

Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission
Governing Board

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, December 19, 2008

TIME: 2 p.m.

LOCATION: Metroplan Orlando
Board Room
One Landmark Center
315 East Robinson Street, Suite 355
Orlando, Florida 32801

- Call to Order – Chairman Dyer called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Confirmation of Quorum
 - a. All five members were present
 - 1) Mayor Buddy Dyer – Chairman, City of Orlando
 - 2) Mayor Rich Crotty – Vice-Chairman, Orange County
 - 3) Commissioner Carlton Henley – Secretary, Seminole County
 - 4) Chairman Frank Bruno – Volusia County
 - 5) Commissioner Brandon Arrington – Osceola County
- Chairman’s Report – Chairman Dyer
 - a. Welcome Commissioner Arrington
 - 1) Commissioner Arrington was welcomed by Chairman Dyer. Commissioner Arrington is a lifelong resident of Osceola County, currently serving on the Lynx Board. He is the transportation expert from Osceola County and Chairman Dyer said the Commission looks forward to his service on the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission.
 - 2) Chairman Dyer introduced a special guest, U.S. Rep. John Mica
 - 3) Mr. Mica said that he attended the meeting to say that “all I want for Christmas is a 61-mile commuter rail system. I’ll take an initial operating segment of a dozen stations.” He thanked the Commission and those in attendance for all of their efforts on behalf of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project and said the leadership has been tremendous. Rep. Mica also welcomed Commissioner Arrington. He said that Osceola has been a great partner and will continue to be.
 - 4) Rep. Mica said that he had a rather extensive meeting yesterday with the Governor and a separate meeting with the Secretary of Transportation and the Lieutenant Governor. He said that the Governor expressed strong support and was committed to this

project. Mr. Mica said he expected that the Governor will be a full partner in our efforts to secure the last approval item that we need. Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp has also expressed his willingness to roll up his sleeves and support the effort. Rep. Mica said that Congress is about to take up a mega stimulus package that would affect not only the Central Florida community, but the state and nation. Florida will have about \$6.9 billion in that initial package and it probably will grow. He expects that Congress will be adding transit projects to that, as well as other projects, including airport and some additional rail and other infrastructure needs. That's good news when financial times are tough that the federal government is willing to make these investments. The effort is all geared toward creating jobs. Rep. Mica said he was pleased with progress that Central Florida has made on the project. The Central Florida Partnership has done a great job. Commission members have done an outstanding job in this region and throughout the state. He also thanked Secretary Downs and the project managers for their efforts to keep the project moving.

- 5) Rep. Mica said that Congress will be sworn in on Jan. 6th and the Speaker has announced a full schedule of proceedings that will begin immediately. He said he probably wouldn't see commission members as much as he'd like, but stands ready to assist. Mr. Mica said that Rep. Corrine Brown was not at today's meeting, but expects that she will continue to chair the rail subcommittee. Rep. Mica was reaffirmed last week by the Republican Conference as the leader of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
- 6) Rep. Mica also said that President Obama was in the process of nominating Ray LaHood to be the new federal Transportation Secretary. Mr. LaHood comes from an area that is dependent on transportation and commuter rail – Chicago. There are 11 Commuter Rail Transit lines emanating from Chicago out into various suburbs, and Rep. Mica said that Chicago transit officials are talking to him about an additional commuter rail project to connect all the spokes in the system. Mr. Mica observed that all Central Florida wants is our one line to start with. Mr. LaHood comes from an area that's very familiar with that kind of transit alternative. Mr. Mica thanked commission members for welcoming him, and said he was pleased to be home. The weather was very cold in Washington – and not just the political weather. Mr. Mica complimented everyone very sincerely for all of the efforts to bring this most important project to our region and to the state of Florida.
- 7) Chairman Dyer thanked Rep. Mica and said that were it not for Rep. Mica's effort, the commuter rail project wouldn't exist.

8) Rep. Mica said that he will bring back the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission's report to Rep. Brown and to Sens. Mel Martinez and Bill Nelson, who have been most supportive. Mr. Mica said he knows they will continue their involvement in the project.

