

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of April 28, 2025, 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 April 2025, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa, Florida. The following were present:

**BOARD:**

Vince Cassidy, Chairman  
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
John Weatherford, Secretary  
Justin Hall, District 7 Secretary, FDOT  
Mayor Jane Castor, City of Tampa, Member

**STAFF:**

Greg Slater	Judith Villegas
Amy Lettelleir	Brian McElroy
Raul Rosario	Pedro Leon
Bob Frey	Gary Holland
Shari Callahan	Frederick Pekala
Jeff Seward	Julie Aure
Keisha Boyd	Anna Quinones
Tim Garrett	Emma Antolinez
Charlene Varian	Brian Ramirez
Chaketa Mister	Lisa Pessina

**OTHERS:**

Brad Jones, Infotect	Davida Franklin, Quest
Maddi Baptiste, Playbook	Scott Chase, Webber
Sally Dee, Playbook	Rachel Ebner, American Structurepoint
Sarah Lesch, Playbook	John Generalli, Wells Fargo
Nathan Silva, RS&H	Christina Matthews, WSP
Phil Eshelman, Stantec	Bryce Johns, Quest
Jennifer Clifford	Christina Zeinali, Estrada Hinojosa
Hope Scarpinato, PFM	Rick Patterson, Raymond James
Alex Bourne, RS&H	James VanSteenburg, HDR
Steve Williams, Infotect	



**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**

Adoption and presentation of Resolution 679 honoring outgoing FDOT District 7 Secretary and THEA Board member, David Gwynn.

**III. Consent Agenda**

**1. Approval of the Minutes of the March 24, 2025, Board Meeting**

**2. Temporary Staffing Support**

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**IV. Discussion/Action Items**

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

**1. East Toll Plaza Gantry – Design Services – KCA – \$496,947**

Ms. Villegas discussed the new toll gantry to be designed and constructed ahead of future East Selmon capacity improvements to prevent the disruption of toll collections during construction. She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with KCA for \$496,947 from the capital budget to develop a design for a new toll gantry.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. East Toll Plaza Gantry- Support Services – HNTB – \$213,588**

Ms. Villegas then presented a related item for the project management, design review, coordination, advertisement, and construction procurement support for the design of the East Toll Plaza Gantry.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with HNTB for \$213,588 from the capital budget to support the design for a new toll gantry.



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

**3. Asset Management Program Data Collection and Development – HNTB – \$228,536**

The next item presented by Ms. Villegas was a task order with the GEC (HNTB) to gather data on an additional set of THEA system assets, which include lighting, guardrail attenuators, and drainage assets, and to revise the dashboard to incorporate this information. The GEC, in conjunction with THEA's bridge inspection consultant and FDOT will also develop additional capabilities to include new and existing bridge inspection data into the asset management system, as well as obtain supplementary data from over one hundred pavement cores to provide better baseline data and develop the best pavement management plans.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with HNTB for \$228,536 from the capital budget for asset management data collection and development.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Replacement of Highway Lighting – Webber – \$166,766**

Ms. Villegas then presented a task order with THEA's asset maintenance contractor (Webber) to furnish and install replacement light fixtures.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Webber for \$166,766 from the operations and maintenance budget for the replacement of the highway lights on the Selmon Expressway.

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

Chairman Cassidy asked where on the Selmon Expressway the lighting was being replaced. Mr. Slater noted the replacement lights are in the South Tampa area.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**5. Replacement & Upgrade of Guide Signs – Webber – \$70,983**

Finally, Ms. Villegas presented a task order with THEA's asset maintenance contractor (Webber) to furnish and install two upgraded guide signs in the downtown area.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Webber for \$70,983 from the capital budget for the replacement and upgrade of two guide signs in the downtown area.



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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**B. Toll Technology & Customer Experience – Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – Raul Rosario, Director**

**1. Roadside Toll Collection System (RTCS) Procurement Support Services – HNTB – 249,000**

Mr. Rosario presented a task order request for our GEC (HNTB) to provide support for the procurement of the roadside toll collections system. The services include updating the procurement documents with revisions to the statement of work development, changes for the original THEA general tolling requirements document, the addition of a new east mainline toll gantry and associated facilities, along with implementing a new toll equipment building rather than a cabinet at select toll sites. This work includes adding a test gantry for future toll system testing.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with HNTB for \$249,000 from the capital budget to provide additional services supporting the roadside toll collection system.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Operational Back Office System (OBOS) – RS&H - \$79,100**

Next, Mr. Rosario presented a request to utilize additional services from RS&H to support the operational back-office procurement. The additional services support includes coordination on the transitional database for data migration from the legacy toll system, evaluating price proposal forms, and additional support in organizing proposer interviews.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with RS&H for \$79,100 from the capital budget to provide additional services supporting the operational back-office procurement.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*



**C. Budget and Finance** – Commissioner Cepeda, Committee Chair – Jeff Seward, Chief Financial Officer

**1. Revenue Sufficiency Resolution 677**

Mr. Seward began the presentation noting that, pursuant to Section 5.07(E) of THEA's Master Bond Resolution, THEA is obligated to review the financial condition of the Expressway System to estimate whether the Net System Revenues for the following fiscal year (FY'26) will be sufficient to comply with established debt service coverage requirements.

