

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of the October 27, 2025, 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 October 27, 2025, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

**BOARD:**

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman  
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
Cody Powell, Member  
L.K. Nandam, Member  
Commissioner Donna Cameron-Cepeda

**STAFF:**

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

**OTHERS:**

Rick Patterson, Raymond James	Kent Moore, American Structurepoint
Brent Wilder, PFM	Christina Matthews, WSP
Maddi Baptiste, Playbook	Scarlett Sharpe, WSP
Laura Crouch, Playbook	Len Becker, HNTB
John Generalli, Wells Fargo	Doug Draper, BofA
Alex Bourne, RS&H	Snehal Ambare, CDM Smith
Stephanie Claytor, Quest	Schott Chase, Webber
Tracey Williams, Infotect	John Tursky, TransCore
Dylan Albergo, TCP	David Franklin, EXP
Branan Anderson, KCA	Sarah Leach, Playbook
Rachel Ebner, American Structurepoint	Stefanie McQueen, HDR

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 September 22, 2025, Board Meeting

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Powell. The motion carried unanimously.*

Before moving on to the action items, Chairman Cassidy took a moment to introduce and welcome two new THEA Board members, LK Nandam and Cody Powell.

## Discussion/Action Items

### Operations and Engineering – Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – *Judith Villegas, ITS Manager*

#### 1. South Selmon Capacity Project Public Information Officer (PIO) Services – Playbook Public Relations

Ms. Villegas presented a task order for all public information and communication tasks related to the South Selmon Capacity Project through the end of calendar year 2026.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with Playbook Public Relations to provide PIO services for the upcoming South Selmon Capacity Project through the end of calendar year 2026, in the amount of \$360,870 from the capital budget.

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

Mr. Slater noted that this task will get us through the end of 2026 and provide an opportunity to gauge the level of community engagement this project will require. Any additional funding requests will come back to the Board at the end of 2026.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### 2. Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services for ITS Infrastructure for East Selmon and West Selmon – RK&K

Ms. Villegas presented a task order with RK&K for Construction, Engineering, and Inspection (CEI) services for the ITS Infrastructure for East Selmon and West Selmon Projects. The project is anticipated to be completed in three to five years.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with RK&K to provide CEI services for the upcoming ITS Deployment Project in the amount of \$3,838,305 from the capital budget.

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

### **3. Barrier Gate Purchase – B&B Roadway**

Ms. Villegas discussed the need to replenish stock of barrier gates and ancillary items that are essential to the Reversible Express Lane (REL) gate system.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with B&B Roadway to purchase REL barrier gates, LED lights, and mechanical relays in the amount of \$57,400 from the operations and maintenance budget.

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

Ms. Villegas noted that as part of the wrong-way-driving project, in-pavement lighting is being installed to bring more awareness to the location of the gates. She will provide feedback to the Board once it becomes available.

### **4. Selmon Expressway - Hardesty & Hanover**

Ms. Villegas presented a task order to Hardesty & Hanover to provide expert segmental bridge services for the Selmon Expressway.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Hardesty & Hanover for \$250,000 from the capital budget.

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

### **5. Selmon Expressway – Burgess & Niple**

Next, Ms. Villegas presented a task order for Burgess & Niple to provide monitoring and inspection services for the Selmon Expressway.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute task orders with Burgess & Niple for \$58,337 from the capital budget.

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

### **6. Whiting Street Pre-design – KCA**

The final item presented by Ms. Villegas was related to efforts to mitigate design risk on the Whiting Street Project by performing a drainage study on the project area and initiating long duration activities such as survey and geotechnical analysis.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with KCA to begin Whiting Street pre-design activities in the amount of \$642,554 from the capital budget.

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

## **Information Technology & Security – Shari Callahan, Director**

### **1. Network Virtualization Enhancements – Infotect Design Solutions**

Ms. Callahan discussed the need to create greater efficiencies from THEA-owned operations network servers through virtualization and to enhance security by upgrading the operating system of these servers.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Infotect to enhance and virtualize the operations network in the amount of \$69,043 from the capital budget.

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

Chairman Cassidy asked for clarification on creating greater efficiencies and what savings might be incurred with this expenditure.

Ms. Callahan noted that she has not conducted such an analysis, though there are multiple savings factors when you virtualize. For example, less power consumption, and consolidated network services. She will conduct an analysis and provide that information at a future date.

