Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
Minutes of the September 22, 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 September 22, 2025, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

BOARD:

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman
John Weatherford, Secretary
Justin Hall, FDOT District 7 Secretary
Commissioner Conna Cameron-Cepeda
Mayor Jane Castor, City of Tampa

STAFF:

Greg Slater
Amy Lettelleir
Tim Garrett
Gregory Deese
Raul Rosario
Keisha Boyd
Bob Frey
Shari Callahan
Gary Holland
Brian Ramirez
Brian McElroy
Judith Villegas
Anna Quinones
Lisa Pessina
Pedro Leon
Gio dos Santos
Frederick Pekala
Emma Antolinez
Toni Atkinson
Krishna Rentala

OTHERS:

Diane Hackney, Quest
Stephanie Claytor, Quest
Robert Simpson, Quest
Sally Dee, Playbook
Maddi Baptiste, Playbook
Sarah Lesch, Playbook
Laura Crouch, Playbook
Brian Shund, VHB
James VanSteenburg, HDR
Steve Ferrell, HDR
Hope Scarpinato, PFM
Julie Burger, Wells Fargo
Snehal Ambare, CDM Smith
Kara Van Etten, Lochner
Rick Patterson, Raymond James
Christina Matthews, WSP
Scarlett Sharpe, WSP
Len Becker, HNTB
Tom Delaney, Atkins Realis
Frank Leto, J.P. Morgan
Alex Bourne, RS&H
Steve Williams, Infotect
Wilderies Rodroguez, Infotect
Mike Swift, Wells Fargo
Scott Chase, Webber
Tim Schock, Parsons
Jonathan Tursky, TransCore
Doug Draper, Bank of America

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

Public Input/Public Presentations – There was no public input.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the August 25, 2025, Board Meeting

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

Discussion/Action Items

Executive Director – Vincent Cassidy, Chairman– *Greg Slater, Executive Director*

South Selmon Capacity Project – Contract Award

Before beginning, Mr. Slater congratulated Chairman Cassidy and Vice Chairman Bennett on their reappointments to the THEA Board, and welcomed two new members, Cody Powell and L.K. Nandem. He also thanked Mr. Weatherford for his service.

Mr. Slater noted that the design-build process for the South Selmon Capacity Project is completed, and the technical proposal scores and price proposals resulted in Archer Western being the highest-ranked design-build team for the project and he briefly reviewed the procurement result. Mr. Slater asked Mr. Deese to provide an overview of the project scope.

Mr. Deese discussed the scope, noting the this is a capacity project that will add a third lane in each direction. The added lanes will primarily be on the inside to lessen impact on the City of Tampa, CSX, and other agencies. The scope also includes resurfacing of the mainline, ramps, and underpasses/local roadways, as well as ramp improvements, including adding capacity to the westbound Willow and westbound Platt Street exit ramps. Additionally, THEA will be placing noise walls, with aesthetic treatments, adjacent to all the residential areas.

Mr. Deese pointed out that this is primarily a bridge widening project that includes the inside widening of 26 mainline bridges, as well as bridge redecking over S. Himes Avenue and W. Mississippi Avenue, enhancements on the Hillsborough River Bridge and local roadways, and other improvements, including sidewalks, lighting, signing, ITS, tolling, drainage, signals, and utility relocations.

Mr. Deese moved on to the risk mitigation measures implemented by THEA to avoid unnecessary cost and delay during construction. Some of the extra steps taken to ensure the project would be successfully awarded include:

- Significant preliminary engineering studies and concept plan development (>30% Design and Structural Analysis)
- Extensive geotechnical exploration and data collection

- Survey and Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) program
- Early Utility Coordination and Relocations
- Advancing agency permitting (USCG, SWFWMD, USACE, PTB)
- Early coordination with key stakeholders (City of Tampa and CSX)
- THEA direct payment of CSX flagging costs
- In-depth cost forecasting throughout project development

Mr. Deese noted that while THEA did reduce risks, they were not eliminated. For example, local agency coordination for things like stormwater connections, road closures, detours, and permitting will have to continue after contract award. Other risk items include unknown utilities, geotechnical conditions, and inconvenience to THEA's customers. To minimize inconvenience, THEA created an incentive for the contractor to complete the east end of the project early.

