

## SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

### Minutes

March 2, 2015

South Florida Regional Planning Council met on this date at FDOT District VI – Auditorium, 1000 N.W. 111 Avenue, Miami, Florida. Chair Walters called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and asked Executive Director James Murley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call**

Councilmember Patricia Asseff (absent)  
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey (via phone)  
Councilmember Margaret Bates (via phone)  
Councilmember Mark Bogen  
Councilmember Frank Caplan  
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava  
Councilmember Tim Daubert  
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)  
Councilmember Martin Kiar (absent)  
Councilmember George Neugent  
Councilmember David Rice  
Councilmember Stacy Ritter (absent)  
Councilmember Xavier Suarez  
Councilmember Paul Wallace  
Chair Sandra Walters  
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley

Mr. Sam Goren, Legal Counsel was present.

The following Ex-Officio Members were present:

Ms. Aileen Boucle, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District VI  
Ms. Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District

#### **II. Approval of Council Agenda**

Councilmember Suarez moved to approve the Council Agenda. Councilmember Neugent seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

Chair Walters welcomed Harold Desdunes, Director of Transportation Development, Florida Department of Transportation District VI and thanked him for the formal invitation to hold the Council's Regional Meetings at this location. She stated that this is the perfect location considering our partnership in regional transportation issues.

Mr. Desdunes welcomed everyone to the District Office. He stated that Florida is the third most populous state in the nation. He informed the Councilmembers the Department is updating the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). He explained his staff's responsibilities, which include coordinating significant regional projects with transportation partners and various plans. He stated they would like to create a seamless regional transit system while identifying ways to improve the safety and access of the bicycle and pedestrian systems. In addition FDOT is working together to engage the public and identify what is most important to residents from a regional standpoint. He stated they are promoting regional transportation with the efficiency of the multi-modal

transportation system. Mr. Desdunes welcomed everyone and thanked them for the opportunity for the Department to speak and present their plans and projects.

Chair Walters welcomed Broward County Commissioner Mark Bogen and Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. Chair Walters stated two Gubernatorial Appointees are still needed for full Council membership.

Chair Walters requested after Agenda Item III.D, Agenda Item V.A Regional Convening of Our Regional Transportation Update will follow and the Meeting will return to III.F FY 2013-14 Annual Audit.

### **III. Action Items**

#### **A. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Councilmember Daubert moved to approve the Minutes of the Previous Meeting. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **B. Financial Report**

Councilmember Daubert moved to approve Agenda Item III.B, Financial Report. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report**

Councilmember Rice moved to approve Agenda Item III.C, Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews**

- Broward County 15-1ESR
- Broward County 15-2ESR
- Broward County 15-3ESR
- Miami-Dade County 15-1ESR
- Town of Bay Harbor Islands 15-1ESR
- City of Coral Springs 15-1ER
- Town of Cutler Bay 15-1ESR
- Town of Davie 15-2ESR
- Town of Davie 15-3ESR
- City of Doral 15-1ESR
- City of Fort Lauderdale 15-2ESR
- City of Hollywood 15-1ESR
- City of Hollywood 14-1ESR
- City of Lighthouse Point 15-1ESR
- City of Marathon 15-1ACSC
- City of Miami 15-2ESR
- City of Miramar 15-1ESR
- City of North Miami Beach 15-1ESR
- Town of Pembroke Park 15-1ESR
- City of Pembroke Pines 15-2ESR

- Village of Pinecrest 15-2ESR
- City of Pompano Beach 15-1ESR

Mr. Murley, Executive Director explained the process of the Local Government Comprehensive Plan Reviews and the purpose of the “purple sheet”. He stated the Local Plan Amendments on the “purple sheet” were delivered to the SFRPC after the Agenda Packet was mailed to the Councilmembers; he informed them the Items on the website are also updated.

Chair Walters explained the difference between the III.D Consent Items and the III.E Regional Issues.

Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, stated that Councilmember Bailey recused himself from voting on Miami-Dade County, 15-1ESR and City of Pompano Beach, 15-1ESR amendments due to a conflict of interest. Councilmember Bailey concurred.

Councilmember Weekley moved to approve Agenda Item III.D, Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews. Councilmember Neugent seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

E. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews - None

Chair Walters announced the Regional Transportation Update will be next on the Agenda.

**V. Program Reports and Activities**

A. Regional Convening  
1) Regional Transportation Update

Mr. Murley stated there are three handouts at the Councilmembers seats. He stated Regional Convening is a primary focus of the Regional Council. He stated there will be a Regional Convening as part of future full Council Meetings. He asked the Councilmembers if they have any suggestions for this Agenda Item to contact him. He informed them the presentations today are from Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) - All Aboard Florida; South Florida Regional Transportation Authority - Tri-Rail; and FDOTs District IV and VI. He introduced Jose Gonzalez, from Florida East Coast Industries.

