

CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING May 30, 2024

Location: Central Florida Expressway Authority
4974 ORL Tower Road, Orlando, FL 32807
Pelican Conference Room

Committee Members Present:

Richard Durr, Seminole County Representative, Committee Chairman
Beth Jackson, Orange County Representative
Maurice “Mo” Pearson, Citizen Representative
Brittany Sellers, City of Orlando Representative

Committee Members Participating by Phone:

Charles Lee, Citizen Representative
Timothee Sallin, Lake County Representative

Staff Present:

Glenn Pressimone, Chief of Infrastructure
Michelle Maikisch Executive Director
Mimi Lamaute Recording Secretary/Manager of Executive and Board Services
Angela J. Wallace, General Counsel
Cristina Berrios, Deputy General Counsel
Will Hawthorne, Director of Transportation Planning & Policy

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:03 am by Chairman Durr.

Chairman Durr announced that Item C. Approval of February 22, 2024 Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes will be heard later in the meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Mimi Lamaute, Recording Secretary, announced there were no public comments or written public comments received by the deadline.

The following items were taken out of order due to a lack of quorum.

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. SR 515 NORTHEAST CONNECTOR EXPRESSWAY PHASE 2 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

Mr. Will Hawthorne, Director of Transportation Planning and Policy, alluded to a handout containing the project development process, attached as **Exhibit "A."** He explained that it contains the life cycle of the project.

Ms. Sunserea Gates, Senior PD&E Project Manager with VHB, provided a project status update on the SR 515 Northeast Connector Expressway Phase 2 Project Development and Environment Study. An expressway connection from Florida's Turnpike northeast to US 192 and continuing north to provide regional transportation connectivity in eastern Osceola County has been an identified need in various local long-range transportation plans and master plans.

Ms. Gates described the planning background, project history, the study area, purpose area, purpose and need, and sociocultural constraints. She detailed the potential corridors, planned developments, natural constraints. She detailed the initial Northeast Connector CF&M corridors (A, B, C, D and E) and new corridors (F and G). She also discussed the public involvement and stakeholder coordination and finally provided the PD&E schedule timeline. The study is anticipated to be complete in Fall 2026 after public input at the Public Hearing.

The Committee Members commented and asked questions which were answered by Ms. Gates, Mr. Pressimone and Mr. Hawthorne.

Mr. Lee alluded to two slides he provided for discussion, which were included in the presentation and attached hereto as **Exhibit "B."**

Ms. Brittany Sellers arrived during discussion of this item, at 10:08 a.m.

(This item was presented for information only. No committee action was taken.)

2. SR 417 SANFORD AIRPORT CONNECTOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY

Mr. Will Hawthorne, Director of Transportation Planning and Policy, provided background information on the SR 417 Sanford Airport Connector Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study. A new direct expressway connection from SR 417 north of Lake Jesup to the Orlando Sanford International Airport. He stated that in August of 2023, the CFX Board approved the CF&M Study and authorized staff to proceed to a more detailed PD&E Study. The PD&E Study will conduct a more detailed evaluation of the four alternatives found to be feasible during the CF&M Study.

Mr. Hawthorne detailed the project history, study area, purpose and need, sociocultural constraints, natural constraints, initial alternatives from the CF&M Study, additional alternatives, agency and stakeholder input and finally provided the PD&E study schedule. The study is anticipated to be complete in early summer of 2025 after public input at the Public Hearing.

The Committee Members commented and asked questions which were answered by Mr. Hawthorne and Mr. Pressimone.

(This item was presented for information only. No committee action was taken.)

C. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 22, 2024 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Durr's last name was misspelled as Mr. Dunn, under the motion for Item D.2., which will be corrected to Mr. "Durr."

Mr. Lee thanked staff for including the slides/maps he provided during discussion for the February 22, 2024 Item "D.1. PD&E Project Update." He stated that two of the slides are self-explanatory. However, one slide, which depicts the area of the Northern Everglades National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge, needs additional explanation. This slide appears cross-hatched but lacks a label indicating what the cross-hatching designates. He requested a label be added for clarity.

A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Ms. Jackson to approve the February 22, 2024 minutes with the correction of Mr. Durr's name and the map labeled with Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge for clarity. The motion carried unanimously with four (4) committee members in attendance voting AYE by voice vote. Two (2) committee members, Mr. Lee and Mr. Sallin voting AYE by phone.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Michelle Maikisch, Executive Director, introduced CFX's new legal team: Angela Wallace, General Counsel and Cristina Berrios, Deputy General Counsel.

Mr. Pressimone confirmed by Committee Member consensus, that at a future meeting a presentation on wildlife crossings will be provided.

The 2025 Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Schedule was distributed and a calendar invitation will be sent to each of the Committee members.

Chairman Durr announced that the next Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for

August 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Durr adjourned the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Minutes approved on August 22, 2024.

Pursuant to the Florida Public Records Law and CFX Records Management Policy, audio tapes of all Board and applicable Committee meetings are maintained and available upon request to the Records Management Liaison Officer at publicrecords@CFXway.com or 4974 ORL Tower Road, Orlando, FL 32807.