He introduced Mr. Phil Eshelman with Stantec to provide an overview of next year's forecast.

- FY2024 T&R Performance
  - Achieved both transaction and revenue forecast despite Hurricane Idalia.
  - Strong platform for FY2025 forecast.
- FY2024 to FY2025 T&R Growth
  - Consistent year over year growth of approximately 3 to 4 percent when normalizing for hurricanes.
  - Anticipate continued strong growth through remainder of the fiscal year.

Chairman Cassidy asked if FY'25 over FY'24 is anticipated to be 3-4 percent. Mr. Eshelman responded in the affirmative and clarified that is when growth is normalized.

- FY2025 T&R Forecast Performance
  - Confident FY25 forecast for both transactions and revenue will be met.
  - Strong footing for FY26.

The Chairman asked if the September 2025 budget is where the reduction in toll collections due to the hurricane(s) is layered in. Mr. Eshelman responded in the affirmative and pointed it out in the next slide.

- FY2026 T&R Forecast
  - Continued assumption for hurricane toll suspension.
  - Estimated ~2% growth from FY25.
  - Standard rate escalation, 2.5%, and existing relationships between payment types.



- FY2026 T&R Forecast and Revenue Sufficiency Certificate Tests Required
  - Continued growth into 2026 (~2%), tempering from FY25 actual growth (~3.5%).
  - Base Toll Policy of toll escalation at 2.5 percent.
- Revenue Sufficiency Certificate Tests
  - Toll Coverage Requirement for Net System Revenue is 1.3 – THEA is expected to achieve 2.46 in FY26.
  - Toll Coverage Requirement for System Gross Revenue is 1.0 – THEA is expected to achieve 1.62 in FY26.

After Mr. Eshelman's presentation, Mr. Seward reported that THEA has received a Revenue Sufficiency Certificate prepared by its Traffic Engineer (Stantec) and reviewed by its Financial Advisor (PFM), which has determined that Net System Revenues will be sufficient to comply with the provision stated above for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026.

He requested the Board to approve Resolution No. 677 making a positive determination regarding the sufficiency of Net System Revenues pursuant to its Master Bond Resolution.

Mr. Seward read, in summary, Resolution No. 677 as follows:

*Resolution No. 677, a Resolution of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority (the "Authority") making a determination regarding the sufficiency of net system revenues and providing an effective date.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY THAT:***

***SUFFICIENCY DETERMINATION. Based on the Authority's review of the financial condition of the Expressway System and the Bonds and upon the estimated Net System Revenues for the immediately succeeding Fiscal Year as set forth in the revenue sufficiency certificate, the Authority has determined that, based on the information currently available to the Authority, Net System Revenues will be sufficient to comply with the coverage requirements with respect to Net System Revenues as specified in Section 5.07(B) of the Master Bond Resolution.***

Mr. Seward noted that staff recommends approval of Resolution 677.

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

Chairman Cassidy asked for clarification about the language only referring to bonds. Mr. Seward noted that "bond" covers indebtedness. Ms. Lettelleir concurred.

Mr. Slater added that this year also includes the FDOT debt.



*The motion passed unanimously.*

**D. Legal – Amy Lettelleir, Chief Legal Officer**

**1. 100 Series Policy Updates**

Ms. Lettelleir presented the proposed amendments, updating the Authority's Policies and Procedures Manual to be consistent with legislative changes and requirements.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**V. Staff Reports**

**A. Operations & Engineering**

Ms. Judith Villegas updated the Board on the Straddle Bent Sealing project which was completed March 28. She also provided an update on the THEA headquarters generator replacement, completed on April 18, and the office renovations, which was completed on March 30.

**B. Planning & Innovation**

Mr. Bob Frey gave an update on how THEA is using the INRIX XD data. He presented information about morning and afternoon peak hour traffic by project, using the INRIX XD data.

Chairman asked for clarification on the peak hour slides and whether that information represents an average of the commute time or if it is one particular hour. Mr. Frey explained it is one particular hour. He added that the data is geographic so we can see not only our system but the roadways around the system, providing a much better picture of traffic patterns. He pointed out that this data is dynamic and can show progression as it can be taken at any time, giving a more robust look at the system and where the problems are so we can target them in the future.

Mr. Frey also shared data on average travel time and speed for the REL slip ramps.

