

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of April 24, 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 April 24, 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  
Commissioner Donna Cameron Cepeda, Member  
Mayor Jane Castor, Member  
FDOT District Secretary David Gwynn, Member

**STAFF:**

Greg Slater	Emma Antolinez
Amy Lettelleir	Frederick Pekala
Bob Frey	Felipe Velasco
Judith Villegas	Lisa Pessina
Brian Ramirez	Shannon Bush
Shari Callahan	Julie Aure
Gary Holland	Emma Antolinez
Charlene Ponce	Charles Lockridge
Chaketa Mister	Szabina Sznassy

**OTHER:**

Leonard Becker, HNTB	Brent Wilder, PFM
Tim Garrett, HNTB	Rick Patterson, Raymond James
James Drapp, HNTB	Matthew Sansbury, RBC
Todd Josko, Ballard	Elizabeth Putnam, DSquared Infrastructure
Al Steward, HNTB	Jonathan Tursky, TransCore
Snehal Ambare, CDM Smith	David Hubbard, Wey Engineering
Joe Stanton, Nelson Mullins	Brenda Biaggi, Valor
Toni Nhlapo, Wey Engineering	Stephanie McQueen, HDR
Sally Dee, Playbook	Sarah Lesch, Playbook
Steve Williams, Infotect	Christina Matthews, WSP
Sam Gabsi, Infotect	

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

Chairman Cassidy called the meeting to order at 1:31 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 March 27, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting**

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Discussion/Action Items**

**A. Operations & Engineering – Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – Judith Villegas, Project Manager**

**1. Approval of Shortlist Recommendations and Subsequent payment of Stipend for the East Selmon Paving Low Bid Design-Build Teams**

Ms. Villegas presented the shortlisted firms who submitted Expanded Letters of Interest – Ajax Paving Industries and CWR Contracting. She noted that staff used the FDOT design-build stipend calculations to arrive at a stipend of \$32,000. The requested action is for the Board to approve the shortlist selection of Ajax Paving Industries of Florida, LLC and CWR Contracting, Inc. and direct staff to move forward with the procurement process.

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

The Chairman asked if there were only two firms who submitted. Mr. Slater responded in the affirmative.

The Chairman follow up with a question about the seeming lack of interest in competing for projects. Mr. Slater noted that there is a lot of work out in the market at this time. This is a small project and firms are being more discerning about the projects they compete for.

Mr. Weatherford asked about the stipend and where the formula could be found. Mr. Slater explained that it is based on the construction costs. He

added that when we pay a stipend, any ideas that come in as a part of the process belong to THEA and we can incorporate those ideas into our project or use them later.

Ms. Villegas pointed to the East Selmon Slip Ramp Project as an example. The firm awarded the project is using one of the suggestions by a firm that was not selected to lengthen the merge lane to create a safer transition onto the local lanes. Another suggestion from a different firm that was not selected was the use of a cantilever sign rather than a span sign which reduces maintenance costs.

Mr. Weatherford mentioned that stipends are not the norm in other industries. Mr. Slater noted that stipends are very common in the transportation industry.

Secretary Gwynn added that the ability to use the ideas is a benefit, but without a stipend, firms won't pursue the project because it costs so much to prepare a response to a request for proposal.

Before moving on, Ms. Lettelleir pointed out that there was a second part to the requested action. Ms. Villegas requested the board also authorize a stipend in the amount of \$32,000 to be awarded to the number two team identified in the final selection.

***Mr. Barrow amended his motion to include the stipend, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

**B. General Counsel – Vince Cassidy, Chairman – Amy Lettelleir, Esquire**

**1. Adoption of Resolution No. 671 – Sixth Supplemental Revenue Bond Resolution – Joe Stanton, Nelson Mullins**

Mr. Stanton, Nelson Mullins, presented the Sixth Supplemental Revenue Bond Resolution, which supplements the Authority's Master Bond Resolution and authorizes the issuance of the Authority's Series 2023 Bonds. He noted that the Series 2023 Bonds are being issued to achieve debt service savings on the authority's outstanding Bonds, including the Authority's outstanding Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2020B and to pay the costs of issuance.

Mr. Stanton further explained that Resolution 671 authorizes (1) the issuance of the Authority's Series 2023 Bonds for advance refunding all or a portion of the Authority's outstanding Series 2020B Bonds, as further described in the Sixth Supplemental Bond Resolution; and (2) the Authority's Chairman, Vice

Chairman or Executive Director to execute and/or deliver the forms of the Preliminary and Final Official Statements, the Bond Purchase Agreement, Dealer-Manager documents and agreements, the Disclosure Dissemination Agent Agreement, the Paying Agent and Registrar Agreement and the Escrow Deposit Agreement.

The requested action is for the Board to adopt Resolution No. 671.

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

Mr. Weatherford asked if there was a dollar amount available for anticipated savings. Mr. Stanton advised that the resolution contains target parameters, and the target is, at a minimum, the greater of 5% of net present value savings on existing indebtedness, or \$2M. The greater of the two must be achieved to move forward.

***The motion passed unanimously.***

## **V. Team Reports**

### **A. Planning & Innovation – *Bob Frey, Director of Planning & Innovation***

Mr. Frey presented the Gandy Boulevard Crash Study. When comparing 2018-2019 with 2021-2022, we saw a 22% reduction in crashes along the corridor. He further reviewed specific types and times of crashes. Overall, there was an estimated \$1.5M benefit to safety based on the KABCO crash costs in 2021 and 2022.

Chairman Cassidy asked for clarification on the \$15M. Mr. Frey noted that the cost is based on the severity of the crashes. Secretary Gwynn further explained that crashes are weighted and there wasn't a reduction in fatal crashes. The reduction in crashes was mostly for crashes with property damage only.