Councilmember Suarez inquired if the PowerPoint presentations will be available on the website. Chair Walters and Mr. Murley stated this would be done.

Mr. Gonzalez, Senior Vice President of Corporate Development of Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) stated that he had presented All Aboard Florida (AAF) information to the Council in the past and recapped the AAF history. He explained that AAF was the United States’ first privately owned and operated intercity passenger rail system. He explained the history of FECI dating back to Henry Flagler. He informed the Council there will be 235 miles of track with four stations in Miami, Fort Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando. He informed the Council of the timing and speed of the train from station to station and gave details of each of the stations.

Mr. Gonzalez explained the Orlando International Airport Future Intermodal Facility had a Master Plan in place for the Tampa to Orlando High Speed Rail connection; he stated it was simple to accommodate the Facility for AAF intercity passenger service with a few changes.

Mr. Gonzalez explained the West Palm Beach Station and the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) associated with the Station. He stated there will be platforms and the Station inside will provide an air conditioned space with amenities, containing food, beverages, and a lounge atmosphere.

Mr. Gonzalez explained in detail about the Fort Lauderdale Station, the TOD and the several parcels of land around the Station that are being purchased for economic development.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that in Downtown Miami the east – west connectivity with Metromover and MetroRail have been preserved by designing the tracks to be elevated. He stated this Plan has been redefined many times since 2012. He gave details on the integration of the five buildings that are planned for MiamiCentral, how many stories, if they are residential, rental, hotel, office, retail, grocer, parking etc. He explained in detail the Robotic Parking System that will be integrated with the Station along with regular commuter parking.

Councilmember Suarez inquired whether partial funding for MiamiCentral had been approved by Southeast Overtown / Park West Community Redevelopment Area. Mr. Gonzalez stated approval was pending. The CRA has approved sale of property to the Station to AAF to be part of the Station complex.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the connection of AAF to MetroRail, Metromover and Tri-Rail is important along with connectivity to the highway and other transit systems. He explained a little about Tri-Rail's Coastal Link's Plan and their vision of operation. He explained the proposed plans of Tri-Rail to be part of the MiamiCentral Station. He showed the cross section of the Station, the platforms, tracks, retail, and lounges. He pointed out the difference in tracks used for AAF and Tri-Rail and explained the reasoning and the connection between the tracks.

Councilmember Suarez inquired about Tri-Rail not using the same track or platform as AAF, the timing change of the completion of the project and funding from Southeast Overtown CRA.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the funding is being sought by Tri-Rail not AAF. He stated that there is an opportunity to bring Tri-Rail into the Station as seen on the slide. He stated the Coastal Link still has several approval processes. He explained some of the funding needs for Tri-Rail/Coastal Link, the track sharing including FEC's tracks, the reason Tri-Rail platform is different than AAF, and the timing of the trains coming into the Station so there is no congestion.

Councilmember Cava stated that having this map of the transportation hub would be more useful if it had an overlay with the other means of transit, going to the port, airport and other major destinations. She stated this is a very complicated project and believes a map with an overlay will help with public awareness.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that there is one available and will forward it to her office.

Councilmember Daubert asked why the various trains were not made to be compatible for the boarding of passengers.

Mr. Gonzalez stated the AAF trains are being designed for level boarding and cannot speak for the other entities.

Councilmember Daubert asked why AAF did not purchase the same trains as Tri-Rail.

Mr. Gonzalez stated these trains were chosen for rapid boarding, so wheelchair users and tourists with baggage can board at any area not just the one with the ramp.

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Councilmembers of the upgrades that will take place: upgraded grade crossing infrastructure to meet safety requirements; the funding for Quiet Zones; positive train control

and new signaling; improved drawbridge operations including bridge tenders and communications regarding bridge cycles.

Councilmember Wallace inquired about the major access ways to the Station from the airport or port and capacity.

Mr. Gonzalez stated there is enough capacity with MetroRail, Miami-Dade Transit, buses and tour buses. He stated that this is a comprehensive plan and there will be options for those visitors to travel by other means to their destinations.

Councilmember Wallace inquired about the fare pricing.

Mr. Gonzalez stated that it would depend on how the ticket is purchased but will be under the \$100 range. He stated the price of a ticket will be different if purchased as part of a package compared to purchasing just a ticket.

