

Tampa- Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of the December 12, 2022, 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 December 12, 2022, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

**BOARD:**

Mr. Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
Mr. John Weatherford  
FDOT District 7 Secretary David Gwynn, Member  
Hillsborough County Commissioner Donna Cameron Cepeda, Member  
Mayor Jane Castor, Member

**STAFF:**

Greg Slater	Gary Holland
Amy Lettelleir	Frederick Pekala
Jeff Seward	Felipe Velasco
Sue Chrzan	Judith Villegas
Brian Pickard	Lisa Pessina
Bob Frey	Charles Lockridge
Andy Lelewski	Elizabeth Dittmann
Charlene Ponce	Brian Ramirez
Chaketa Mister	Anna Quinones

**OTHERS:**

Tim Garrett, HNTB  
Jim Drapp, HNTB  
John Generalli, Wells Fargo  
Todd Josko, Ballard Partners  
Steve Ferrell, HDR  
Sally Dee, Playbook PR  
Sarah Lesch, Playbook PR  
Matthew Sansbury, RBC Capital Markets  
James Van Steenburg, HDR  
Elizabeth Putnam, D Squared  
Stephanie McQueen, HDR  
Rick Patterson, Raymond James

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

Vice Chairman Barrow 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. Election of Secretary**

*Vice Chairman Barrow called for nominations for Secretary.*

*District Secretary David Gwynn nominated John Weatherford. With no other nominations, and by a unanimous, roll call vote, Mr. Weatherford was elected Board Secretary.*

**IV. Consent Agenda**

**A. Approval of the Minutes from the November 14, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting**

*The Vice Chairman requested a motion for approval. Mayor Castor moved approval, seconded by Secretary Gwynn.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Discussion/Action Items**

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

**1. FerroviaL REL Lighting Analysis, Removal/Packaging, and Reinstallation**

Mr. Pickard presented a request for approval of a task order for FerroviaL Services Infrastructure, Inc. to investigate the aesthetic lights on the REL, remove the lights that are damaged, package the lights to be sent to the manufacturer for warranty repair, and reinstall the repaired lights. Funding not to exceed \$366,217, will come from the Operations and Maintenance Budget.

Mr. Pickard requested that the Board authorize the Executive Director to sign a task with Ferrovia Services Infrastructure, Inc. to complete the work in accordance with the terms in contract O-00617.

Mr. Slater pointed out that all the lights on the west extension are working. Mr. Pickard confirmed.

*Vice Chairman Barrow requested a motion for approval. John Weatherford moved approval, seconded by Secretary Gwynn.*

Vice Chairman Barrow commented that the decision by the board to install the aesthetic lighting, as well as the continuation of the Gandy extension, helped put Floridians to work at a time when the economy really needed it. He noted that he did have reservations about the cost, but the board and operations made a great decision to get the economy moving across the region.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **2. Increase in Funding for Railroad Flaggers & Engineering Costs with CSX Agreement for the East Selmon Slip Ramp Project**

Mr. Pickard presented a request for an increase in funding for railroad flaggers, engineering, and inspection costs with CSX for the East Selmon Slip Ramp Project. Funding of \$96,879 will come from the Capital Budget.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize an increase in payment to CSX from \$385,000 to \$481,879 (increase of \$96,879) for the CSX preliminary, flagger, engineering, and inspection costs related to the East Selmon Slip Ramp Project near the 22<sup>nd</sup> Street ramp.

*Vice Chairman Barrow requested a motion for approval. John Weatherford moved approval, seconded by Secretary Gwynn.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **3. APTIM Task Order – Assessment and Removal Plan for Contaminated Material, 12<sup>th</sup> St. to 19<sup>th</sup> St.**

Mr. Pickard presented a request to procure the services of a consultant to conduct an environmental assessment in THEA right-of-way between 12<sup>th</sup> St. and 19<sup>th</sup> St. Funding of \$119,536 will come from the Capital Budget.

Mr. Pickard requested that the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with APTIM Environmental & Infrastructure to undertake an environmental assessment of soils and make recommendations for a not to exceed amount of \$119,536 in accordance with the terms in Contract O-1422.

*Vice Chairman Barrow requested a motion for approval. John Weatherford moved approval, seconded by Secretary Gwynn.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Construction Engineering Inspection (CEI) Services for the South Selmon Capacity Design-Build Project**

Mr. Pickard presented a request to procure CEI services for the South Selmon Capacity Design-Build Project including all investigations, design, permitting, coordination, construction activities, and necessary approvals to complete the project.

He requested that the Board:

- a) Approve selection of Evaluation Committee for CEI Services for the South Selmon Capacity Design-Build Project

Firm	Total
CONSOR Engineers, LLC	2
HDR Construction Control Corp	1
Volkert, Inc.	3

- b) Authorize and direct staff to negotiate and execute a contract with the number 1 ranked firm for CEI Services for the design and construction of the South Selmon Capacity Design-Build Project. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff shall negotiate with the number 2 ranked firm. Contract is subject to review and approval of THEA General Counsel.

*Vice Chairman Barrow requested a motion for approval. John Weatherford moved approval, seconded by Secretary Gwynn.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**5. Operations Network Switches Procurement**

Mr. Pickard presented an item to procure one hundred new field switches for the Operations Network which will enhance communication between ITS equipment and the operation of the REL reversals.