Mr. Frey continued, pointing out that travel times have been significantly reduced along Gandy Boulevard since the construction of the Selmon Extension, and noted that speeds are uniform and closer to the posted speed limit, creating safer conditions along the roadway.

Mr. Weatherford asked for clarification on the KABCO chart. Mr. Slater explained the calculations. Secretary Gwynn mentioned that the sample size is small and that using the crash rate per million entering vehicles would show that the crash rate has dropped. The mayor asked if FDOT was responsible for the traffic signals at Dale Mabry and Westshore. Secretary Gwynn noted that FDOT does the signal timing at that intersection. The mayor suggested going from the flashing yellow turn signal to a static green.

Mr. Fry concluded that if speeds can remain consistent safety is improved.

B. Operations & Engineering – *Judith Villegas, Project Manager*

Ms. Villegas provided an update on the East Selmon Slip Ramp Contract. She reported the present contract amount is \$24,552,287 with 81% of the contract earned. The percentage of contract time is 80% and the current contract end date is September 2023. She also updated the board on the Maintenance Rating Program Performance Measurements – THEA’s overall score was 94, with a minimum requirement of 90. The specific scores all came in above the minimum required.

Chairman Cassidy asked about the guardrail score. Ms. Villegas explained that this is an ongoing problem due to frequent damage from vehicles hitting the guardrails.

C. Toll Operations – *Gary Holland, Manager*

Mr. Holland presented the Toll Operations Statistics for February 2023, beginning with weekly transactions, noting the upward trend line. Monthly transactions show a slight increase year to year.

He reviewed average weekday transactions, year to year, pointing out the ranges of growth from the West Extension to the East Mainline.

Finally, Mr. Holland provided an update on total transactions by type and past-due (60 days or more) payments for February 2023.

D. Budget & Finance – *Jeff Seward, Director of Finance*

Mr. Seward presented THEA’s financial information for July 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023. He reported that we are still seeing about 5.5% under collection, which can largely be attributed to the toll suspension due to Hurricane Ian. However, Stantec believes we will exceed our \$110M budget amount this year, even with the 5.5% reduction. He pointed out that expenditures are under, and our focus right now is on preparing for the Budget workshop next month.

E. Communications – *Brian Ramirez, Communications*

Mr. Ramirez reported on recent media coverage of THEA, pointing to stories in the Tampa Bay Business Journal and the Tampa Bay Times. He also provided an update on recent community outreach meetings related to the South Selmon Capacity Project – 13 meetings to date. Finally, Mr. Ramirez highlighted THEA’s observance of National *Work Zone Awareness Week* and the *Annual Great Port Clean-Up*, during which time 140 bags of litter and debris were collected.

## VI. Executive Reports

### A. Executive Director – *Greg Slater*

#### 1. Director's Report

Mr. Slater reported a daily toll transaction record of 265,052 on night two of the Taylor Swift concerts. For perspective, on that date in 2022, we saw 25,000 fewer transactions.

He then updated the board on the recruitment for the Director of Strategy, Communications, and Community Engagement, reporting that THEA has 118 applicants interested in the position. Resumes are under review and interviews will commence in the coming weeks.

Mr. Slater also reported that, on April 14, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration submitted a letter to the FCC that they determined C-V2X could operate in the 5.9 GHz band without interference between C-V2X and federal radar system, an issue that had been holding back the implementation of the technology. Part of the US DOT's testing and analysis included data from THEA's Connected Vehicle deployment. THEA continues to collaborate with DOT and is meeting with them at ITS America's Conference this week to discuss future testing operations. He noted that, although the CV Pilot program has officially ended, THEA continues to work to make the roads safer. We hope to incorporate more data and expand our system to create a true SMART roadway.

#### 2. Contract Renewal & Closeout Report

Mr. Slater reported six contracts are up for renewal. One is a five-year contract with three optional five-year renewals for commercial cloud services with Amazon Web Services, Inc. The remaining five are three-year contracts with two one-year renewals. Vistra Communications is up for its first one-year renewal, and the remainder – Burgess & Niple, Kimley-Horn, Marlin Engineering, and WGI – are up for their second one-year renewal.

#### 3. Team THEA – Mr. Slater recognized Shari Callahan for her 25 Years of Service at THEA and her recent appointment as THEA's IT Director.

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

Ms. Lettelleir thanked the refunding team for their work and quick turnaround and noted she had nothing to report.

Chairman Cassidy, referring back to the Bond Resolution discussion, asked if there is a certain percentage of people tendering that we must get to before moving forward.

Ms. Lettelleir noted that it fluctuates every day, and that information is being tracked.

The Chairman asked if we have an estimate of what the percentage of dollars tendered might be, based on current market rates.

Mr. Wilder responded that it has been running conservatively at 20% or less. There is no specific target, but that's what we're assuming for the preliminary number runs.

C. Chairman – *Vincent Cassidy*

1. Upcoming Meetings

- THEA Committees of the Whole – May 8, 2023
- THEA Board Meeting – May 22, 2023 – Cancel
  
- THEA Committees of the Whole – June 12, 2023
- THEA Board Meeting – June 26, 2023

The Chairman announced that the May 22 meeting will be canceled.

**VII. Old Business**

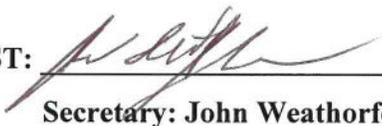
No old business.

**VIII. New Business**

No new business.

**IX. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 pm.

APPROVED:  ATTEST:   
Chairman: Vincent Cassidy Secretary: John Weatherford

DATED THIS 26<sup>th</sup> DAY OF June 2023.