b. Summary of Legislative Activities

1) Chairman Dyer said that since the commission last met, legislative committee appointments have been made. The bill needed to pass in the Florida Legislature for SunRail operations remains apportioning liability and insurance. Sen. Constantine and Sen. Gardiner will be co-carrying the bill in the Senate. Rep. Cannon will be carrying the bill in the House. Senior leadership on both sides are on point with the legislation. Sen. Gardiner has been appointed chair of the Senate Transportation Committee and Sen. Constantine to the Senate Judiciary Committee – both committees of substance that the legislation must pass through. Last year, Judiciary was chaired by one of the folks who was opposed to the project. Session begins in March, and prior to that are committee hearings. Chairman Dyer said the plan is to have the bill heard leading up to the session, so that it can pass out of the Senate and then go over to the House. Chairman Dyer said there will be a special session from Jan. 5 to Jan. 16 to deal with an estimated \$2 billion shortfall in the state's budget. We are acutely aware of how this affects our funding for this project. The FDOT and District Secretary are concerned about funding, but Chairman Dyer said he has been assured that the project is in good shape. Bonds would be issued that wouldn't otherwise be issued but for the project. However, we will remain vigilant. Gov. Crist has announced that he will take a much more active role in pushing the project this year. FDOT will release an economic impact analysis very soon. Chairman Dyer also thanked Jacob Stuart for his leadership, and noted that the Tampa Bay Partnership and TBARTA have written resolutions of support. The Mayors of Tampa, St. Petersburg and Jacksonville as supportive, as well. We are building a great coalition and not just with the Central Florida folks. Momentum is with the project, but Chairman Dyer said we still have a lot of hard work to go before the end of legislative session. Naming the train will help give us a face on the project.

- Agenda Review – FDOT District 5 Secretary Noranne Downs
 - a. Secretary Downs provided the agenda review.

ACTION ITEMS

- Adoption of September 19, 2008 meeting minutes – Chairman Dyer
 - a. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- Adoption of Interlocal Operating Agreement amendment date change – Chairman Dyer/Secretary Downs
 - a. Secretary Downs said she was pleased to announce that each local government partner has consented in writing and approved the first amendment to the Interlocal agreement, which is ready for the commission to vote on today. Chairman Dyer noted that Volusia approved the amendment yesterday.
 - b. Mayor Crotty moved for approval; Commissioner Henley seconded. With no further discussion, the amendment was unanimously approved.

- Presentation of final CFCRT names (pending trademark) and logo design concepts – Shelley Lauten, myregion.org and Jim Bockstall, Bockstall Design Associates
 - a. Ms. Olore said that the logo, naming, education and outreach effort began in September, with Shelley Lauten of myregion.org and sign designer Jim Bockstall leading that effort. She expressed appreciation to myregion.org, Marianne Gurnee (Commuter Rail Public Liaison) and Mr. Bockstall.
 - b. Ms. Lauten said that between October and December, myregion.org has listened to and learned from more than 3,000 citizens from throughout Central Florida. myregion.org started with some research to ascertain what the community already knew about Central Florida Commuter Rail, and what were key attributes that they thought were important, such as safety, dependability, affordability and fun. Myregion.org took those elements, ideas and attributes and Mr. Bockstall converted those into a look. The first eight logo designs that myregion.org tested were presented to the community. Myregion.org also solicited people’s ideas about names. More than 300 names were submitted. Through the process, myregion.org narrowed the names from 300 down to one, and has gone from 8 primary designs to one design with a couple of different design elements for the Commission to select from. Ms. Lauten said that three people submitted the SunRail name for consideration, which was the overwhelming favorite of those who participated in the process. Ms. Lauten introduced Larry Wynn, an FDOT worker who had submitted the SunRail name for consideration.
 - c. Mr. Bockstall said he was just one member of an incredibly talented team of designers, engineers, managers, communication specialists, all dedicated to the one simple notion that we will be creating a world class project here. One that elevates us to the world stage and one that celebrates our devotion to progress and the environment. He said that his task was to create the brand, to “put a face on this puppy”. It’s an artistic

and emotional expression that took form in color, font and illustrative nature to create this brand and logo design. With the help of colleagues at FDOT and myregion.org, we have sought advice and public reaction, and distilled the images to the point where we all agree we have a logo that will work. Each personifies Florida – warm, welcome and inviting – and pays attention to the entertainment capital of the world. The final designs depict that our equipment as modern and speedy and our environment is sunny, green and tropical.