Mr. Gonzalez informed the Councilmembers about the Minority Outreach and executing the DBE/SBE/MBE Programs, the community outreach tour to inform federal, state and local elected officials on the company's DBE/SBE/MBE goals, and the Outreach Portal for prospective firms to communicate with them. Mr. Gonzalez stated that this part of the process was not a requirement but FECCI felt this was the right thing to do to help those who live in the area. He explained FECCI will continue the discussion with the public and concerned firms.

Mr. Gonzalez explained in detail the Project Milestones including projected timelines for the various stations regarding design, engineering and environmental approvals, infrastructure construction, testing, connections with Tri-Rail and the Orlando Airport and when the services to the stations will be available. He stated he appreciated the chance to speak to those in attendance today.

Mr. Murley introduced Jack Stephens, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA). Mr. Murley stated the SFRTA and the Council has a long standing contractual relationship regarding regional transportation and land use and hopes to renew this relationship for another five years.

Mr. Stephens stated that the SFRTA has an excellent partnership with the South Florida and the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils. He explained the background of Tri-Rail which began in 1989. He explained the reason Tri-Rail is on the CSX and not on the FEC. He provided the passenger statistics to date, the modernization efforts and upgrades of Tri-Rail. Mr. Stephens stated Tri-Rail is a 72 mile system with 17, soon to be 18, stations from Mangonia Park north of West Palm Beach south to Miami Airport with 50 trains per day. He identified the significant changes that have been made due a recent onboard survey. He explained they are trying to reach out to the millennials and the bicycle ridership. He stated that there are plans to take the old rail cars and make bike racks and passenger seating together and if this is successful each train will have a "bike car". He stated that in working with FDOT they are progressing to make a more environmentally and safer train. He explained that as a result of agreements with and coordination with CSX and FDOT SFRTA will have control of the rail corridor dispatch and maintenance by the end of March 2015. He stated that SFRTA staff is working to install equipment for Wi-Fi on board in most of the trains and real-time passenger information at the stations via smartphones and computers with a Tri-Rail application and website.

He explained why SFRTA is not in the Miami Intermodal Center (MIC). He stated this is a project has been coordinated under FDOT District VI for quite some time. He stated they moved out of the MIC at

their request and moved to Hialeah so they could do a better job of coordinating the construction of the new facility, hopefully saving approximately \$13 million.

Councilmember Suarez inquired how many miles would it be from Miami to Palm Beach if Tri-Rail got approval to use the last leg of the FEC line.

Mr. Stephens stated the Coastal Link connection from Jupiter to Miami Grand Central Station is 82 miles.

Councilmember Suarez inquired about the finalization of the Coastal Link.

Mr. Stephens stated the goal is Fiscal Year 2020-2021.

Councilmember Suarez stated the difference of the 2020-2021 and possibly 2016 for the linkage from Tri-Rail across the CSX line to Downtown Miami is a five years difference.

Mr. Stephens stated that the five year difference is aggressive.

Councilmember Suarez stated that he wanted the Councilmembers to know that two years ago the Councilmembers were told finalization of All Aboard Florida and the Coastal Link would be at the same time.

Mr. Stephens referred to a slide of the Tri-Rail train in the Miami Intermodal Center. He stated there are four trains, no passengers, running through there a day for testing. He stated that if all goes well they should be in there next month. He stated that this would combine all the methods of transit, Metro Rail, Amtrak will be there in a year or two, joined by Greyhound, local bus etc. He stated that this is a fabulous connection and we all should be very proud of it.

Mr. Stephens explained in detail the Regional Partnership, its members and their responsibilities and the Phases regarding the activities.

Mr. Stephens explained the new commuter rail service on the FEC Railway Corridor from Downtown Miami to Jupiter with the fully integrated expansion of Tri-Rail; the 20-25 new stations that will link municipalities and destinations; the sharing of existing and new tracks with FEC freight and the AAF inter-city service with three co-located stations with AAF; and extensive economic development projection. He informed the Council of the projected new residential and commercial development as well as the economic benefits of economic output, labor income, and new permanent jobs. Mr. Stephens provided approximate travel times to the various locations. He informed the Councilmembers about the east-west rail connections between Tri-Rail/CSX and the FEC. He mentioned FDOT received a United States Department of Transportation TIGER V Grant Award for track improvements, the multi-agency public-private partnership and the committed funding from the agencies. He stated the AAF and Tri-Rail Downtown Miami coordination effort is critical for the region. He stated they are working very hard with their partners on the private side. He stated that this project will bind the region together. He stated this is a unique public-private partnership.

