

Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission  
Technical Advisory Committee  
**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Florida Department of Transportation Urban Office

133 South Semoran Boulevard

Orlando, Florida 32807

- Call to Order – TAC Chairman Roger Neiswender 1:40 –m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Confirmation of Quorum
  - Introductions
  - Members in attendance were:
    - Tawny Olore, Florida Department of Transportation
    - Anthony Gonzalez for Maryann Courson, City of DeBary
    - Jerry McCollum, Seminole County
    - John Omana, City of Lake Mary
    - Charlie Wallace, City of Maitland
    - Joseph Serrano for Don Marcotte, City of Winter Park
    - Roger Neiswender, City of Orlando
    - James Arsenault, City of Kissimmee
    - Lisa Darnall, Lynx
    - Lois Bollenback, VoTran
    - Dennis Hooker for Dave Grovdahl, Metroplan Orlando
    - Karl Welzenbach, Volusia County MPO
    - Jim Harrison, Orange County (late arrival)
    - Mike Abels, City of DeLand
    - Kristi Aday for Sherman Yehl, City of Sanford
    - Frank Martz, City of Altamonte Springs
    - Ryan Spinella, City of Longwood
    - Tura Schnebly for James Dinneen, Volusia County
  - Members not in attendance were:
    - George Lovett, FDOT Director of Transportation Development
    - Bob Zaitooni, Osceola County
- Agenda Review – FDOT/CFCRT Project Manager Tawny Olore, P.E. presented the Agenda Review.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Adoption of meeting minutes from March 12, 2008 meeting

- a. Moved by Mr. Welzenbach; seconded by Mr. Arsenault; unanimously adopted.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 1. Monthly project update – FDOT CFCRT Project Manager Tawny Olore, P.E.
  - a. Procurement activities
    - i. FDOT is responding to questions from the three short-listed DBM contractors reviewing the RFP. Contract award has been moved to July to coincide with time-line for the S-Line environmental analysis and entry into Final Design. The Vehicle Storage and Maintenance facility has been moved back to the Rand Yard in Sanford and DBM contractors have been alerted.
    - ii. Three firms have been short-listed for the Chief Operating Officer contract. The three short-listed firms are Parsons Brinkerhoff, Wilbur Smith and Systra Consulting. All have COO experience on other systems. FDOT is initiating invitations to negotiate and hope to have the COO under contract in July.
    - iii. FDOT has started preparing the scope of work for the CEI contract, which should be awarded about a month prior to the start of construction, likely at the end of September.
    - iv. The Long Lead items contract will be postponed until the DBM contract is complete.
    - v. FDOT is continuing coordination with local partners on station design for the station contract.
    - vi. FDOT received one response from Colorado Rail Car Co. for the DMU contract, which was not unexpected, as they are the only car manufacturer that makes the FRA compliant vehicles in the U.S. FDOT is reviewing to ensure that is acceptable to the department. The Colorado Rail cars are now in use at Tri-Rail.
    - vii. The Operations and Maintenance contract is on track for award later this year or in early 2009.
  - b. CSX Transportation contracts
    - i. FDOT is now in the implementation phase, meeting monthly with CSXT until FDOT closes on the corridor. FDOT must carve out the state's 61.5-miles of territory and coordinate and coordinate take-over of the railroad. FDOT is setting up transitional teams and working with CSXT on location of the VSMF. CSXT has agreed to locate the VSMF in Rand Yard.
      - 1. Mr. McCollum asked whether the location of the VSMF will affect the location of the Sanford stations and surrounding rail lines. Ms. Olore said FDOT will keep the main-line as is and no changes are expected to the station. Mr. McCollum asked whether the Rand Yard site for the VSMF will require additional environmental study. Ms. Olore said it will not because the location was approved in

the original environmental document approved by the Federal Transit Administration.