- Adoption of Central Florida Commuter Rail name (pending trademark) and logo design concept – Chairman Dyer
 - a. Ms. Olore said that commissioners can choose one name – SunRail, which was the overwhelming choice of the community. Mayor Dyer said that all commissioners have been briefed and that the logo design is not a *fait accompli*.
 - b. Commissioner Henley motioned, upon a second by Commissioner Bruno, to adopt SunRail as the new name of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project. Mayor Crotty joked that he was thinking of naming the project the “Mica Express.” Ms. Lauten said that could be the sub-name. Chairman Dyer said it was interesting that most everyone in the focus groups came to the same conclusion. He said the system name could one day be expanded to Jacksonville and Tampa. Maybe Tri-Rail could adopt the SunRail name. The motion was adopted unanimously.
 - c.
 - d. Ms. Olore said that due to trademark issues, the board may be asked to choose an alternate, such as Sun Rail or Sun.Rail. Mayor Crotty moved to consider these two alternate names if needed; Chairman Bruno seconded. The motion was unanimously passed. Chairman Dyer said that commissioners also need to select a logo. He cited his preference as “the good one” on the left, and referred to a second design as “the other one” on the right. Commissioner Arrington said he preferred the “other” design, as it was less obtrusive and the sun reached all corners of the circle. Commissioner Henley agreed with Commissioner Arrington, but said he would not object to the other design. Chairman Bruno said that the Volusia County Council met and reviewed the designs, and unanimously voted for the design preferred by Chairman Dyer as it looked more like Florida. Mayor Crotty said he initially preferred the second design, but now prefers the design on the left as it contains more Florida colors.
 - e. Chairman Dyer observed that there were two color schemes for the design he preferred. Ms. Lauten said that focus groups preferred the green color border because it had more of an environmental feel. She said that some of the elements could be adjusted, such as including additional sun rays, if that was the commission’s preference.
 - f. Chairman Dyer said the commission would approve one concept at today’s meeting, but noted that Commissioner Arrington had particular artistic abilities that others on the commission may not share. Therefore the board may want to consider Commissioner Arrington’s input on

modifications. Commissioner Arrington suggested that the band color on the outside of the logo be a solid color, either all green or all orange, as it would be easier to visualize. Chairman Dyer said he liked that idea.

- g. Mayor Crotty made a motion to include a solid exterior line as suggested by Commissioner Arrington, with the bottom color green. Commissioner Henley seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
- h. Ms. Lauten said that myregion.org's first opportunity to introduce the new logo and name will be on Feb. 14th, when Central Florida Partnership Chairman Jacob Stuart hosts 137 community leaders, Secretary Downs and Chairman Dyer on a trip to Charlotte to have them review transit-oriented development that has helped to spur Charlotte's economy. The event will be preceded by a gathering at the Hyatt Airport Hotel, where the three individuals who suggested the SunRail name will be honored and the name and logo would be announced. Ms. Lauten said that myregion.org plans to go out into the community in the first quarter of 2009 and educate citizens on the benefits of SunRail.
- i. Ms. Lauten also mentioned that she recently came across a book that she purchased, called the Short History of Florida Railroads, in which the author highlighted the pioneering work that brought railroads to Florida. She said that Commission members were "the pioneers for my generation, bringing railroads back to Florida". She thanked commissioners for their incredible leadership and asked that each sign her book.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion of Governance Agreement amendment for appointment of alternate members to the Technical Advisory Committee and Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission – CFCRT Project Manager Tawny Olore, P.E.
 - a. Ms. Olore said that the Interlocal Governance Agreement was amended. At the prior Commission meeting, Mr. Roger Neiswender, chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee, talked about having alternates on this board as well as the TAC. To do so required amending the Governance Agreement. All five boards of the SunRail funding partners have since approved the amendments. As such, Ms. Olore requested that Commission members and TAC members provide letters regarding alternate designees for FDOT files.
- Project update – Ms. Olore
 - a. Procurement activities
 - b. Ms. Olore said that FDOT sent out a DBM addendum for contractors to bid on work within the CSXT right-of-way, a contract estimated at \$156 million. Three firms were selected, and technical proposals were received. The next action item is a question and answer session with the three short-listed contractors on January 6th. Price proposals are expected in early February, and a DBM contractor is expected to be on board in the March timeframe. FDOT also is working on a CEI contract, which is now

undergoing internal review. It should be out for industry review by mid-January. The procurement for long lead items and ticket vending machines is expected in March. FDOT is working with Lynx and Votran on ticket vending machine specifications. The Operations and Maintenance contract should be sent out for procurement at the end of next year. Ms. Olore said that the biggest change in the project status is that Colorado Railcar couldn't provide the department adequate assurances to build the vehicles, so FDOT has cancelled its contract with Colorado Railcar and issued a new contract. Those proposals are due in February.

