

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes

September 12, 2016

The South Florida Regional Council met on this date at Florida Department of Transportation, (FDOT) District 6 – Auditorium, 1000 N.W. 111 Avenue, Miami, Florida. Acting Chair Daubert called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call

Chair Patricia Asseff (absent)
Councilmember Mario J. Bailey (absent)
Councilmember Margaret Bates (via phone)
Councilmember Mark Bogen (absent)
Councilmember Frank Caplan
Councilmember Daniella Levine Cava (via phone)
Councilmember Tim Daubert
Councilmember Beam Furr
Councilmember Cary Goldberg (absent)
Councilmember Nelson Hernandez (absent)
Councilmember Martin Kiar (absent)
Councilmember George Neugent (absent)
Councilmember David Rice (absent)
Councilmember Greg Ross
Councilmember Xavier Suarez
Councilmember Sandra Walters (absent)
Councilmember Jimmy Weekley

Isabel Cosio Carballo, Executive Director, and Sam Goren, Legal Counsel, were present.

The following Ex-Officio Member was present:

Lisa Colmenares was in attendance for/with Dat Huynh, representing the Florida Department of Transportation, District 6

The following Ex-Officio Members were on the phone:

Laura Corry, representing the South Florida Water Management District
Jennifer Smith, representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

The following Ex-Officio Member was not present:

The Honorable Roberto Martell, Mayor of the Town of Medley, representing the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel stated the Council meeting will continue as an Executive Committee meeting.

The meeting proceeded with audience introductions. Those present were from various public and private entities.

II. Approval of Council Agenda

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the Agenda. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

III. Presentation – Tri-Rail Coastal Link / SMART Projects Update. The “Tri-Rail Coastal Link” project, formerly known as the South Florida East Coast Corridor (SFECC) Study, proposes to reintroduce commuter passenger service along an 85-mile stretch of the Florida East Coast (FEC) Railway corridor from Miami to Jupiter. Among those invited to be part of the meeting were Gerry O’Reilly, P.E., District Secretary, FDOT District 4; James Wolfe, P.E., District Secretary, FDOT District 6; Jack L. Stephens, Executive Director, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority; Aileen Bouclé, AICP, Executive Director, Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization; Gregory Stuart, Executive Director, Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization; Alice N. Bravo, P.E., Director, Miami-Dade County Department of Transportation & Public Works; Francois Illas, Vice President of Corporate Development for the Florida East Coast Industries.

Ms. Aileen Bouclé, AICP, Executive Director of the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) thanked Ms. Cosio Carballo for the invitation and recognized Greg Stuart, Executive Director of the Broward County MPO. She acknowledged MPO Boardmember / SFRC Councilmember Xavier Suarez. She presented an update on the Strategic Miami Area Rapid Transit (SMART) Plan. A copy of the update was distributed to the Councilmembers and audience. This is a comprehensive document providing information on the background of the SMART Plan, Rapid Transit Corridors, Express Bus Rapid Transit Services, the number of projects near the corridors, and the projected timeline. Ms. Bouclé described in detail the implementation of land use, technical support, stakeholder outreach, and federal coordination. Included in the update was information on the agency leads for the six transit projects and their responsibilities for the SMART Plan to move forward.

Gerry O’Reilly, P.E., District Secretary, FDOT, District 4 provided information on the Tri-Rail Coastal Link. A handout of the overview was provided. This overview included the history, the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the project partners, project development, and next steps/timelines. Mr. O’Reilly explained in depth the 85-mile commuter rail service from Miami to Jupiter (an integrated extension of Tri-Rail), the evaluation of station locations, the shared tracks with FEC freight and All Aboard Florida, and the Brightline Intercity Passenger Service. He further detailed the agency partners’ responsibilities. Information was provided on the project costs, financing and critical project issues to advance the project development. Councilmember Suarez stated that Miami-Dade County is very interested in connecting Miami-Dade and Broward Counties. It was suggested that the individual stations be built and maintained by the municipalities, and that the stations do not have to be elaborate.

Councilmember Furr mentioned the Penny Sales Tax for transportation and infrastructure that is on the Broward County November Ballot and its possible association to rail transportation. There was discussion on the access fees, station locations, methodology, and ridership cost.

Jack Stephens, Executive Director of the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, presented a PowerPoint on the Tri-Rail Downtown Miami Link. He explained the public/private partnerships and funding. Included were renderings on the implementation of Miami Central: Phases One, Two and Three, and the proposed development. Project renderings included the cross sections of the Miami Central Station, as well as the routes for the Downtown Miami Link, and Coastal Link. These were

explained in great detail. There was information on the various infrastructures' and project timelines. Discussion ensued on the operational costs and ridership fares.

Francois Illas, Corporate Development Vice President of Florida East Coast Industries (FECI), was asked about the access fee that will be charged for the use of the FECI infrastructure for Tri-Rail Coastal Link. He stated that unlike the CSX transfer to SunRail, which was a purchase, this will be an allocation of access. It is important for FECI to know the capacity required since this is an active corridor. Mr. Illas stated that he looks forward to continuing their work on the access issue with Miami-Dade County. The working relationship has been very positive and the County has been cooperative in making this project a reality.

