

Florida High Speed Rail Authority
January 22, 2003

Florida Department of Transportation Auditorium
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: Chairman Frederick Dudley convened the meeting at 1:10 pm. Members present were Norm Mansour; Secretary Tom Barry; CC "Doc" Dockery; Frederick Dudley; Skip Fowler; Lee Chira; Heidi Eddins; and Leila Nodarse. William Dunn, P.E. and John Browning were not in attendance.

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Chairman Dudley welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He shared with those present that he and Mr. Haddad had a very productive meeting with the Governor and his staff on Tuesday, January 14th. Mr. Haddad will be working on an airport funding model for the Governor, as a result of the Governor's expressed interest in airport operation and sources of revenue, and the potential similarities to the operation of a High Speed Rail system.

Chairman Dudley also stated that the Governor expressed interest in the overall cost of the statewide system. It was suggested the Authority might do some extrapolating and put together an overall "vision" for the Governor. Chairman Dudley said the Governor is very focused on the state not being obligated financially. He also noted that the Governor made it clear that he feels that Tampa and Southeast Florida/Miami would be the strongest potential markets and determinants of the success of the overall system.

Chairman Dudley also also indicated that he and Mr. Haddad made a presentation on the Authority's 2003 report to the Senate Transportation Committee this morning.

Chairman Dudley announced that they would be meeting again with the Senate Transportation Committee on Tuesday, February 18th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the responses to the RFP for Tampa to Orlando.

At this point Chairman Dudley welcomed two special guests to the meeting. The first guest was Senator Sebesta followed by Representative Gardiner.

Senator Sebesta recapped the legislative meeting with the Governor the day before, noting that the TOP's program funds are no longer available. He expressed his desire to see HSR built and that February 10th is an important date, when the Proposals are to be opened. The Senator noted that he hoped the private sector would step forward for the

project, as well as the Federal Government. He thanked the Authority and encouraged them to continue in their hard work.

Chairman Dudley thanked the Senator for his efforts and congratulated him on his reappointment. He then invited Representative Gardiner of District 40, South Orange County to speak.

Representative Gardiner expressed that he was looking forward to Friday's presentation to the House Transportation Committee and expressed concern for where the revenue will be coming from. He also noted that he was sympathetic with the residents of Hunter's Creek and that they had representatives present to speak to the Authority about their concerns of FHSR.

Chairman Dudley thanked Representative Gardner for his noted expressions.

At this time, Commissioner Fowler expressed that he desires for a video of HSR be brought and played for everyone to see/hear how quiet and impressive the system really is.

Chairman Dudley then invited Mr. John Rasnic to speak.

Mr. Rasnic introduced himself as the General Manager of Hunter's Creek Community Association. He also noted that Mr. Jack Calendar the President of the Association was present.

Mr. Rasnic called everyone's attention to a copy of a letter that the Hunter's Creek Community Association sent to Parson's Transportation Group, which is contained in the meeting agenda behind Tab 7. The letter expresses the concerns of the community regarding HSR.

Mr. Chira stated on the part of the Authority, that all of their concerns have been noted and thanked Mr. Rasnic for representing Hunter's Creek.

Chairman Dudley then introduced Commissioner Ken Chipley from Osceola County to speak.

Commissioner Chipley thanked Chairman Dudley and expressed that he already felt a lot more comfortable about HSR than he did before the meeting started. He then introduced those individuals that accompanied him as being: City Commissioner Wendell McKennan; Attorney Joe Thacker; Kissimmee City Attorney, Donald Small; President of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce, Mike Horner. Also present with him were Sarah Blakely (one of the County lobbyists); Hayden Dempsey from the City of Kissimmee; Doug Bruce from the Osceola Legislative Effort; John Johnson, Jeff Hartley and Ashley Wimberley. Mr. Chipley then asked permission for Mr. Mike Horner to speak.

Chairman Dudley acknowledged Mr. Horner.

Mr. Horner referred the members of the Authority to a series of maps that were handed out to them. He explained that his purpose for being present was to help the Authority to consider the future impact the HSR would have on Light Rail. He explained that Light Rail couldn't run along the HSR alignment, however some of the HSR alignments might do that. He presented to the Authority a suggested alternate route for HSR. He then requested permission to allow Commissioner McKennan to speak.

Chairman Dudley recognized Commissioner McKennan.

Commissioner McKennan also expressed concern over routes of the HSR and he explained to the Authority that the suggestions of station locations for HSR and Light Rail at the locations noted on the maps were simply his "visions", in answer to Mr. Chira's question.

Chairman Dudley thanked all for coming and expressing themselves and then acknowledged Mr. Dockery.

Mr. Dockery was pleased to announce that after meeting last week with the Central Florida MPO Alliance in Daytona Beach, they unanimously passed a resolution to support HSR.