Councilmember Suarez inquired about the travel time from Downtown Miami to Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Stephens stated it would be about an hour on one train.

Councilmember Cava inquired about the cost for the passenger.

Mr. Stephens stated he hoped the fare would remain the same for this location. He stated that the Board would make that determination.

Councilmember Suarez wanted to know the exact fare for the record. Mr. Stephens stated it is online and he has the program brochure in his briefcase.

Chair Walters suggested Mr. Stephens present that information after the next speakers. Mr. Stephens agreed.

Councilmember Wallace stated that this is exciting. He asked if Mr. Stephens has conversation with the Expressway Authority regarding theoretical or philosophical coordination on transportation. He inquired if there is any consultation between the SFRTA, Miami Dade Transit, the Miami-Dade Expressway Authority and the Broward Expressway Authority and if there are some points of commonality of analysis.

Mr. Stephens answered yes; there are several opportunities regarding this. He stated that they work closely with FDOT, District IV and VI who do a lot of coordination of various forms of modality from moving freight to moving people. He stated there is conversation with MDX to move in the future more ways of connecting people other than roads while roads are good they are needed. There is a suggestion that some of those roads be used for other alternative modes of transportation efforts. He stated that after the Downtown MiamiCentral Station is operational the next step he would like to providing services from that station north up the FEC to New River and the means of serving that portion of Miami-Dade County that currently do not receive rail service. He stated the entire Coastal Link does not have to be done by 2020 but can be done in phases.

Councilmember Cava reiterated that once the track is completed there could be a phases of smaller components before 2020.

Mr. Stephens stated he believed that with the Commuter Rail System this could be done with negotiations with FEC and AAF for track space.

Councilmember Cava requested a comprehensive map overview to integrate everything.

Mr. Stephens stated they are working with AAF to provide the physical aerial view of the roads and rails.

Councilmember Cava would like to have a presentation on the MPO agenda.

Councilmember Suarez asked if the total miles that would be shared by AAF passenger track with Coastal Link is 63 with additional tracks needed and is the cost estimate still at \$600 million dollars.

Mr. Stephens stated that it would be between \$600-\$800 million dollars. He stated that this is a small portion and this is how things get done, little by little and people will get the idea of what the possibilities are.

Councilmember Daubert stated that if you are to be using the same FEC tracks on the east corridor how are you going to handle the platform height.

Mr. Stephens stated that Tri-Rail would have their own stations. He stated the tracks would be shared and go into our own station at our height.

Councilmember Daubert inquired about changing trains or floating docks.

Mr. Stephens stated that it is easier and cheaper to build the individual stations and it will cost millions of dollars to change trains.

Chair Walters suggested the next speakers present and suggested the Councilmembers stay for the other Agenda Items.

Lisa Colmenares, AICP, Intermodal Systems Development Office, FDOT, District VI, stated that along with her are Lois Bush, Planning and Environmental Management Office from FDOT, District IV and Michael Williamson from Cambridge Systematics. She explained the Florida Transportation Plan Update (FTP) and the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) and why it is important. She stated that the FTP is a long range strategic transportation plan for all of Florida that provides policy guidance for all transportation partners and policy framework for expenditure of state and federal transportation funds. She explained the policies and guidance for implementation; consultation with state, regional and local partners, and the plans and programs for the various modes of transportation. She explained the various related partner efforts from Metropolitan Planning Organizations, state agencies, local governments, Regional Planning Councils, modal partners and their plans and strategies. She stressed the importance of planning for all the Florida modes of transportation. She informed the Councilmembers of the importance of the Southeast Florida Regional Transportation Plan which is coordinated through the Southeast Florida Transportation Council. She stated that it is important that FDOT and the three MPOs work together to accommodate and prioritize for future growth. She described the regional significant projects such as the Miami Intermodal Center, the Golden Glades Intermodal Center, and the regional express lanes network's current status. Ms. Colmenares stated that the vision is to have an interconnected system for the entire South Florida Region and provide reliable interconnected expressways. She explained the Southeast Florida's Freight Program and Plan. She stated that Miami, Broward and Palm Beach MPOs have incorporated to have freight included in their plans.