Mr. Slater added that as part of that efficiency, these environments are much more secure, so it is easier to keep them up to date and manage security.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

### **2. DYNAC Software Migration Support – Kapsch**

Ms. Callahan presented a request to migrate the DYNAC software for the Reversible Express Lanes to a more secure network environment. The work includes backup of the software for the migration, validation of the DYNAC database, data migration to the new hardware and preliminary and final acceptance testing.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Kapsch to migrate the DYNAC software to the virtualized operations network in the amount of \$59,987 from the capital budget.

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

### **3. DYNAC Software 3-Year Maintenance - Kapsch**

Finally, Ms. Callahan presented an item to provide support for the ongoing maintenance of the DYNAC software by providing preventative and demand responsive maintenance activities for the next 3 years to ensure the functionality of the Reversible Express Lanes.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Kapsch to maintain the DYNAC software for the next 3 years in the amount of \$298,498 from the capital budget.

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

**Legal – Vince Cassidy, Chair – Amy Lettelleir, Chief Legal Officer**

**1. Approval of the amended 400 Series Policy**

Ms. Lettelleir presented the amended Operations and Maintenance Policies, which have been updated to align with industry best practices and operational accuracy.

She requested the Board approve the Operations and Maintenance 400 Series Policy, as amended.

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

**Staff Reports**

**A. Budget & Finance – Jeff Seward, Chief Financial Officer**

Mr. Seward provided a report on the FY2025 Unaudited Budget.

He first pointed out that the FY2025 unaudited numbers were used in the Moody's outlook update, moving THEA from stable to positive. He noted the audited financial reports and ACFR will be presented to the board in for review during the January meeting.

He also noted that THEA's FY2024 ACFR just received Certificate of Excellence in Financial Planning by the Government Finance Officers Association. We will be submitting the FYF2025 ACFR for consideration as well. This is our second year receiving that award.

Mr. Seward reviewed the numbers, beginning with toll revenues. He pointed out a variance, which was due to Hurricane Milton and expenses related to the Toll Rebate Program. Investment/interest income exceeded what was anticipated and is due to cash balances we had in anticipation of the South Selmon Capacity Project, which will begin this year.

Mr. Seward noted that on the expenditure side, THEA underspent in FY2025. He pointed out an overspend in Planning & Innovation, this is due to changes in the budgeting process and moving planning activities from the capital budget to operating budget. He also noted an overspend in General Administration due to a professional development, including several leadership programs for staff. Overall – THEA underspent the FY2025 operating budget.

Next, Mr. Seward reported on the Debt Service Ratio. THEA has a requirement of 1.3X and a policy of 1.5X. We look at finishing FY26 (unaudited) at 3.16X.

Mr. Seward presented the FY2025 unaudited budget for capital, pointing out a variance, much of which was due to a number of issues that impact projects, such as rescoping, pushing out notices to proceed, etc. We are reassessing as we prepare for the FY2027 capital program and homing in on the projects that can be procured.

Chairman Cassidy asked about the confidence level that there will not be a large variance of underspend. Mr. Seward noted THEA should not have an underspend in the capital program. Mr. Slater added that each year, THEA is getting more precise with its budget, which he believes to be a major factor in the upgraded outlook with Moody's.

Finally, Mr. Seward provided a FY2026 Year-to-Date overview, including the addition of a column to indicate what THEA expected to spend. For revenue the column represents the expectation from our T&R report by month. For revenue, the actual/expected is right where we expected it to be. On the expenditure side there are variances, which he explained. He reviewed the capital expenditures, noting that the adopted budget is a good target for this fiscal year.

Mr. Barrow asked if the Board could get a high-level capital budget financial summary for the South Selmon Capacity Project. Mr. Seward responded in the affirmative, noting that something similar is being prepared for the OBOS and RTCS projects.

Mr. Slater added that one of the tools THEA uses in managing these projects is looking at expenditures versus project progress and making sure they are aligned.

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

Mr. Holland presented the toll statistics for September 2025.

The Chairman noted there was a toll impact from Milton and asked if there was also one for Helene. Mr. Holland noted there was no suspension for Helene. Mr. Nandam added that Helene was not a direct hit and that was a factor.

Mr. Holland reported total transactions at 6,557,415, a year-over-year increase of almost 500,000. Average weekly transactions on the West Extension are up 7.3%, 8.1% on the West Mainline, 7.2% on the East Mainline, and 21.8% on the REL.