2. Review and corrections/approval of minutes of December 11, 2002 meeting.

The Minutes of the December 11, 2002 meeting were reviewed.

Mr. Adrian Share requested that on page 6 paragraph's 2 the word "were" be changed to "may".

After the requested change was noted, on a motion made by Mr. Lee Chira and seconded by Mr. Fowler, the meeting minutes were approved unanimously and without further correction.

Chairman Dudley then recognized Mr. Haddad.

3. Old Business

a. Report to Governor and Legislature - Nazih Haddad

Mr. Haddad shared with everyone that the 2002 Report to the Legislature has been widely distributed, as well as being posted on the web site.

b. Investment Grade Ridership Summary Report - Nazih Haddad

Mr. Haddad explained that a four page Executive Summary of the Investment Grade Ridership Study had been compiled at the request of the Authority from the last meeting. He noted that this summary included all the information from the Ridership Study with no changes made, and was a consolidation of the information covering the entire Ridership Study for ease of understanding.

Chairman Dudley recommended that a legend be put on the Executive Summary, noting that a copy of the full report may be obtained by contacting the Authority. Since it is a summary, no one should be misled into thinking this is the actual full report.

Mr. Haddad also noted at this time that the Peer Panel was working on a Report for the Authority regarding their assessment of the ridership study that should be ready within the next few weeks.

Chairman Dudley recognized Mr. Biggs of HNTB.

4. Final Orlando-Miami corridor study - Tom Biggs

Mr. Biggs reviewed the highlights of the study with the Authority, and explained that the costs in the study had been broken into two segments: the route from OIA to West Palm Beach, and then West Palm Beach to Miami.

Mr. Biggs noted that the WPB to Miami route allows for some opportunities for the rail to run on grade, but that most of it will be elevated.

He also noted that the travel times shown in his presentation from Orlando to Miami were based on a non-stop trip.

Mr. Biggs acknowledged to the Authority that he would supply an additional block of charts showing 120 mph for the Orlando/St.Petersburg as a supplement for comparison.

Mr. Biggs went on to explain that the Financial Chart ratio analysis reflected the operation of the entire system, which would be from St. Petersburg to Tampa; Tampa to Orlando; and Orlando to Miami.

Ms. Eddins questioned if the I-95 alternative would be located within the I-95 right-of-way. Mr. Biggs introduced Bob Moore to answer that question, since he was more informed on the technical alignments.

Chairman Dudley recognized Mr. Moore.

Mr. Moore explained that this was an abbreviated study. The FOX study was utilized for this area. FOX presented an I-95 and Turnpike alignment. In order to eliminate the curves of I-95, the alignment is off the I-95 corridor, to the West, particularly North of West Palm Beach, going basically through open country area. This would give an alignment suitable for a 180 mph HSR service.

Mr. Moore continued that three (3) days were spent in the field looking at approximately 1000 miles of track territory, in an actual field study, in answer to Ms. Eddins question.

Mr. Biggs then noted that the costs for the alternatives shown in his presentation did not include ROW or rolling stock costs. At the Board's request, he agreed to estimates for both in the Executive Summary.

Chairman Dudley then recognized Mr. Bottcher.

5. Authority's Legislative Proposal - John Bottcher

Mr. Bottcher reviewed with the Authority the Draft of the proposed bill for the 2003 Legislative session, reflecting the changes the Authority required from the last meeting. He made note of the clarification of the Governor's concern regarding tax exemption on page 2 lines 16, 17, and 18 of the draft.

On a motion offered by Mr. Chira and seconded by Mr. Mansour the FHSRA unanimously approved the Legislative Proposal and to have Commissioner Dockery be responsible for having it introduced by the appropriate members of the House and Senate.

Chairman Dudley recognized Mr. Haddad.

6. Legislative Budget Request - Nazih Haddad

Mr. Haddad reviewed with the Authority the Legislative Budget Request.

It is addressed to the Executive Office of the Governor, the Senate Committee and the House Committee on Appropriations.

It reflects what was discussed at the last Board Meeting, including the request for two state positions, to meet the Authority's growing needs.

It requests a total amount of \$9.5 million, which includes \$7.5 million in state funds, and \$2 million in expected federal appropriation that is pending Congressional approval.

It also includes a copy of the HSRA budget detailing the Authority's proposed expenditures through June 30, 2004.

Chairman Dudley noted the date on the request as being January 14th, 2003 and noted that it should be dated January 22, 2003

On a motion offered by Mr. Chira and seconded by Mr. Mansour the FHSRA unanimously approved to have the Legislative Budget Request signed by Chairman Dudley.

Chairman Dudley then recognized Mr. Newman.

7. PD&E Public Information Workshops - Howard Newman

Mr. Newman shared with the Authority a review of the second round of Public Workshops, which were conducted in the counties of Hillsborough, Polk, Orange, and Osceola.

