

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Board Meeting  
1104 E. Twiggs Street  
Tampa, FL 33602

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The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority held a public meeting at 1:30 p.m. on January 23, 2023, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

**BOARD:**

Mr. Vincent Cassidy, Chairman  
Mr. Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
Mr. John Weatherford, Secretary  
FDOT District 7 Secretary David Gwynn, Member  
Mayor Jane Castor, Member

**STAFF:**

Greg Slater	Frederick Pekala
Amy Lettelleir	Felipe Velasco
Sue Chrzan	Lisa Pessina
Brian Pickard	Charles Lockridge
Bob Frey	Elizabeth Gray
Andy Lelewski	Brian Ramirez
Charlene Ponce	Shannon Bush
Chaketa Mister	Julie Aure
Gary Holland	Szabina Szenassy

**OTHERS:**

Sam Lazzara, RGCO	Rick Patterson, Raymond James
Jon Stein, RGCO	Hope Scarpinato, PFM
Julie Davis, RGCO	Scarlett Sharpe, WSP
Elise Leach, RGCO	Al Stewart, HNTB
Steve Ferrell, HDR	Saida Williams, Indra
Sally Dee, Playbook	Jaime Garcia, Indra
Matthew Sansbury, RBC	Jonathan Tursky, TransCore
Jim Drapp, HNTB	Sarah Lesch, Playbook
John Generalli, Wells Fargo	Tim Schock, Parsons
Tim Garrett, HNTB	Carleen Flynn, CDM Smith
Elizabeth Putnam, DSquared Infrastructure	

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Cassidy called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

**II. Public Input/Public Presentations**

No public input or presentations.

**III. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the December 12, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting and the January 9, 2023, Board Workshop**

**B. Approval of Board Member Travel (Retroactive) – TEAMFL Annual Meeting**

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion for approval. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Discussion/Action Items**

**A. Planning & Innovation – John Weatherford, Committee Chair – Bob Frey, Staff**

**1. a) Study for Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Business Plan - WSP**

Mr. Frey presented the proposal, noting that it is phase 1 for THEA's development of a comprehensive EV Charging Business Plan. The study will provide an overview of the technology components and configurations for consideration, as well as the analysis and screening of the different options for alignment with THEA's business strategy. A further, more detailed assessment may be considered for the most viable models of the EV Charging Business Plan.

The requested action is for Board approval for THEA staff to execute a task order with WSP and subconsultant Deloitte in an amount not to exceed \$210,250 for the study for the EV Charging Business Plan.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion for approval. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

The Chairman asked if WSP or Deloitte have previously done this type of work. Mr. Frey responded that Deloitte has done this type of work.

The Chairman also asked if the work that Deloitte has previously done was actually put in place. Mr. Frey noted that when they have their kickoff meeting, he will get that information and report back to the board.

Mr. Weatherford expressed his interest in learning what the consultant finds and what benefits it will provide to the area.

Mr. Barrow asked where the stations will be physically located. Mr. Frey said that is one of the things this study will help inform.

Mayor Castor asked about emergency management and protocols for when we lose power. Mr. Frey explained that would also be part of the study and suggested the board, at an appropriate time, convene a Committees of the Whole meeting to discuss these and other related issues.

Secretary Gwynn suggested coordination with FDOT central office.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**b.) Support and oversight of the study for EV Charging Business Plan – HNTB**

Mr. Frey continued with a related task to allow HNTB to provide support and oversight of the study for EV Charging Business Plan. GEC support will allow for the transition from the planning phases to the operations and maintenance phases. This task also includes participation in meetings and review of drafts and final report.

The requested action is for Board approval for THEA staff to execute a task order with HNTB in an amount not to exceed \$55,000 for the support of the study for the EV Charging Business Plan.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion for approval. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Roadside Unit (RSU) Maintenance Support – Yunex**

Mr. Frey presented the RSU Maintenance Support item, noting that during the THEA Connected Vehicle Pilot Project, THEA installed several RSUs within THEA ROW. As part of the post-pilot activities, THEA will maintain RSUs installed within our ROW as well those that are port the I-4 FRAME collaboration with FDOT. Ongoing maintenance of these devices will allow THEA to remain active with Connected Vehicle technology and future projects that will utilize CV

technology. This task will also allow for further research and analysis of RSU use, integration within the Expressway system, development of relevant software, ongoing deployment of Vehicle to Infrastructure technology, and eventually set the groundwork for the use of speed harmonization.