He reported that THEA anticipates issuing a Notice to Proceed in November, with construction beginning in March 2026. The completion of the east end, if maximum incentive is achieved, is May 2028, with full completion of the project by April 2030. Mr. Deese turned the presentation back over to Mr. Slater.

Mr. Slater discussed the Accelerated Scope Augmentation Phase (ASAP) and the benefits of using this customized approach. He stated "This approach allows us to separate our wants from our needs. We are entering that phase with the contractor now and will bring back to the Board any enhancements resulting from those discussions."

Mr. Slater then reviewed future Board requests the Board can expect, including:

- PIO Support Costs
- ASAP Investigation/Development Costs
- ASAO Construction Costs
- CSX Engineering Costs
- CSX Flagging Costs
- City of Tampa Drainage Agreement or Alternative
- CEI Supplemental Costs
- GEC Support Costs (FY27 – Project Completion)

The requested action is for the Board to approve the award of the South Selmon Capacity project to Archer Western, in the amount of $362,108,617, and to authorize and direct the Executive Director to execute a contract with Archer Western. The contract is subject to review and approval of THEA's Chief Legal Officer.

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

Chairman Cassidy requested a clarification relative to the project completion incentive, in particular, the completion date and whether the entire project will be completed in 2028 or just a scope of it. Mr. Deese clarified that the incentive is solely around the completion of the east end.

The Chairman also requested talking points for the Board for questions relative to time and noise, and closures.

Chairman Cassidy asked about the 26 bridges. Mr. Deese pointed out that this includes ramps. Mr. Slater added that each underpass is two bridges.

The Chairman asked where the pain points will be. Mr. Slater noted downtown is one due to the amount of traffic coming into the area. Mr. Deese added that two potential areas of impact are the foundation construction and bridge redecking – both are easily managed.

Finally, Chairman Cassidy asked about the cost of the risk mitigation that occurred. Mr. Slater noted it was \$3M-\$4M resulting in a reduced project cost of about \$120M.

The Chairman congratulated the whole team.

Mr. Barrow asked about the anticipated hours of construction. Mr. Deese noted there will be both day and night work, but we do have lane closure restrictions, and we cannot close a lane during the day. He anticipates 60% daytime work and 40% overnight work.

Secretary Hall recommended THEA look into putting in conduit for future uplighting/decorative lighting. Mr. Slater noted he anticipates lighting and added THEA has been doing fiber pairs in both directions.

The motion carried unanimously.

Operations and Engineering – Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair– *Greg Deese, P.E., Director*

South Selmon Capacity Project – Stipend Approval

Mr. Deese noted that, to encourage competition, THEA funded a \$750,000 stipend payment to each firm who was shortlisted but not selected for the South Selmon Capacity Project. Each unsuccessful shortlisted firm must request the stipend. He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director, upon request, to pay a stipend to Middlesex Corporation and Mastec Civil/Superior Joint Venture, in the amount of \$750,000 each, for a total of \$1,500,000 from the capital budget.

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

South Selmon Capacity Project – Project Design and Construction Support – HNTB

Mr. Deese presented an item for the GEC to provide support for the design-build delivery of the South Selmon Capacity Project through the remainder of FY2026. This includes support for the accelerated scope augmentation, coordinating design reviews, and overseeing contract administration.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with HNTB to support the South Selmon Capacity project through June 30, 2026, in the amount of $1,972,563 from the capital budget.

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

Legal – Vincent Cassidy, Chairman – *Amy Lettelleir, Chief Legal Officer*

Approval of Final Ranking and Contract Award for the US 301 PD&E Study

Ms. Lettelleir reviewed the final rankings provided by the Evaluation Committee for the US 301 PD&E study:

Firm	Ranking
Lochner	1
HDR	2
RS&H	3

She requested the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee's final ranking for the US 301 PD&E study and to authorize and direct staff to negotiate a contract with the top-ranked firm, Locher. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff shall negotiate with the next highest-ranked firm, HDR. The contract is subject to review and approval by THEA's Chief Legal Officer.