- c. Federal Transit Administration
 - i. Full Funding Grant Agreement status
 - 1. FDOT is working through the Full Funding Grant Agreement checklist, which is expected to be complete in April.
- d. CSX Transportation/Amtrak contracts
 - i. FDOT is meeting monthly with CSXT. SunRail COO Pete Turrell has a page and a half worth of documents that FDOT must prepare and submit to the Federal Railroad Administration. FDOT also expects to begin negotiations on an operating agreement with Amtrak early next year.
- e. Right-of-Way Acquisition
 - i. Right-of-Way acquisition is moving forward. Lake Mary and Altamonte Springs are nearly complete, and some buildings already have been demolished. An offer has been made to FP&L for parking at the DeBary station. FDOT recently closed on a Sand Lake Road parcel. Ms. Olore thanked FDOT staff for moving so quickly on SunRail land acquisition requirements.
- f. Station design and location activities
 - i. 60 percent station design plans should be completed in February. Two stations are a bit further behind – Sand Lake Road and Longwood--but with amenities that local governments have selected, the stations are shaping up to be pretty impressive.
- g. Final plans update
 - i. FDOT is on track to secure a Full Funding Grant agreement in September of 2009. Between now and April, FDOT will be completing Federal Transit Administration checklists for final submissions of required materials. The FTA has 60-days to review that material. Once FDOT closes on the corridor, which is expected to occur on June 30, 2009, the Full Funding Grant Agreement application will be reviewed by the federal Office of Management and Budget for 30 days before it is submitted to Congress for a 60-day review. Quite a few people are on task now to meet the April deadline. It will be September 2009 before we can start digging on the corridor.
 - ii. Chairman Dyer asked if the closing date could be moved up if the Florida Legislature approves liability insurance early in the

session. Ms. Olore said she would love to say yes, but there are a lot of materials FDOT must have in place, particularly Federal Railroad Administration documents, in order to take over the corridor. In addition, FDOT must make sure that the DBM contractor is on task and trained to take over the corridor. FDOT is moving as quickly as possible, but paperwork and training requirements may make it difficult to advance the closing.

- Technical Advisory Committee – TAC Chairman Roger Neiswender
 - a. Highlights from October 1, 2008 meeting
 - i. The Technical Advisory Committee has met three times since the last Commission meeting. The TAC is composed of staff members representing all of the stakeholders. The briefing items explained by Ms. Olore earlier are discussed by the TAC at length – about 5 to 8 minutes for each area. TAC members hope to have a seamless ticketing system between our bus systems; TAC members also talked about the need to have credit transactions to keep as much cash out of the system as possible for security and cost-effectiveness reasons. TAC members also talked about the co-location of Amtrak at several stations. The good news is that Rep. Mica and his colleagues may have been able to get some money to Amtrak, which could create a very good intermodal/multimodal partnership with Amtrak. TAC members also received a presentation on the need for bicycle coordination. All agree that we need to look at greater integration of bike paths and trails with the system. TAC members also are impressed with the emergency preparedness plans, to ensure that our system is totally seamless not only with the railroad, but with the other agencies that may need to respond to these situations. TAC members also discussed the value of understanding the public's need to know about commuter rail and about how much or little they know and how much it could benefit us if they knew more. There's great support for the concept, but there's not much understanding of how they would provide access. As soon as FDOT secures the Full Funding Grant Agreement, a major effort of the TAC will be to develop a more elaborate outreach system about the system and prepare for opening day. Mr. Neiswender also explained that the Federal Transit Administration actively relies on a Project Management Oversight Consultant – the real contact and review point between staff running the program and the FTA. There's a real cross pollination of ideas that goes on with this committee. It isn't as though we don't know what the FTA is thinking. This sharing of information between local members and the FDOT staff is something we can work on so hopefully there's very little opportunity for surprise at the end. The objective is to have as smooth a transition as possible from the Full Funding Grant

Agreement phase into operations. TAC members also received a presentation from Jacob Stuart talking about outcome of the polling. The presentation was very detailed and very enlightening, as was the absolutely amazing detail that goes into work by imaging professionals to take those results and translate them into the process that you saw today.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

1. Board member comments
 - a. Chairman Bruno said he was pleased with the logo and new name of the Central Florida Commuter Rail project and wished everyone happy holidays.
 - b. Mayor Crotty wished happy holidays to one and all.
 - c. Commissioner Henley thanked Mr. Neiswender, Ms. Olore, Secretary Downs and all those who have worked so hard. Commissioner Henley thinks we're a lot closer to realizing this project because of the work everyone has done. Once this thing is in place, people in this region will learn to appreciate it a lot more.
 - d. Commissioner Arrington thanked fellow commission members for their hard work prior to his joining the board. He said that the project is a wonderful opportunity for Osceola County. The county can't wait for Commuter Rail to come in so that we can start planning feeder lines.
 - e. Chairman Dyer observed that Commissioner Arrington may want to speak to a senator who represents a little piece of Osceola and convey the county's thoughts.
 - f. Chairman Dyer expressed appreciation to staff and the community for all the work that's been done. It's going to pay off when we get to the legislative session. Chairman Dyer also expressed happy holidays to everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Public comments
 - a. There were no public comments

NEXT MEETING

1. Review of meeting dates, times and location
 - a. The next meeting will be set by Chairman Dyer's office at a date to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.