- c. Amtrak contracts
  - i. FDOT received a signed memorandum of understanding from Amtrak, which included a new provision that is now under review by FDOT lawyers. Differences should be resolved shortly. FDOT also is reviewing an Amtrak operating agreement that should be forwarded to Amtrak for review in early May.
- d. Federal Transit Administration
  - i. Status of Supplemental EA
    - 1. The Supplemental EA includes environmental clearances for Fort Florida Road, changes to the Longwood station and addition of the Maitland station. FTA also requested a general analysis of noise and vibration and crossings, which has been completed. A draft document is expected to be forwarded to FTA on April 21. Public Hearings will be held at the Maitland Homewood Suites and Sanford City Hall on June 12.
    - 2. FDOT is also conducting advanced Preliminary Engineering on station locations to prepare for entry into Final Design.
    - 3. Mr. McCollum asked whether a scope of work for the S-Line had been agreed to, and Ms. Olore said that it has. Ms. Olore said the FTA agreed in a Feb. 12 letter that the CSXT freight relocation plans was a separated project from the Commuter Rail project; CSXT is a private entity and the company can move trains over to the S-Line any time. FDOT is not required to mitigate impacts associated with CSXT plans to redeploy trains, but agreed to do a general assessment of noise and vibration and grade-crossing delays associated with CSXT's plans. That was the scope agreed to.
- e. Right-of-Way acquisition
  - i. FDOT's Right-of-Way manager Debbie Lynch said that FDOT filed suit to acquire three parcels in Lake Mary. Two out of five parcels have closed. FDOT recently received right-of-way maps for parcels in Sanford and is preparing acquisition suits. Longwood acquisition is pending environmental clearances. FDOT is waiting on maps to acquire parcels in Altamonte Springs, but does have agreement to purchase one parcel. FDOT is waiting on FTA clearance to acquire a parcel valued at more than \$1 million for the Sand Lake Road station. Acquisition of a parcel at the former site for the Vehicle Storage and Maintenance facility is no longer needed because of the relocation plans.
  - ii. Mr. McCollum asked whether any offers have been made for the Altamonte Station. Ms. Lynch said agents are still negotiation, and

will continue negotiations even if FDOT files suit. Most of the Altamonte parcels are businesses involving business damage claims, which are difficult to negotiate because business owners must move elsewhere.

iii. Ms. Olore said that FDOT also is negotiating with MI Homes adjacent to the Sanford station for an additional parcel.

f. Station design and location

i. FDOT Assistant CRT Project Manager Sandra Gutierrez said FDOT have been working with local jurisdictions on station plans and will set up meeting in May to continue progress. FDOT is trying to finalize preferences on canopy design and parking lot configurations.

ii. Mr. McCollum asked whether the station construction contract could include an option for locals to decide – once costs are ascertained – which canopy design they would prefer. That would allow local funding partners to ascertain costs. Mr. McCollum said that is standard practice to bid contracts in such a manner. Ms. Olore said that FDOT will examine that possibility. Mr. McCollum said it would be helpful if the bid documents could be structured to allow such flexibility. Mr. Neiswender said there were some station stops that don't have close proximity to street crossings, requiring sidewalk construction. He would like similar flexibility in deciding whether to extend canopies along sidewalks. Ms. Olore said FDOT hopes to be as flexible as possible on all fronts.

g. Upcoming schedule of public presentations

i. CRT Public Liaison Marianne Gurnee discussed upcoming public presentations in different jurisdictions.

ii. Mr. Hooker asked whether Metroplan Orlando's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee would be brief and Ms. Gurnee said they were briefed last week.

2. Update of legislative session issues – Ms. Olore

a. Mr. Neiswender said that local officials put together a large contingent of Central Floridians on 18 hours notice to attend the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee meeting, which was considering liability insurance indemnification required for the project. He thanked Jo Thacker for coordinating a large Osceola County contingent. Mr. Neiswender said there were three issues at play: Trial attorneys who oppose some of the liability insurance provisions and would do away with the state's sovereign immunity; organized labor who don't believe their interests were adequately represented in the agreements and may be looking to "expand the interests of the groups they now represent"; and other groups who "are trying to take our issue and recast it and use it as leverage to address their issues in the process." He said the presentations by the Central Florida contingent were "very meaningful" with more than 30 local officials in attendance to express support. He said the legislation was

approved by the committee 8-2 vote and now goes to the House Council chaired by state Rep. Dean Cannon, perhaps late next week. He said that notice of meetings is sometimes very short, and requested that people from each jurisdiction be on stand-by to travel to Tallahassee. Mr. Neiswender thanked Rep. Cannon and Rep. Steve Precourt for spearheading legislative efforts in the House. He also thanked Sens. Daniel Webster and Lee Constantine for their efforts in the Senate. He said that they have done a very good job of steering things so far, but noted that Sen. Paula Dockery still is opposed to the legislation.