The requested action is for Board approval for THEA staff to execute a task order with Yunex in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for the ongoing maintenance of RSUs.

***Chairman Cassidy requested a motion for approval. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.***

The Chairman asked about the estimated life of the RSUs. Mr. Frey noted the physical life is about seven years, but we could upgrade every three years based on technology changes.

The Chairman also asked about the cost to replace the units compared to the cost to maintain. Mr. Frey noted replacement would be about \$450,000.

The Chairman requested information on the actual cost. Mr. Frey will provide that information to the board at a later date.

***The motion passed unanimously.***

**B. Budget and Finance – Commissioner Cepeda, Committee Chair – Lisa Pessina, Staff**

**1. FY22 Financial Statements - Rivero, Gordimer & Company**

Ms. Lisa Pessina introduced Rivero, Gordimer & Company to present the FY22 Financial Statements and audit report.

Sam Lazzara, Jon Stein and Julie Davis presented the high-level results of the recent audit.

Mr. Stein noted that there were no disagreements with management during the course of the audit and the audit provides assurances that THEAs financial statements are free of material misstatement.

He also reported that THEA is in compliance with laws, regulations, contracts and grants, and no material weaknesses were noted.

Ms. Davis went through the financial results, focusing on the current year. She reviewed total assets, liabilities and net position.

She also reported on total toll revenues, noting they are up by 30%, which exceeds pre-pandemic levels. Finally, she reviewed expenses, operating income, and non-operating income.

Chairman Cassidy asked about the SunPass billing issue. Ms. Pessina will get the information from Toll Operations and get back to the board with the information.

The Chairman also asked about whether THEA should do an audit on internal controls. Ms. Davis noted that would be up to THEA and there is really no “best practice” on that.

Mr. Barrow asked if there were any changes to GASB that could materially affect THEA. Ms. Davis noted that this year there was GASB 87 which pertains to leases. They analyzed for THEA and it was immaterial. Going forward, any subscription-based IT agreements and things of that nature will go on your balance sheet.

***Chairman Cassidy requested a motion for accept the audit. Mr. Bennett moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

## **V. Staff Reports**

### **A. Operations & Engineering – *Brian Pickard, P.E.***

Mr. Pickard provided an update on the East Selmon Slip Ramp Contract. He reported the present contract amount is \$24,541,827, with 73% of the contract earned. The percent of contract time is at 69% and the current contract end date is September 2023.

Mr. Slater asked at what point can we expect to get the cost on the second half of the pipework. Mr. Pickard explained it will be about \$300,000 and they expect to have it before the Board next month for approval.

Mr. Weatherford asked about the ratio between percent of contract earned and percent of contract time and what would be considered bad. Mr. Pickard responded that would occur when time is greater than dollars by 15%.

### **B. Toll Operations – *Andy Lelewski, P.E.***

Mr. Lelewski presented the Toll Operations statistics for November 2022 beginning with the average weekday transactions.

He pointed out four points showing various ranges of growth. He then reviewed total system transactions, which are up by about 5% year over year.

Finally, of the 5.9M transactions processed, 69% were from transponders. For collections of transactions that are 60 days old, THEA processed 505,840 payments in November. He reported the following:

- ◆ In-House Customer Service Resolutions: 152
- ◆ Customers Enrolled in Selmon Discount Program: 446
- ◆ Payments Made at Hillsborough County Tax Collector Program: 949

Chairman Cassidy asked if there is a toll differential between the REL and the Mainline on the east side. There is none. The Chairman also asked for confirmation that there will be no financial impact once the slip ramps are completed.

Mayor asked about the changes in the state toll reductions and how they will affect THEA. Mr. Lelewski explained staff will be monitoring this, noting that we hope to see movement from toll- by- plate into prepaid accounts because of it.