Mr. Williams, of Cambridge Systematics, highlighted the 2014 Southeast Regional Freight Plan which will be finalized over the next few weeks. He stated that the 2014 Update is the first update since 23010. He stated this was coordinated with FDOT Districts IV and VI and the three MPOs. He stated they took a look at the needs are for the moving forward and what has been accomplished. He stated they researched the thriving of logistics of trade, and trade patterns. He pointed out the accomplishments and investments over the past 10 years. He spoke about the Port of Miami, Port Everglades and Miami International Airport and how the forecast suggests doubling or tripling of cargo over the next 20 years, the industrial growth of the Miami River and the rail operations and the proposed corridor along US 27. He talked about the truck parking in which the 595 Truck Stop is the only full service facility and truck parking studies are underway to identify the need for truck parking. He stated that Intermodal Logistics Centers are eligible to be designated as a freight hub and with certain criteria are eligible for SIS funding. Roadway or rail connection and the ILC Grant Program to develop properties of this type encourage growth development at our seaports. He described the slide on the economic impacts of the freight industry in regards to jobs, labor income, compensation, economic output and the freight jobs in the industry sector from 2012. He explained the strategies that came out or the Plan to look at ways to promote the economic contributions of freight and logistics industry. He stated that some of the information that was developed can be used to help market our Region and why it is important.

Ms. Bush, FDOT, District IV informed the Councilmembers the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan (FTP) and Florida's Strategic Intermodal System Strategic Plan (SIS) will be updated by the end of 2015. She wanted to share the process of the updates because participation in regards to these updates is important. She explained the FTP/SIS Update Steering Committee and Advisory Groups consist of statewide partner organization and open to other partners. She explained the meetings began in January (FTP) and March (SIS) for partner and public briefings as ongoing efforts. She talked about the five regional



visioning forums, policy workshops, statewide policy summit, the Draft FTP and SIS Policy Plan for public comment and the Final Plan that will be adopted by the end of 2015. She explained that this information is on the website: [www.FLoridaTransportation.com](http://www.FLoridaTransportation.com) and a comment tab. She asked that active participants to be part of this process.

Mr. Stephens informed the Councilmembers per Councilmember Suarez request with the fees on Tri-Rail. He stated that there are various options:

Weekday:

6 stops: \$6.50

Roundtrip is discounted: \$11.50

Discounts for seniors, free rides for all veterans, 50% discount for students, 25% discount for the employer discount program. He proceeded to give the program to Councilmember Suarez.

The Council Meeting transitioned to an Executive Committee Meeting. Chair Walters thanked the transportation speakers and commended them on their dialogue and stated she is looking forward to continuing the updated process.

#### F. FY 2013-14 Annual Audit

Kevin Adderley, Audit Director for the Sharpton Group gave a brief overview of the results of the Audit for the South Florida Regional Planning Council and the South Florida Regional Prosperity Institute for the Year ended 2014. He explained the various procedures of compliance that were processed including the major Federally Funded Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce in compliance with the Loan Program. The firm issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statements as well as the Federal Program Audit. He stated he is available for any questions.

Councilmember Rice moved to approve Agenda Item III.F, FY 2013-14 Annual Audit. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

#### **IV. Discussion Items**

A. Executive Committee Report - None

B. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Murley stated there is a letter from the Florida Regional Council Director, Ron Book to the Governor and Senator Simpson addressing the issues raised at their meeting. He informed them there were updates to the Florida Regional Council Association's Legislative Talking Points. He stated the Council's website is progressing and should be available before the next meeting.

Chair Walters asked the Councilmembers to look at the website for presentations and information on the Executive Committee Meeting.

C. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel stated that there is nothing to report regarding litigation.

D. Ex Officio Reports - None

#### **V. Program Reports and Activities**

A. Regional Convening

1) Regional Transportation Update – presented earlier

- B. Revolving Loan Fund Reports
  - 1) SFRPC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report
- C. Emergency Preparedness Program Status Report
- D. Florida Regional Councils Association
  - 1) FRCA Monthly Accomplishments
  - 2) FRCA Legislative Update

**VI. Announcements and Attachments**

- A. Correspondence and Attendance Form
- B. Upcoming Meetings
  - 1) April 6th, 10:30 a.m. (Executive Committee Meeting, SFRPC Office, Hollywood)
  - 2) May 4th, 10:30 a.m. (Murray E. Nelson Government Center, Key Largo)
  - 3) June 1<sup>st</sup>, :30 a.m. (Executive Committee Meeting, SFRPC Office, Hollywood)
  - 4) July 6<sup>th</sup>, :30 a.m. (SFRPC Office, Hollywood)

**VII. Councilmember Comments**

Chair Walters stated the next meeting will be an Executive Committee Meeting and encouraged anyone who is not part of the Executive Committee to join them. She stated this turned out well last time because we did not have a quorum and non-Executive Committee Member Wallace was present and acted as an Executive Committee Member.

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL, and the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the March 2, 2015 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL adopted the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

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Patricia T. Asseff, Secretary

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Date