

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of the August 28, 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 p.m. on August 28, 2023, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board:**

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman  
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
John Weatherford, Secretary  
FDOT District Secretary David Gwynn, Member

**Staff:**

Greg Slater	Charlene Varian
Amy Lettelleir	Chaketa Mister
Jeff Seward	Shannon Bush
Bob Frey	Toni Nhlapo
Brian Pickard	Brian Ramirez
Keisha Boyd	Gary Holland
Shari Callahan	

**Others:**

Sally Dee, Playbook	Jonathan Tursky, TransCore
Frank Leto, Citi	Matthew Sansbury, RBC Capital
Ryan Aravind, Raymond James	Gus Llanos, BCC
Abby Conner, Kiewit	Tracey Sansone, KCA
Kunjan Shukla, Kiewit	Branan Anderson, KCA
Kevin Bennett, Middlesex	Christina Matthews, WSP
Rhet Schmidt, Parsons	Tim Garrett, HNTB
John Poolson, Parsons	Sunil Jakhadi, HNTB
Ethan Drew, Ardaman	Alex Bourne, RS&H
Len Becker, HNTB	Stefanie McQueen, HDR
Todd Josko, Ballard Partners	Irwin Prescott, Atkins
Snehal Ambare, CDM Smith	Sarah Lesch, Playbook
Neil Mulrooney, Middlesex	Al Steward, HNTB

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**I. Public Input/Public Presentations**

There were no public comments or presentations.

## II. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the July 24, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting
- B. Approval of Amendment No. 3 to Interlocal Agreement between the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority and the City of Tampa for use and operation of certain parking lots

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve the consent items. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## III. Discussion/Action Items

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

#### 1. South Selmon Capacity Design Build Contract

Mr. Slater provided some background on the RFP process, the collaborations, and the risks considered during the process and the changes made to minimize those risks, as well as addressing cost mitigation. He noted that the engineer's estimate for the project came in at \$310M with an all-in cost of \$373M to include support services. This was matched with THEA's work program and approved budget of \$393M for this project.

Two bids came in – one for \$742M and one for \$486M – both of which are incompatible with the approved budget and allocated resources. Mr. Slater advised that, consistent with the revised Notice of Intended Decision, the recommendation of the evaluation committee is to reject all bids and concurrently provide notice of intent to reissue a competitive solicitation.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion and asked Ms. Lettelleir to provide appropriate language for such. Ms. Lettelleir suggested a motion to reject all bids submitted in response to RFP O-0622 because all bids were substantially over the engineer's estimate and the Authority's estimate for the project, and to provide notice of the Authority's intent to reissue the competitive solicitation.*

*Mr. Bennett so moved, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

Mr. Weatherford asked Mr. Slater to walk the board through how we got to this point. Mr. Slater noted that, because the cone of silence remains in place, he has been unable to speak with the firms to determine what issues they may be viewing differently, but he speculated that the construction environment, including issues surrounding the railway, retaining walls, noise walls, etc., may have been more challenging than we anticipated and may have driven the cost up.

Secretary Gwynn expressed support for the approach proposed by Mr. Slater, noting that FDOT is running into the same issues. One of the problems is, on longer-term projects, the contractor has to build in some risk into the cost to accommodate what the price may be in the future. FDOT has also had to use a similar approach.

Chairman Cassidy agreed that this is an appropriate time to take a pause and see if there is a different way to approach the project.

Mr. Slater will reassess THEAs needs and come back to the board in September with a plan for solicitation.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Operations & Engineering, Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – Brian Pickard, P.E., Director**

## **2. Design Consultant for I4 Frame JPA with FDOT**

Mr. Pickard presented an item to procure the services of a design consultant to develop plans and specifications to complete the work described in the JPA with FDOT on I4 Frame. This includes the installation of fiber and various intelligent roadside devices along roadways adjacent to the THEA system and connecting to both FDOT and THEA fiber networks.

He noted that negotiations were conducted and finalized with KCI Technologies, LLC, selected previously to provide Professional Engineering Services.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a purchase order with KCI Technologies for \$233,395 from the capital budget, to provide design services for constructing the work called for in the I4 Frame JPA with FDOT.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **3. ACN Migration and Modernization Project**

Mr. Pickard presented a request to procure contractor services to replace the outdated programmable logic controllers (PLCs) and the associated programming at the five REL entrances. The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a purchase order with Schneider Electric Systems USA, Inc. for \$350,000 to install and program new PLCs at the five gated entrances to the REL.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Staff Reports** – Deferred to the next meeting.

**V. Executive Reports**

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

**1. Director’s Report**

Mr. Slater reported that Coca-Cola is building a new facility in Brandon and THEA is talking with them about a potential partnership on some of the ramps related to that project.

Mr. Slater also provided an update on preparations for Hurricane Idalia, noting THEA is closely tracking the storm and is participating in regular calls with the region. THEA is in the process of preparing for the storm and securing all areas of our system and holding regular calls with our contractors for the inspection of structures both before and after the storm.

**2. Contract Renewals and Expirations**

Mr. Slater reported one contract with Nelson Mullins up for renewal. It’s the second, one-year renewal, which will expire in February 2025.

**B. General Counsel** – *Amy Lettelleir*

Ms. Lettelleir announced that the cone of silence remains in effect for South Selmon Capacity Design-Build project until further notice.

**C. Chairman** – *Vincent Cassidy*

**1. Upcoming Meetings**

- Committees of the Whole – September 11, 2023 - Cancelled
- Board Meeting – September 25, 2023

**VI. Old Business**

No old business.

**VII. New Business**

No new business.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

APPROVED:   
Chairman: Vincent Cassidy

ATTEST:   
Vice Chairman: Bennett Barrow

**DATED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2023.**