The transponder/toll-by-plate transactions are at 66 % transponder and 34% toll-by-plate.

Mr. Slater noted that, in thinking about the context of the growth that we have seen it is dramatic. We have leveled off at around 3%, but our transactions and our traffic are up 80% over the last ten years and 150% over the last 15 years.

**C. Communications & Community Engagement – *Keisha Pickett Boyd, Director***

Ms. Pickett Boyd highlighted the positive media attention surrounding the South Selmon Capacity Project, as well as the featured coverage in the Tampa Bay Business Journal regarding THEA's new bond rating.

She reported on THEA's recent recognition for the Selmon Greenway Master Plan and the East Selmon Slip Ramp Project. Ms. Pickett Boyd also shared some of the many events in which THEA's participation is driving dialog, including the Transportation Supersession, the Business Observer's podcast, Toll Talk podcast, and an editorial in Think Magazine. Mr. Slater also presented an update on US 301 PD&E to the Hillsborough County BOCC.

Ms. Pickett Boyd mentioned the news coverage of THEA's new and re-appointed Board members and highlighted speaking engagements and sponsorships of which THEA was a part.

She reviewed THEA's publicity metrics for August 5-October 7, noting more than \$925K in earned media, and an increase in social media followers.

Finally, Ms. Pickett Boyd announced that Mr. Slater was an Apogee Outstanding Leader nominee and was also named one of Florida's most influential business leaders in the Florida 500, and Ms. Lettelleir was elected to the IBTTA Board of Directors.

**Executive Reports**

**Executive Director – *Greg Slater, Executive Director***

Mr. Slater reported on the following:

- A reminder about work zone safety – he mentioned a recent incident on the Selmon Expressway that occurred when a driver, who admitted to being inattentive, struck our attenuator protection truck (no injuries were involved).
- THEA received notice that we were awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the second year in a row from the GFOA. Special thanks to Mr. Seward and Ms. Pessina for the hard work that goes into the reporting, as well as throughout the year.
- The Roadside Tolling Infrastructure procurement advertised on October 13.
- The South Selmon Capacity Project is awarded and underway in final design and in the ASAP phase.
- Whiting Street final design is awarded and progressing.
- US 301 scope clarification and collaboration with Lochner is complete. He will be working with Don Skelton to ensure things stay on track. Mr. Skelton will also work closely with FDOT and FTE. Costs from the negotiation will come to the Board in December.

- OBOS is underway and early collaboration and project development is going well with Neology.
- We have new design and CEI contracts in place and the ITS design-build and Real Estate RFP will soon be before the Board for approval.

Mr. Slater announced that he has joined the Board of Directors at the Tampa Downtown Partnership. He will also be leading a conversation on transportation at the Future of Florida Forum with the Florida Chamber, as well as participating in the Tampa Bay Developer Podcast. Last week he participated in the Fox 13 Mark Wilson Podcast.

Mr. Slater congratulated Ms. Lettelleir for her appointment to the IBTTA Board, and Julie Aure on the birth of her new baby.

Finally, he thanked Board members for serving and noted that former member John Weatherford will be recognized at a future Board meeting.

Chairman Cassidy commented that looking back eight years ago traveling the world to participate in technology in transportation conferences, all anyone wanted to talk about was connected and autonomous vehicles. Last year we visited Portugal, and it was all about safety – Europe is focused on zero fatalities on their toll roads by 2030. Most recently in Denver, it was all about AI. He noted that all these topics have dominated the conversation, and THEA is involved in it all.

#### **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.

Mr. Powell circled back to the US 301 PD&E and asked if there has been any discussion during Mr. Slater's presentation to the Board of County Commissioners about modifying the US 301 PD&E Study to consider extending down into Sun City Center with all the growth the area has experienced.

Mr. Slater noted that the topic was not discussed during his presentation, but he has had conversations with some Commissioners. It's really been feedback we've received from the community – can we build it faster and can we go further south. As we get further into the PD&E process, we will let the growth dictate how far we go. Mr. Slater noted THEA will explore the feasibility, adding that he expects it to be a big topic as we move forward with the PD&E.

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

- Board Meeting – December 1, 2025
- Board Meeting - January 12, 2025

**Old Business**

No old business.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:11 p.m.

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

**DATED THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2025.**