Greg Stuart, Broward Metropolitan Planning Authority's Executive Director, stated that Brightline is moving forward. The Tri-Rail Coastal Link is scheduled to go through downtown Fort Lauderdale and/or possibly to Broward General Hospital. This plan should not have any problems but continuing over the New River will produce some challenges. He stated that once the access fees and funding are resolved, the project can move forward. The Broward and Miami-Dade MPOs, and counties are partnering for funding resources.

Jim Wolfe, FDOT, District VI, stated the important conversation is the funding issue.

IV. Action Items

A. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Councilmember Ross moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

B. Financial Report

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.B, Financial Report. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

C. Intergovernmental Coordination and Review Report

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

D. Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews

Proposed

- Miami-Dade County 16-1ESR
- Village of Pinecrest 16-1ESR

Adopted

- City of Doral 16-1ER
- City of Hollywood 16-1ER
- Town of Miami Lakes 16-1ESR

Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.D, Consent: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews, Proposed and Adopted. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

- E. Regional Issues: Comprehensive Plan Amendment Reviews – None
- F. Legal Counsel Annual Review and Proposed Contract Extension
Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.F. Legal Counsel Annual Review and Proposed Contract Extension. Councilmember Caplan seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.
- G. Executive Director Annual Review
Councilmember Caplan moved to approve Agenda Item IV.G. Executive Director Annual Review. Councilmember Suarez seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.
- H. FY 2016-17 Operating Budget
Councilmember Ross moved to approve Agenda Item IV.H. FY 2016-17 Operating Budget. Councilmember Weekley seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.
- I. Audit Firm Selection Confirmation
Ms. Cosio Carballo explained the procedure for the Audit Firm Selection and Councilmember Ross' duties of being on the Audit Selection Committee. S. Davis & Associates, P.A. was the only firm to submit a Request for Proposal. After reviewing and evaluating the proposal, and interviewing the firm, the Audit Selection Committee chose S. Davis & Associates, P.A. and their partners to perform the audit work for the Council. Mr. Goren, Legal Counsel, explained the contract details.

Councilmember Caplan moved to approve Agenda Item IV.I. Audit Firm Selection Confirmation. Councilmember Ross seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

V. Discussion Items

- A. Executive Director's Report
Ms. Cosio Carballo gave details on the August 30th private briefing with Senator Nelson, the Council, members of the Fort Lauderdale Downtown Development Authority, and additional members of the business community. At the meeting local, regional, and state issues were discussed including the Zika Virus, transit issues, Turkey Point, and the National Flood Insurance Program. The meeting with Senator Nelson was well attended. Councilmembers Caplan, Ross, Bailey, Bates, and Furr were all in attendance. Commissioner Suarez was represented by Ms. Valerie Trueba, his Commission aide. Councilmembers were also invited to a meeting in which there was discussion regarding the Environmental Regulatory Commission and their recent actions to amend existing water quality standards. Ms. Cosio Carballo submitted a public records request for the information discussed at the meetings and will share this information with the Councilmembers once received. Ms. Cosio Carballo will be having conversations with the various Legislators, especially with the upcoming elections. On September 9th there was a meeting on the proposed American Dream Miami project regarding the transportation analysis. It was well attended. Once the proposed amendment is transmitted to Miami-Dade County it will be forwarded to the Council. The Councilmembers will then be able to review this project sometime in March 2017.

B. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Goren thanked the Council for the renewal of his firm's contract. He stated that there was no litigation to report. He shared information on the new loan programs that are aligned with the Economic Development Administration requirements.

C. Ex-Officio Reports

Ms. Colmenares, representing FDOT, District 6, informed the Councilmembers there will be an intermodal systems manager's meeting on October 27, 2016. There will be tours of some of the projects in the area of significance. FDOT, District 6 will continue to coordinate with Miami-Dade County and the SFRC regarding the American Dream Mall.

VI. Program Reports and Activities

A. Revolving Loan Fund Reports

1) SFRC Revolving Loan Funds Status Report

B. Development of Regional Impact Status Report

C. Report on Purchase/Lease of Computer Equipment and Software

Manny Cela, SFRC Deputy Director, gave an overview on the updating of the Council's technology system. There was a handout included, explaining in detail the current status, the proposed upgrades, and proposed cost.

VII. Announcements and Attachments

A. Correspondence and Attendance Form

B. Upcoming Meetings

Reviewed earlier in the Agenda.

1) October 3rd, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood)

2) November 14th, 10:30 a.m. (Murray E. Nelson Government Center, Key Largo)

3) December 5, 2016, 10:30 a.m. (SFRC Offices, Hollywood)

VIII. Councilmember Comments -

Councilmember Caplan recognized Paul Wallace's participation with the SFRC. There was discussion about a thank you gift.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

This signature is to attest that the undersigned is the Secretary of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL, and that the information provided herein is the true and correct minutes for the September 12, 2016 meeting of the SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL COUNCIL adopted the 14th day of November, 2016.

Greg Ross, Secretary

Date