Mr. Newman did share with the Authority that the attendance at the meetings was very good. A summary of these meetings was included in the agenda package.

Chairman Dudley acknowledged Mr. Haddad.

8. Staff Director's Report - Nazih Haddad

a. Report from Washington - Nazih Haddad

Mr. Haddad noted that Peter Peyser was unable to be present, but provided a memo reflecting a brief update on where the Federal Government stands regarding FHSR.

Mr. Haddad noted that funding for HSR is still proposed in both the House with an earmark of \$2 million and the Senate with an earmark of \$3.85 million. It is expected, Mr. Haddad added, that FHSR will receive at least \$2 million, which explains the requested \$7.5 million rather than the \$9.5 million representing the total cost.

In summary, Mr. Haddad said, that the overall assessment according to Peter Peyser is that the prospect for long-term funding continues to be excellent.

There was a considerable discussion regarding the request for funding, in view of TEA-21 and long term funding. Mr. Chira brought forward a suggestion that if the FHSRA was serious about looking for federal participation for the entire system, it should be more aggressive in demonstrating its commitment to building the second phase of the system, from Orlando to Miami. He asked if the current budget request by the FHSRA included significant commitment to this leg and was informed that it did not. He then suggested that the budget request be reconsidered in this light.

On a motion made by Ms. Nodarse and seconded by Mr. Fowler, the FHSRA unanimously agreed to reconsider the vote by which the proposed Legislative Budget Request was just approved.

On a motion made by Ms. Nodarse and seconded by Mr. Fowler, the FHSRA unanimously agreed to have Chairman Dudley and Mr. Haddad meet with the General Consultant Firm for the purpose of adding to the Legislative Budget Request a reasonable amount to cover the cost of the EIS study for the Orlando/Miami Corridor.

Chairman Dudley emphasized that the letter must make it very clear that this is an additional request, specifically to obtain definitive work on the Orlando to Miami Corridor, Phase 2 of the project.

Authority members must get a copy of this letter via FAX no later than January 30, 2003, as the letter will be mailed on January 31, 2003, Chairman Dudley concluded.

b. Letters and Resolutions from City of Kissimmee and Osceola County

Mr. Haddad noted there was no need to go over this section, as it was already covered during the earlier part of this session.

c. Letter from Mayor Glenda Hood - Nazih Haddad

Mr. Haddad shared with the Authority Mayor Glenda Hood's letter, which provides support for FHSR. He stated that Mayor Hood believes the system should connect City Centers.

d. Correspondence with Hillsborough Commission and Resolution on HSR

Mr. Haddad reviewed this letter, which is also included in the agenda, as well as the Authority's response to this letter. Hillsborough County is in favor of HSR and indicated their concerns desiring a connection with OIA and TIA, noted Mr. Haddad.

Hillsborough County Commission also included a resolution, Mr. Haddad added, which requests the Authority to provide possible Light Rail connection, or connecting systems to TIA/City of St. Petersburg and the City of Clearwater under the HSR.

Mr. Haddad then introduced Mr. Thomas Thomson, who is the Director of Transportation Planning for Hillsborough County.

Chairman Dudley recognized Mr. Thomson.

Mr. Thomson shared with the Authority that the Hillsborough County Board of Commissioners and the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution supporting the High Speed Rail Project. A draft of this Resolution is included in the Agenda. Mr. Thompson stated that he was officially submitting it to the Authority at this time.

Chairman Dudley shared with Mr. Thomson that he believed there are reasonable opportunities among the Authority and Consultants to discuss a way that the system perhaps could appropriately connect both airports in both Counties in a way that would give access to the downtown areas. Chairman Dudley noted, he believes there are some great opportunities environmentally in the Tampa Bay area.

Chairman Dudley recognized Commissioner Dockery.

Commissioner Dockery requested from Mr. Thomson that he and the County Commission also adopt a Resolution and address it to the Governor, the Senate, and the Speaker of the House to request funding for the High Speed Rail system. This would be extremely helpful to the Authority working with Hillsborough and Pinellas County's.

Mr. Thomson agreed that he would take this information back to the County Commission and thanked the Authority for their time.

e. Status Report on Authority's Expenditures

Mr. Haddad reviewed the report with the Authority through December 31, 2002 indicating that \$8,442,134.00 had been spent on work completed.

f. Future Board Meetings Schedule

A discussion developed regarding the deadline and opening of the sealed Proposed Bids.

It was agreed among the members of the Authority that the Bid Proposals would be due at 5:00 p.m. on February 10th, as noted in the RFP. This would immediately be followed by the opening of the bids.

A formal press release will be prepared for the public immediately after the proposals are opened.

The February 19, 2003 meeting will be moved to Monday, March 3, 2003 in Tallahassee at 9:00 a.m.

9. Public Comments

No additional public comments were offered.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjourn

The FHSRA solicited additional comments and hearing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.