- b. Mr. Welzenbach asked about potential committee stops in the Senate that include members opposed to the project. Mr. Neiswender said “there’s not just one path through the maze” and expressed confidence that the legislation ultimately will be approved. Mr. Welzenbach said he still was concerned about the Senate vote. Mr. Neiswender said local officials were hopeful that the legislation would be approved. Mr. Welzenbach asked where the bill was amended in the Senate. Ms. Olore said it may be amended to the FDOT Transportation bill.
  - c. Mr. Neiswender said Lakeland also is concerned about the impact of CSXT’s decision to relocate four freight trains to the area, and the impact of traffic and FDOT’s work program that are being addressed. Mr. Neiswender said that state funding for projects in different areas of the state are cyclical, “and with projects being trimmed, everybody takes extra diligence to look at the money to see if maybe our bad luck could be their good luck.” Mr. Neiswender reiterated the need for local government officials to travel to Tallahassee and express support for the project.
  - d. Mr. Neiswender said that fact sheets about the project have been included in packets, “because everything you read is not quite right.” For example, Ms. Olore said, that CSXT does not receive a dime of money allocated for grade separated crossings in Marion, Alachua and Sumter County, which was included in the state’s \$491 million agreement with CSXT. Three of the five grade-separated crossings already were included in FDOT’s work program. Of the five, one in Alachua has already been completed; SR 464 is under construction; two contracts were let in December as design build projects, and the fifth is in the design phase. Regardless of what happens with the CSX deal, these grade separations will move forward. It does not affect the cost of commuter rail. The \$59 included in the \$491 was based on early assumptions of the two grade separations not in the work program. The other three were already in the work program. The total for the five grade-separations is \$214 million and this was included in the cost-benefit report that was done in October of 2007. That information was released last year.
  - e. Ms. Schnebly asked about \$14 million in additional closing costs. Ms. Olore said she will get additional clarification from FDOT.
  - f. Mr. Neiswender asked about receiving an updated spread sheet for capital costs for stations after the state legislative session concludes.
3. Administrator Simpson visit April 4 – Ms. Olore

- a. Ms. Olore said that FTA Administrator James Simpson was traveling to the Orlando area April 4 for a CRT corridor tour, following a pre-scheduled speech. FDOT would like each jurisdiction to brief the administrator on station development plans at the Winter Park Welcome Center.
- b. Mr. Arsenault asked about whether jurisdictions should provide displays. Ms. Olore said that FDOT was developing boards for each station and that jurisdictions did not have to provide their own.
- c. Mr. McCollum asked whether the Administrator would tour the proposed maintenance yard. Ms. Olore said no. Mr. Rick Sparer from Earth Tech said a map of the 61.5 mile corridor that will be on display shows the location of the Rand Yard.
- d. Mr. Neiswender said that the city of Orlando plans to staff each board with two city representatives, who will speak for 35 to 45 seconds, followed by a “sponsor”, such as Florida Hospital or ORMC, with a 30-second briefing. He asked if that was a reasonable time period. Ms. Olore said that because there were 17 stations, that was a reasonable time frame. She noted that business representatives from Central Florida also have been invited, so the meeting with station representatives should take about one hour.
- e. Mr. Arsenault said that Kissimmee and Osceola County are “very motivated” and will have good representation. Ms. Olore said she liked Mr. Neiswender’s idea of placing two local representatives at each board. Mr. Neiswender urged local representatives to be judicious with their time so that all have an opportunity to brief the Administrator. Ms. Olore said that Mr. Simpson’s visit was a “great opportunity for this community” and should help the project move forward in the federal funding process. Mr. Neiswender added that the Central Florida project operates differently than most CRT projects, more as a hybrid between light rail and commuter rail. Mr. Simpson’s visit will allow him an opportunity to view first-hand traffic commuting patterns. Mr. McCollum suggested that the Administrator’s tour include a drive up to Volusia County along I-4 to show different traffic flows.

4. Other Committee issues
  - a. None

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

1. Committee member comments
  - a. None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Public comments
  - a. None

### **NEXT MEETING**

1. Review of meeting dates, times and location
  - a. The Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission is next scheduled to meet from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on April 11, 2008 at Metroplan Orlando (Meeting later postponed until May 9, 2008)
  - b. Next Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 to 3 p.m at the FDOT Urban offices

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Harrison moved for adjournment; Mr. Spinella seconded the motion. Meeting unanimously adjourned at 2:40 p.m.