ms. Sanders asked the Chairman if Mr. Norris was stepping down from the Board or if he was just stepping away from being an Officer on the Board. Chairman Montgomery said that currently Mr. Norris said that he wasn't able to provide the time required to continue serving as an officer so suggested that

someone step into the role as Vice Chairman. Ms. Sanders said that she appreciated the information.

- A.** Project Manager Steve Schnell, explained the 2-year split of the current NFTCA work plan budget and the need to formalize the agreement amendment between HDR Engineering and the Board. The amendment with HDR would allocate a portion of the NFTCA's administration work plan budget (\$26,782) to HDR to cover costs for meetings, audits, coordination with Florida Transportation Commission, and other general administrative tasks. Following Mr. Schnell's explanation, the Chairman asked Board Attorney, Nick Beninate if this amendment was ok and Mr. Beninate said that he was comfortable with the amendment. Ms. Sanders made the motion to approve the Amendment to the Agreement; Mr. Scott seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
- B.- F.** Mr. Bos requested a more in-depth review of individual invoices since this was his first time reviewing them. Mr. Beninate explained HSM's invoices and Mr. Schnell explained HDR's invoice to Mr. Bos' satisfaction. Mr. Beninate mentioned that it was possible that there might be an issue with HDR's invoice due to the timeframe that it covered and that it overlapped fiscal years. Ms. Sanders made a motion to approve all the invoices contingent upon FDOT's approval of HDR's invoice. Mr. Anders seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.
- G.** Mr. Schnell explained that the Master Plan must be adopted by July of each year. To ensure that we were compliant with this deadline, we decided to discuss the Master Plan during this meeting.

Mr. Schnell suggested that SR 390 (#30) should be taken out of the Plan as its going through Right-of-Way and Construction. He also mentioned that many of the PD&E projects are completed.

The Crosstown Connector (#19) is currently under Design by the City of Destin.

Mr. Anders asked if a beautification project in Walton County at Inlet Beach could be added. Chairman Montgomery reminded the Board that our primary source of income is toll road projects but we can proceed as we want.

Mr. Schnell explained that the Master Plan was economically driven originally. This means that the best return on investment is what designated a project that would be a good addition.

Ms. Sanders asked if the NWFTCA reviews FDOT's 5-Year Plan. Mr. Schnell said that we do and anything on their Plan wasn't included in our Master Plan.

Mr. Anders requested an update on the easterly route of Gulf Coast Parkway (MP Project ID 25). Mr. Schnell said that the short segment of Gulf Coast Parkway near Mexico Beach and common to all study alternatives is currently under design.

Mr. Bos asked about the status of Project #21. Chairman told Mr. Bos that we'd worked with St. Joe Company regarding a toll road but we haven't heard anything recently. Steve Schnell said that Segment 1 comes from the Airport and they already have funding for Segment 2 (which is more of a corridor than an alignment). Chairman Montgomery offered to speak to George Gonzales of St. Joe.

Mr. Bos mentioned that Downtown Ft. Walton Beach used to be a nice place but since Eglin surrounds it and depending on where the new Brooks Bridge comes out on US 98, this could be a big issue. Mr. Bos said that the community needs to be saved and FDOT needs to move traffic so that this can happen.

Mr. Schnell explained that there are actually 2 studies going on concurrently: (1) Brooks Bridge and (2) a planning-level study at Santa Rosa Boulevard. Chairman Montgomery asked if Wright Blvd. is still being studied and Mr. Schnell said yes.

Mr. Sprague asked about the Yacht Club Drive corridor alternative. Steve Schnell said the corridor alternative came out as the result of a stakeholder group (12-15 people) and they recommended this corridor alternative be added. This alternative's problem is right-of-way impacts.

Chairman Montgomery said that he'd spoken with members of Escambia County Commission about #7 (US 29 Connector – Beulah Beltway) but hadn't spoken with the County Administrator. This is going through the Planning level. Jim DeVries said that Atkins is doing the Study and the County is looking at the possibility of making this a toll road.

Mr. Bos noted that the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority has increased its toll and it is incredibly expensive creating an increasing hardship to communities north of Destin. The Chairman asked if we have any authority to voice our opinion. **Steve Schnell said that he'd try to get some information and provide an update. (mentioned that we'd try to have Bob provide some information by the next meeting)**

Chairman said that he wasn't effective in the discussed legislative change to have the Authority go to only 2 meetings annually. He sent correspondence to Clay Ingram but received no response.

Nick Beninate said that at the 6/23/16 Board meeting, we need to have any input so that the Master Plan can be revised, if necessary, for re-adoption prior to the July deadline.

6. **Public Comments**

None.

7. **Next Meeting Date**

On June 23, 2016 in the meeting room of the Ft. Walton Beach Library at 185 Miracle Strip Parkway SE, Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

8. **Adjournment**

Mr. Scott made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sprague seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m. CT.