

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
Minutes of the September 25, 2023, Board Meeting
1104 E. Twiggs Street
Tampa, FL 33602

The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority held a public meeting at 1:30 p.m. on September 25, 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
Mayor Jane Castor, Member

Staff:

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

Others:

Sally Dee, Playbook	Matthew Sansbury, RBC
Sam Gabsi, Infotect	LaBaron Lewis, Infotect
Joseph Aguila, Infotect	Ethan Drew, Ardaman
Christina Matthews, WSP	Tracey Sansone, KCA
Len Becker, HNTB	Branan Anderson, KCA
Jim Drapp, HNTB	Brent Wilder, PFM
Tim Garrett, HNTB	Joseph Stanton, NMRS
Joe Stanton,	Brian Kirkpatrick, RSH
Sunil Jakhadi, HNTB	Stefanie McQueen, HDR
Snehal Ambare, CDM Smith	Chris Jadick, WSP
James VanSteenburg, HDR	Neil Mulrooney, Middlesex
John Olivio, HDR	Kevin Bennett, TMC
Abby Conner, Kiewit	Sarah Lesch, Playbook
Kunyar Sh?, Kiewit	Rick Patterson, Raymond James
John Generalli, Wells Fargo	
Doug Draper, BofA	
John Palsa, Parsons	
Jonathan Tursky, TransCore	

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 August 28, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting

B. Approval of Board Member Travel

C. ACN Modernization Project – Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) for the REL

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. Update - South Selmon Capacity Design Build Contract

Mr. Slater explained that, since the last meeting, staff have been evaluating the South Selmon bids to better understand the differences between our GEC estimate and the bids that came in. The differences came down to methodology, market factors, and how risk is priced.

We also looked at the differences between the two bids since they were so far apart. It became clear that the two teams viewed some of the technical risks very differently. There were also large variations in some of the pre-construction phases. We validated that the construction of the existing scope is extremely complicated – and it shows in the bids.

He added that he has been watching the market to get a better feel for what is happening. He explained that the market is more flush than we realized, and acquiring the skilled labor needed for larger projects is also having an impact and it's showing up in the pricing.

Secretary Gwynn noted that FDOT is running into some of the same challenges. Contractors are pricing risk differently than what we've seen in the past, and we are all struggling on long-term, complicated projects – and it's not just Florida.

Chairman Cassidy asked for a better definition of “risk” relative to this discussion.

Mr. Slater explained that the complexity of construction and potential unforeseen site conditions are two examples of unknowns that contractors would take into consideration when calculating risk.

Secretary Gwynn likened it to insurance, adding that we don’t know what prices are going to be in the future on these longer-term projects. It’s hard to anticipate what the economy is going to look like down the road.

Chairman Cassidy asked if there was a recommendation.

Mr. Slater noted that THEA has a responsibility to deliver a program over the next decade, not just a single project. In this market, we need to rethink the scope of the project and he recommended THEA close out the procurement, pay the stipends, develop a re-solicitation plan that meets the needs of the Expressway and is within our budget, and bring it back to the board.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion.

Ms. Lettelleir provided the following recommended motion:

To reaffirm the rejection of all bids/proposals we received for this procurement, and declare our intent to reissue a competitive solicitation; and direct staff to develop an updated re-procurement plan that takes into consideration the innovative ideas we are seeking, with a focus on maximizing scope within the budget; and to approve the issuance of the stipend payment to the qualified proposers, given the costs and fees incurred by them in participating in this procurement.

Mr. Barrow moved the recommended motion, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.

Chairman Cassidy asked for additional questions or comments.

Mr. Weatherford noted he is now more comfortable with the new approach given others are seeing similar issues.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Executive Toll Operations Support Task Order – HNTB

Mr. Slater presented a task to use HNTB, with a cost not to exceed \$480,034.17, to assist with higher level support in all areas of Toll Operations in FY24 due to the criticality of the efforts currently in process, combined with some key personnel vacancies. Tasks include toll staff training and development; oversight of the roadside toll collection system and operational back office procurements; business continuity assessment and plan; assessment, and potential update of the tolls business rules, standard operating procedures, and operations documentation; enhancements to customer service and community outreach; revenue preservation and revenue enhancement;

assessment of the integration of tolls, ITS and CV technologies; and assist in the tolls budget assessment and development for FY25.

Chairman Cassidy asked for a breakdown of the \$480K.

Mr. Slater pointed out that about 25% of the cost is oversight of the RTCS and OBOS – these are critical elements with many moving parts. The remainder is working with staff and leadership and providing strategic directions and higher-level support.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

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

1. South Selmon Capacity Design-Build & CEI Support through the GEC

Mr. Pickard presented an item to utilize GEC (HNTB) to assist THEA staff in managing the South Selmon Capacity Project in FY24.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with HNTB to provide GEC support during FY24 on the South Selmon Capacity Project in the amount of \$888,586.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

2. South Selmon Capacity Public Information Consultant (PIC) Support through the GEC

Mr. Pickard presented a second item to utilize GEC (HNTB) to assist in providing Public Information support through their sub-consultant, Versant, on the South Selmon Capacity Project in FY24.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with HNTB to provide PIC support during FY24 on the South Selmon Capacity Project in the amount of \$103,200.

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

The motion passed unanimously.

V. Staff Reports

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

Mr. Frey presented an update on the Selmon Greenway Masterplan. This is a programmatic approach that looks at the entire greenway. He reviewed the timeline beginning in 2010, noting that Tampa has changed dramatically and we're seeing more pedestrian and bicycle traffic on the greenway. The presentation will provide an idea of what a mature greenway, going from the river to 19th Street, will look like. We'll be looking at grants and partnership funding to offset some of the costs.

