

Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission  
Technical Advisory Committee

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Florida Department of Transportation  
Orlando Urban Office  
133 South Semoran Blvd.  
Orlando, Florida 32807

- Call to Order – TAC Chairman Roger Neiswender called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Confirmation of Quorum
  - Introductions
  - Members in attendance were:
    - George Lovett, FDOT
    - Roger Neiswender, City of Orlando
    - Jim Harrison, Orange County
    - Jerry McCollum, Seminole County
    - John Sember for Frank Martz, City of Altamonte Springs
    - Charlie Wallace, City of Maitland
    - Don Marcotte, City of Winter Park
    - Tiffany Homler, Osceola County
    - Jim Arsenault, City of Kissimmee
    - Lisa Darnall, Lynx
    - Tura Schnebly for James Dinneen, Volusia County
    - Ken Fischer, VoTran
    - Karl Welzenbach, Volusia County MPO
    - David Grovdahl, Metroplan Orlando
  - Members not in attendance were:
    - Tawny Olore, Florida Department of Transportation
    - John Omana, City of Lake Mary
    - Katrina Powell, City of Longwood (Cheryl Bower in attendance, but is not designated voting alternate)
    - Michael Pleus, City of DeLand
    - Anthony Gonzalez, City of DeBary
    - Kristi Aday, City of Sanford
- Agenda Review – SunRail Assistant Project Manager Sandra Gutierrez, P.E. provided the agenda review.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Adoption of minutes from June 3, 2009 meeting
  - a. The minutes were unanimously adopted.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Chairman's Report – Mr. Neiswender/Ms. Christine Kefauver
  - a. Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission Nov. 13, 2009 meeting recap
    - i. Mr. Neiswender said that the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission met Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> at Metroplan Orlando, and that Mayor Dyer gave a brief overview of legislative activities. Mr. Neiswender said that Senate President Jeff Atwater is working with legislative leaders to craft legislation that would provide liability insurance for SunRail and future rail projects statewide, and that a Special Session is expected to be held to consider the legislation the first or second week in December.
  - b. Interlocal Agreements
    - i. Mr. Neiswender said he believed that all counties, as well as the city of Orlando – with the exception of Volusia County – already have approved a second amendment to the interlocal agreements, changing the expiration date to Dec. 31, 2010. Mr. Neiswender said that the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission was expected to meet again, before the Christmas holidays, to ratify the second amendment to the interlocal agreements.
      1. Ms. Schnebly said she was not sure when the item would be placed on the Volusia County Council agenda for action.
  - c. Tallahassee Update
    - i. Ms. Kefauver said that state lawmakers were working on liability legislation, and were looking at a statewide approach to not only SunRail, but other rail projects, including a funding solution for Tri-Rail. Mayor Dyer and other advocates also continue to work with labor and other stakeholders to blunt opposition and move the project forward.
    - ii. Ms. Kefauver said that other potential funding avenues are also being evaluated, including the Florida Department of Transportation's application for \$270 million in AARA Stimulus money and federal Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing Program bonds for corridor acquisition. The federal bonds offer a more favorable rate, she said.
2. Project Update – Mr. George Lovett
  - a. Mr. Lovett provided an update of the economic impact of planned rail projects included in the state's four high-speed rail applications, which include nearly 50,000 jobs for the High Speed Rail project from Orlando-Tampa; about 180,000 jobs for the Miami-Orlando High Speed Rail link;

and about 2,300 jobs for improvements to the FEC line between Jacksonville and Miami – in addition to the jobs and economic impact generated by SunRail (about 260,000 new jobs and \$8.8 billion in economic impact, as documented in previous studies).

- b. Federal Transit Administration
  - i. Mr. Lovett said that Florida Department of Transportation representatives, as well as local officials hosted FTA executives, including FTA Administrator Peter Rogoff, on a tour of the SunRail corridor Oct. 5 and Oct. 6. Mr. Lovett said that the tour was a success and that FTA officials continue to be supportive of the SunRail project.
  - ii. Mr. Lovett said that FDOT continues to speak with the FTA on a regular basis regarding progress toward achieving a Full Funding Grant Agreement. Additionally, FDOT is continuing work on a Supplemental Environmental Assessment that will include additional documentation on a change of vehicles from DMUs to traditional push-pull locomotives. As part of the Supplemental EA, FDOT also is talking to local governments involved in Phase II of the SunRail project to refine station location sites and perform environmental work required to clear additional sites and parcels, if needed, for both Phase I and II.
  - iii. Mr. Lovett provided a brief overview of the revised SunRail schedule should state lawmakers approve required liability legislation. He said that the schedule would likely be pushed back about one year, and that initial passenger service for Phase I would be expected to begin in late 2012; with Phase II opening for service in late 2014.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

1. Committee comments
  - a. There was a brief discussion led by Mr. Neiswender about whether the Technical Advisory Committee should endorse extension of the interlocal agreements. No vote was taken.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. Public comments
  - a. Joanne Counellis of Lake Mary urged TAC members to continue pushing for SunRail, particularly service to the Lake Mary area.
  - b. Sue Nelson of Lakeland asked about the pending legislation, and whether any of the terms were materially changed from the prior legislative session.
    - i. Mr. Lovett said he had not seen the legislation and was unaware of precisely what terms or conditions had changed.
  - c. Beth Dillaha, Winter Park City Commissioner, asked whether the pending legislation would affect the City of Winter Park's interlocal agreement

with Orange County. Ms. Dillaha also said that it was her understanding that the \$270 million grant application for acquisition of the SunRail corridor did not qualify for high-speed rail stimulus money.

- i. Mr. Harrison said he would check into the status of Winter Park's agreement with Orange County. Mr. Lovett said the Florida Department of Transportation is in regular contact with the Federal Railroad Administration and had received no indication that the grant application for rail corridor improvements would not qualify for federal stimulus funds.

### **NEXT MEETING**

1. Review of next meeting date
  - a. Mr. Neiswender tentatively set the date of the next Technical Advisory Committee meeting for Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m. at the FDOT Orlando Urban Office, 133 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando. Notifications will be sent to all TAC members when the meeting is confirmed.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 2:15 p.m.