He requested that the Board:

- a) Approve the selection of the lowest bid from Temple Inc., in the amount of \$590,700 (from the Capital Budget) for the Operations Field Switches.

Firm	Bid Amount
Buyer's Point, LLC	\$766,302
Temple, Inc.	\$590,700

- b) Authorize and direct staff to negotiate and execute a contract with the lowest responsible bid firm. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff shall negotiate with the next lowest bid firm. Contract is subject to review and approval of THEA General Counsel.

*Vice Chairman Barrow requested a motion for approval. John Weatherford moved approval, seconded by Secretary Gwynn.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Weatherford took a moment to suggest that, at least in the near term, that staff consider providing context and information on acronyms and abbreviations to Commissioner Cepeda, THEA's newest board member to help her get acclimated.

## VI. Staff Reports

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

Mr. Pickard provided the Board with an update on the East Selmon Slip Ramp project. The present contract amount is \$24,540,000. We are at 66% of contract earned and 62% of contract time.

Mr. Slater added that the Board will start to see work on the resurfacing project previously approved by the Board after the first of the year. We will also be bringing back to you the second half of the drainage issue sometime after the first of the year.

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

Mr. Lelewski presented toll operations statistics for October 2022.

He reviewed the average weekday transaction. Year over year comparisons show an increase in traffic across the board, ranging from 6.1% to almost 24%, with the largest growth occurring on the Reversible Express Lanes and the West Extension.

Mr. Lelewski reported on the total number of transactions, noting the 15-day toll suspension due to Hurricane Ian. October saw about 6.4M total transactions, just shy of THEA's all-time high in March. However, not all of these were revenue

transactions. About 2.9M were non-revenue transactions, so revenue transactions for the month of October totaled about 3.4M.

He also reported that of the 3.4M revenue transactions processed in October, 69% were from prepaid transponder accounts, while 31% were toll-by-plate. If Florida Turnpike Enterprises is unsuccessful in collecting the toll-by-plate revenue through that program, the transactions come back to THEA to be sent out through our collections program. In October, THEA collected just over 24,000 payments. He noted that these are transactions that are greater than 60 days old.

Finally, Mr. Lelewski updated the board on THEA Programs for the month of October:

- In-House Customer Service Resolutions totaled eighty-eight
- Customers Enrolled in the Selmon Discount Program totaled 429
- Payments Made through the Hillsborough County Tax Collector Program totaled 748

Mr. Weatherford asked if there is a way to drive the phone collections to the website to make it more efficient. Mr. Lelewski agreed and is still assessing but there are opportunities to improve awareness of the web option. It could be that many of these customers receiving these notices have questions that cannot be answered over the phone. Additionally, the way the fee structure is set up with the vendor who manages collections, there is no additional cost to THEA for payments taken over the phone versus the website.

Mr. Weatherford also asked about the MacDill Discount Program and whether there are more people who qualify who are not enrolling and if we know why.

Mr. Lelewski explained that a trip qualifies for the discount program if customers - MacDill employees and service members only - travel through the two mainline gantries. The intention of the program is to capture customers who are traveling to the base. With no gantry to verify where customers are going, there is no data collected to show who qualifies for the program.

## **VII. Executive Reports**

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

#### **1. Contract Renewal and Expiration Report**

Mr. Slater presented three contract renewals – each the second-year renewal – for:

- A-Stellar for Maintenance & Landscaping Services
- Ferrovial for Asset Management Services
- Evolve for Miscellaneous Emerging Technology Services

There is also one contract expiring in June 2023 with Transportation Policy Consultant for general consulting services.

## 2. Director's Report

Mr. Slater briefly touched on inflationary factors in the market and some of the latest data shows states have seen a 20%-40% increase in project costs depending on the region.

He also reported on his IBTTA trip and noted that the presentations were a great comparator and can serve as a benchmark for us.

He announced the FAV Summit, which starts this Wednesday in Amelia Island.

Mr. Slater gave an update on Team THEA:

- The team raised over three hundred pounds of food during our hurricane relief drive
- Our toy drive is underway and will benefit the Tampa Children's Home
- He will be participating in a small infrastructure leadership forum in June to discuss risk, innovative financing, and the use of private equity in public financing
- THEA has a new employee who will be working in finance – Szabina Szennassy.
- One of our USF interns, Mohannad Shihadeh has accepted a full-time position with Deloitte as a software developer.

Finally, Mr. Slater thanked the Board for its leadership and helping THEA accomplish its mission of serving the community with safe, efficient transportation. THEA was able to reinvest in those communities and engage in collaborative partnerships that will make a positive, lasting impact on our region. He then presented the THEA 2022 Year in Review video.

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

Nothing to report.

C. Vice Chairman – *Bennett Barrow*

1. Upcoming Meetings

- THEA Strategic Blueprint Workshop – January 9, 2023
- THEA Board Meeting – January 23, 2023

**VIII. Old Business**

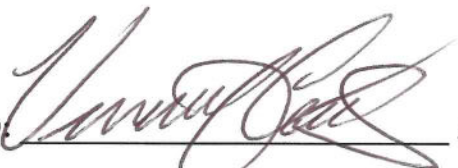
None.

**IX. New Business**

None.

**X. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at p.m.

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

**DATED THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2023.**