The Greenway is a mobility trail that will connect downtown, Ybor, and Channelside. He noted that THEA has received positive feedback about some of the areas where we've made improvements.

Mr. Fry reviewed the five zones of the Greenway starting with the West Greenway Anchor and working through to the Central Connector, to Greenway Flow, then crossing over the 12th Street Park ending at the East Greenway Anchor, discussing opportunities along the way.

Finally, Mr. Frey showed a rendering of what a central plaza might look like and reviewed the implementation of the master plan, including work plan funding and grant opportunities, both for funding and for diverse enhancements, such as Wi-Fi and upgrading monitoring to collect real-time data to help inform future improvements.

The Chairman commented that the Greenway should be part of the conversation as we move forward with our real estate RFP.

Mr. Weatherford asked about the distance of the trail. Mr. Frey responded that the Greenway is 1.9 miles.

Mr. Weatherford asked if THEA has any projections on use. Mr. Frey noted that we have counts and have seen upwards of 1,700 in a day, adding that it's picking up.

B. Operations & Engineering – *Brian Pickard, P.E., Director*

Mr. Pickard provided an update on the East Selmon Slip Ramp Project, pointing out that the present contract amount is \$25,222,836, with 94% of the contract earned. The current contract end date is October 2023, and the contract time is at 97%.

Chairman Cassidy asked for the original estimated completion date. Mr. Pickard noted it was September.

C. Finance – *Jeff Seward, Director*

Mr. Seward provided an update on FY2023 noting we ended in good fiscal health. He presented the unaudited summary. Revenue was above what we budgeted and reflects the \$6M reduction due to Hurricane Ian. He also noted that THEA underspent by almost \$4M. He added that the net gain to financials is around \$10.4M (unaudited).

Mr. Seward will present the FY2023 audit to the Board in January, noting that we estimate closing out FY2023 at 2.5 times the debt service ratio.

Finally, Mr. Seward reviewed July 1, 2023 – August 31, 2023, financials and estimated a \$2.1M impact due to toll suspension for Hurricane Idalia. FY2024 is under budget so far.

D. Toll Operations – *Gary Holland, Toll Systems Manager*

Mr. Holland provided the Board with updated statistics for Toll Operations. He began with weekly transactions for July 2023, which averaged 1.2M, followed by monthly transactions, which totaled 6.1M compared to 5.7M for July 2022. He also presented the year-to-year average weekday transactions for West Mainline, East Mainline, REL, and the West Extension, all showing an increase over the previous year, with an over Y2Y increase of 7.9%.

Finally, Mr. Holland reported 6.1M tolls processed in July 2023. Seventy-one percent were transponders and 29% were toll-by-plate transactions.

Chairman Cassidy asked how that might have looked three years ago. Mr. Holland responded that it would have shown less penetration on the transponder side – closer to the high 60s.

Mr. Weatherford pointed out that some of the transponders listed weren't available back then. Mr. Holland replied in the affirmative, noting the most recent additions are KTag, TexPass, and PikePass and in the next year we'll be incorporating two more.

Mr. Weatherford thought it would be a good idea to provide a timeline of transponders as they are added or projected to be added.

E. Communications – *Keisha Boyd, Director*

Ms. Boyd provided a summary of the FAV Summit held earlier this month. She noted we hosted 500 attendees, had three live demonstrations, and ten onsite exhibitors. The Honorable Fiona McFarland was awarded the Leadership & Innovation Award. Ms. Boyd thanked Team THEA for assisting with logistics and

a special thanks to Bob Frey, Brian Pickard, and Felipe Velasco for presenting, and to Mayor Castor for providing a welcome video.

Finally, Ms. Boyd also reported on media engagement, noting we had 34 media hits, as well as very robust social engagement with more than 200,000 social impressions.

Mr. Barrow congratulated Keisha and her team on a job well done.

VI. Executive Reports

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

1. Director’s Report

Mr. Slater reported that, back on September 12, THEA experienced a significant lightning strike that took out the tolling cameras on the REL. They were repaired the next day, and we estimate about \$4k in lost revenue. Only video reads on the REL were impacted, all transponder transactions and all transactions on the local lanes were captured.

He also noted the success and efficiency of THEA's video toll processing. On a regular basis, we have maintained a 3–5-day backlog.

Mr. Slater mentioned THEA’s partnership with TECO and the coming installation of EV charging stations in THEA’s side parking lot and in the dog park parking area. These are being installed at no cost to THEA.

2. Contract Renewals and Expirations

Mr. Slater reported one contract expiration – the Contract with Kimley Horn for East Selmon expires on 3/31/24. He also reported the first one-year renewal of the service agreement for the contract with One Network and the first one-year renewal of the contract with Valor for toll collections.

Finally, Mr. Slater congratulated both Emma and Judith on the birth of their babies. Both moms and babies are doing great.

Chairman Cassidy asked if there is a revenue share on the EV charging stations. Mr. Slater noted there is not, but that THEA is looking at some innovative scenarios outside the TECO partnership.

B. General Counsel – *Amy Lettelleir*

Ms. Lettelleir thanked everyone for their hard work on the South Selmon procurement and had nothing to report.

C. Chairman – *Vincent Cassidy*

1. **Upcoming Meetings**

- Committees of the Whole – October 16, 2023 - Cancelled
- Board Meeting – October 30, 2023

IV. Old Business

No old business.

V. New Business

No new business.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Chairman: Vincent Cassidy

ATTEST: _____

Vice Chairman: Bennett Barrow

DATED THIS 30th DAY OF October 2023.