Finally, he gave a quick overview of how the data can be used to build project assessment reports. For example, the data can provide information about traffic conditions before, during, and after construction and it documents improvements to speed and travel time changes resulting from a project.

**C. Toll Technology & Customer Experience**

Mr. Raul Rosario presented the Board with updated toll transactions. For March the monthly transactions are up 2.39% year over year. For the average weekday



transactions overall, we are up 2.9% year over year. The REL is up 12.4% year over year growth.

For toll transactions and processing, 69% of transactions are through ACH and 31% of transactions are Toll-by-Plate.

#### **D. Communications & Community Engagement**

Ms. Boyd reported that THEA is moving forward with the South Selmon Capacity project. An update letter was sent to all South Tampa Homeowner's Associations, and we held meetings with the Ritz Carlton HOA and Board, as well as the Crowder Manor Board, and we are actively taking comments from them. Mr. Slater also shared updates with Fox 13.

We also participated in a US 301 pre-PD&E listening tour, participating in all Riverview community planning meetings and the Osprey Observer provided news coverage.

Mr. Slater has also been busy in the community. He recently presented at the Tampa Bay Chamber Policy Advisory Committee alongside former State Senator Jeff Brandes. He also participated as a featured speaker for Leadership Hillsborough, as well as Tampa Connection Program Day. Finally, he spoke at the monthly Westshore Alliance luncheon.

Finally, Ms. Boyd reported that THEA had thirteen media mentions, reaching an audience of about 28.5 million, with a publicity value of \$606 million. Social media followers increased across all platforms by fifty-two.

### **VI. Executive Reports**

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

##### **1. Contract Renewals and Expirations**

Mr. Slater reported that THEA is renewing three contracts, all three are the first one-year renewal. They are with

- BCC Engineering for Professional Engineering Services
- Milligan Partners for Miscellaneous Toll Operations Support Services
- RS&H for Miscellaneous Toll Operations Support Services

Mr. Slater also updated the board on the following:

Recent news coverage on the REL aesthetic lights did not include all the information provided by THEA.

- We are working with the lighting manufacturer, who is repairing the lights at no cost.
- We have had different experts investigate the issue and provide recommended solutions.



- This issue had not been seen before by the manufacturer and have had other device manufacturers (CV Pilot) express that sentiment when their devices were affected by similar issues (transient voltage).

Also recently in the news: at around 2:30 am on Sunday the April 13, FHP arrested a woman for DUI who was traveling about 150mph.

Mr. Slater also reminded the Board that the budget workshop is scheduled for May 5. We are excited about this 6-year work program, as it is what we have been working toward over the last couple of years. The proposed work program will have south Selmon expanded and complete, the Whiting connection and ramps completed, a new back-office system, a whole new tolling system, community investments like the 12th St. Park and the Meridian Health trail completed, and the start of east Selmon. It moves us into some new areas with private sector partnerships on our real estate and our extension down 301 into southern Hillsborough County.

Mr. Slater also took a moment to recognize Judith Villegas for her incredible efforts in managing the THEA office additions and coordinating the move in the middle of finalizing the generator work before hurricane season, all while studying for her PE. And Pedro Leon for expertly managing the IT portion of that move. It took a lot of work and thoughtful planning - so a big thank you to them for a successful project.

He announced that on May 12 THEA will welcome Greg Deese from FDOT as our new director of operations. Mr. Deese has been with FDOT for 19 years and has been managing FDOT construction projects since 2013. He has served as resident engineer in the District 7 construction office overseeing the largest road and bridge projects in the Tampa Bay area. Notable projects he has worked on include the Gateway Expressway, Howard Frankland bridge replacement and the Tampa Downtown Interchange project. He currently serves as the District's Plans, Specifications and Estimates Engineer, where he ensures delivery of quality plan sets to construction. Greg holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from USF.

Finally, Mr. Slater formally thanked retiring FDOT District 7 Secretary, Mr. David Gwynn, for his service to THEA, FDOT, and the community.

**B. Chief Legal Officer – *Amy Lettelleir, Esquire***

Ms. Lettelleir did not have a report but further clarified the bond question raised earlier in the meeting relative to Resolution 677. She pointed out that an unread "Whereas" clause states that "capitalized terms used but not defined herein shall have the respective meanings set forth in the Master Bond Resolution."



**C. Chairman – *Vince Cassidy***

**1. Upcoming Meetings**

- Budget Workshop – May 5, 2025
- Board Meeting – May 19, 2025
- Board Workshop – June 9, 2025
- Board Meeting – June 23, 2025

**VI. Old Business**


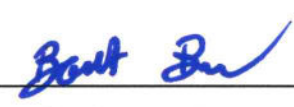
None.

**VII. New Business**

None.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

APPROVED:  ATTEST   
Chairman: Vince Cassidy Vice-Chairman: Bennett Barrow

DATED THIS 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY 2025.