C. Communications – *Sue Chrzan*

Ms. Chrzan provided the board with an update on THEA’s 60-year celebrations, including a 60 for 60 campaign with lots of volunteer opportunities. She briefly discussed the success of the 2022 FAV Summit, and announced the Bay to Bay Boulevard survey that is underway, with over 1,000 responses so far. The results of that survey will be given to the three shortlisted Design-Build teams and then released to the public.

Finally, she announced the annual Bridge Building Competition coming up February 11 at USF.

Chairman Cassidy asked about parking under the Bay to Bay overpass. Ms. Chrzan noted that we are not touching that parking area, but there will be parking included in the new space.

The Chairman asked if the Ritz has approached us. Ms. Chrzan responded in the affirmative noting that we’ve also been approached by the animal hospital.

Mr. Weatherford asked about multipurpose uses – for example pickle ball one day and farmers market the next. Ms. Chrzan note there are two different areas there and we are looking and multi-use opportunities.

**VI. Executive Reports**

A. Executive Director – *Greg Slater*

1. Contract Renewal Report

Mr. Slater reported on two contract renewals. The first is a first-year renewal with Consor for CEI Services for the Meridian Lighting Project, and the other is a second-year renewal with Pennoni Associates for Miscellaneous Planning and Traffic Services.

2. Director’s Report

Mr. Slater provided the Board with an update on THEA:

- Looking ahead at the next investment in the greenway from a community perspective and have a better understanding of the remediation components. We will begin to focus on the section from the dog park to 12<sup>th</sup> street for some innovative ways to incorporate active uses and recreational spaces as well as community focused asset on stormwater.
- After conducting an analysis, we determined that because the Florida Toll Relief Program will always provide greater savings than the MacDill Discount Program, it is suspended and will be reactivated once the state's program expires.
- The USDOT CV Pilot grant is closed out and the last round of federal reimbursement approvals have all been processed, closing us out at zero dollars remaining in the grant.

Mr. Slater thanked the board for the robust discussion during the Strategic Blueprint Workshop earlier this month. The conversation provided invaluable insight on where to focus to get the final blueprint back to the board so we can begin working on the next chapter of THEA.

Finally, Mr. Slater gave an update on Team THEA:

- He welcomed Szabina Szenassy to THEA and welcomed back Julie Aure from maternity leave.
- Announced that he was elected Vice Chair of TEAMFL and is a steering committee member for Autonomous Florida. He will also be participating in Leadership Tampa Bay's Power of Access event as one of ten influencers, and he's been invited to participate in a forum of infrastructure leaders in June through Cambridge Forums.

The Chairman asked about previously allocated dollars to lobby on the federal level. He asked Mr. Slater to get back to him on how much we spend and what kind of success we've had in terms of grants as a result of that lobbying. Mr. Slater will follow up with the numbers, noting that THEA did utilize those services recently regarding the Transportation Infrastructure Bill, but have not had much opportunity to do so with lobbying and are looking at moving some of that federal money over to state and local.

#### C. General Counsel – *Amy Lettelleir, Esq.*

Ms. Lettelleir updated the board on two procurements.

She reported that THEA received seven (7) proposals in response to the Real Estate Advisory RFP. The shortlist will be presented at the February Board

Meeting. Interviews will be conducted in early March, with final recommendations going to the Board at the March meeting.

Ms. Lettelleir also reported that South Selmon Capacity project, noting that the second round of Alternative Technical Concept meetings are scheduled for February 9; February 23 is the deadline for submission of requests for design exceptions or variations; technical proposals are due April 6; Evaluation Committee scoring is due June 6; price proposals are due June 8; and Board approval is scheduled for June 26.

D. Chairman – *Vincent Cassidy*

1. Upcoming Meetings

- THEA Committees of the Whole – February 13, 2023 - Cancelled
- THEA Board Meeting – February 27, 2023

**VII. Old Business**



No business to discuss.

**VIII. New Business**

No business to discuss.

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

APPROVED:  ATTEST:   
Chairman: Vincent Cassidy Vice Chairman: Bennett Barrow

**DATED THIS 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023.**