

November 2011

northwest corridor NEWS

Fostering Regional Economic Success Through Transportation Investment



Background

The Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority (NFTCA) continues in our mission to improve mobility, to enhance traveler safety, to provide for hurricane evacuation routes, and to promote economic development. As authorized by Florida Statute Section 343.80, we seek to construct feeder roads, reliever roads, connector roads, bypasses, or other facilities to improve mobility along the US 98 Corridor throughout Northwest Florida.

Current NFTCA Board Members:

Robert B. Montgomery
Chairman

Stephen K. Norris
Vice-Chairman

James F. Anders II
Secretary/Treasurer

Cheryl K. Sanders
Robert E. McGill III
J. Carey Scott III
Wakulla (vacant)
Escambia (vacant)
Tommy Barfield-
(Ex Officio)

Partnership Outreach Activities

To promote regional planning and coordination of transportation investments, the Authority is seeking ways to enhance and extend our regional partnerships. Development of this Quarterly Update is an initial step in the Authority's Outreach Program.

The upcoming major update to the NFTCA Master Plan, will include an extensive outreach program involving transportation and economic development stakeholders in the process.

Engagement with the Florida-Alabama, Okaloosa-Walton, and Bay County Transportation Planning Organizations (TPOs), the Northwest Florida TPO and the Capital Region TPA, as well as other regional transportation authorities, will be an integral part of the Authority's planning process.

Planning Initiatives

Business Case Analysis

Prior to updating the Master Plan, the Authority will conduct a business case analysis, which will involve a series of steps aimed at identifying the social and economic challenges of the region and an assessment of how those challenges can be met through investments in transportation infrastructure. As part of the analysis and decision-making process, a series of workshops will be held with various agencies and stakeholders to ensure consensus and buy-in at all levels. The analysis will result in a unified strategy for the region and a transportation investment approach that can be used to update the Master Plan.

NFTCA Master Plan Update

Updates to the Master Plan are required on an annual basis. Based on the business case analysis, a plan update will be prepared in coordination with the most recently adopted Long Range Transportation Plans of the local TPOs. Presentation of information to interested governmental agencies, entities, officials and the public will be undertaken during development of the updated Master Plan.



Message from the Chair

Partnerships for Regional Economic Benefit

The NFTCA is seeking to foster economic development in Northwest Florida through strategic transportation investments. To this end, we will be refocusing our Master Plan to identify a business case for transportation infrastructure to be developed cooperatively with state, regional, and local agencies.

Quarterly Meeting Summary

The Authority took the following actions at the October 27, 2011 Board Meeting:

- The Board voted to retain the current officers for the next two years.
- The Board authorized a travel survey in the SR 123/SR 85 corridor to help determine potential roadway improvements.

The Board was briefed on the following:

- **Gulf Coast Parkway.** Alternatives are being studied as part of a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS), scheduled for circulation in January 2012. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2012 with a final EIS anticipated in the Winter of 2013.
- **Port of Port St. Joe.** The Board was briefed on a recent report which identifies port needs, potential funding options and strategic development objectives.
- **Hurlburt Field Intersection at US 98.** The Board was briefed on the project which would construct a new elevated interchange at Cody Avenue and US 98 at the entrance to Hurlburt Field. A public hearing was conducted on November 1, 2011 and the FDOT is currently seeking grant funding.