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

Approval of the Final Ranking and Contract Award – Miscellaneous Design and CEI Services

Ms. Lettelleir reviewed the final rankings provided by the Evaluation Committee for the miscellaneous design and CEI services:

Firm	Ranking
HDR	1
RK&K	2
EXP U.S. Services, Inc.	3
Burns & MacDonnell	4

She requested the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee's final ranking for the miscellaneous design and CEI services and to authorize and direct staff to negotiate contracts with the four top-ranked firms. The contracts are subject to review and approval by THEA's Chief Legal Officer.

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

Approval of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority Interlocal Agreements with the Seminole County and Lake County Tax Collectors' Offices.

Ms. Lettelleir presented interlocal agreements with the Seminole County Tax Collector and the Lake County Tax Collector that will allow THEA customers to pay tolls to these offices for the release of registration holds and to provide the procedures for remittance and reporting between the parties. The requested action is for the Board to authorize THEA's Chairman to execute Interlocal Agreements with the Seminole County and Lake County Tax Collectors' Offices.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Weatherford moved approval, seconded by Secretary Hall. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Operations & Engineering – *Brian McElroy, Operations Project Manager II*

Mr. McElroy provided an update on the Euclid Avenue drainage ditch restoration task. The project included 600 feet of ditch to address concerns brought to the Authority by residents and to maximize water flow. It was completed September 16, 2025, at a cost of $68,813.

Mr. Slater recognized Mr. McElroy for the excellent job he is doing managing our asset maintenance contractor, as well as a lot of direct contact with community members.

Mayor Castor concurred and thanked Mr. McElroy for stepping up for this and every other issue.

Mr. McElroy noted his appreciation and added that it was a team effort.

Toll Technology & Customer Experience – *Gary Holland, Toll Systems Manager*

Mr. Holland presented the toll statistics for August 2025. He reported total transactions at 6,734,713, a year-over-year increase of nearly 80,000.

For the different segments of the Selmon Expressway, transactions are up 4.6% on the West Extension, 7.1% on the West Mainline, 6.4% on the East Mainline, and 20.2% on the REL. Overall, year over year, transactions are up 7.7%.

The transponder/toll-by-plate transactions remain at 67% transponder/33% toll-by-plate.

Finally, in response to a question by the Chairman during the June Board meeting, Mr. Holland presented toll-by-plate transactions for the top ten out-of-state vehicles from

June 2025-August 2025, with the top four states being Georgia, Texas, Indiana, North Carolina.

Executive Reports

Executive Director – *Greg Slater, Executive Director*

Contract Renewals and Expirations

Mr. Slater updated the Board on one contract renewal, the second one-year renewal with Millenium Floor Care for janitorial services.

Director's Report

Mr. Slater reported on the following:

- He had a great discussion with Tampa Police Department about the increased presence of excessive speeders on the system and they have followed up and with visual enforcement. It has made a difference having that presence. He thanked TPD for their efforts.
- On September 8, THEA had a significant gate hit that took out the ramps at I-75. He thanked Ms. Villegas and Mr. Ferreira for their quick action in getting the gate repaired.
- Last week he provided an update to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on the US 301 efforts. He thanked Commissioner Cepeda and noted the conversation was very productive. As a result, he will be meeting with a church down in Riverview to hear concerns and answer questions.
- Later in October he will be traveling to IBTTA in Denver where he will participate in a CEO Roundtable and panel discussions.

Team THEA

Mr. Slater announced that Toni Atkinson is back from maternity leave, and he welcomed her back. He added that Julie Aure is now out on maternity leave, and he welcomed Krishna Rentala, THEA's new Business Analyst.

Mayor Castor asked about the engagement incentives (stipends) and whether there is data that shows this type of incentive results in a reduction in overall price.

Mr. Slater noted that it does, but it also allows us to use ideas that might not have come from the winning team. He added that companies typically do not come after these projects for the stipend. Secretary Hall added that the stipend does not cover the cost of putting a bid together.

Chief Legal Officer – *Amy Lettelleir, Esq.*

Ms. Lettelleir congratulated the Board on the successful award of the South Selmon Capacity Project and recognized outgoing Board member John Weatherford for his service.

Upcoming Meetings

- **Board Meeting – October 27, 2025**
- **Board Meeting – December 1, 2025**

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

APPROVED: ______________________ ATTEST: ______________________

Chairman: Vincent J. Cassidy **Vice Chairman: Bennett Barrow**

DATED THIS 27th DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.