

CENTRAL FLORIDA EXPRESSWAY AUTHORITY

MINUTES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING March 6, 2025

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
Jason Hickson, Osceola County Representative
Beth Jackson, Orange County Representative
Brittany Sellers, City of Orlando Representative
Timothee Sallin, Lake County Representative

Committee Member Appearing Telephonically:

Charles Lee, Citizen Representative

Staff Present:

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Durr.

Mr. Pressimone announced that Ms. Michelle Maikisch, Executive Director has a conflict and will not be attending today's meeting.

Chairman Durr welcomed newly appointed, Mr. Jason Hickson from Osceola County. Further, he announced that Mr. Charles Lee was appearing telephonically for today's meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

A motion was made by Ms. Jackson and seconded by Ms. Sellers to approve the August 22, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously with all five (5) committee members in attendance voting AYE by voice vote. One (1) committee member, Mr. Lee voting AYE telephonically.

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. SR 417 SANFORD AIRPORT CONNECTOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (PD&E) STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Will Hawthorne, Director of Transportation Planning and Policy, stated that the first two items under agenda item D pertain to the SR 417 Sanford Airport Connector and the SR 515 Northeast Connector Expressway – Phase 2. These projects were previously presented to the Committee in May of the previous year. The Sanford Airport Connector project commenced in May and is approaching completion, with finalization expected this summer. The Northeast Connector project began in March and is anticipated to be completed by spring 2027.

To provide updates, Mr. David Dangel, Project Manager with ARDURA Consulting, presented first, followed by Ms. Sunsera Gates, Project Manager with VHB, who provided an update on the SR 515 Northeast Connector.

Mr. Dangel provided an overview of the project, outlining the Concept, Feasibility, and Mobility (CF&M) Studies, as well as the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Studies conducted. He reviewed the project's history, study area, and the purpose and necessity of the project. He also detailed the PD&E Study alternatives and presented projected year 2050 daily traffic estimates for the proposed connector.

Additionally, Mr. Dangel discussed the Evaluation Matrix presented at the public meeting, which summarizes the impacts and costs of five (5) alignment alternatives in comparison with the no-build alternative. The matrix includes considerations for traffic, physical and cultural impacts, environmental and social impacts, and overall costs. He outlined the proposed alignments and summarized feedback received from agencies and stakeholders. A revised PD&E Study schedule was also shared.

Committee members provided comments and posed questions, which were addressed by Mr. Dangel, Mr. Hawthorne, and Mr. Pressimone.

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

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

Ms. Sunsera Gates, Project Manager with VHB stated that a presentation on this item was presented to this committee in May of 2024, but that was right after the study was initiated. Ms. Gates provided details on the study overview, the results of the corridor evaluation efforts to date, and the overall project status.

Ms. Gates recapped next steps and provided the Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study schedule.

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

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

3. PROJECT MITIGATION UPDATE

Mr. Pressimone noted that the project team has been actively engaged in design efforts and coordination with the Water Management Districts, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He emphasized that permitting has become the critical path for project advancement, surpassing design and right-of-way acquisition in complexity and timeline constraints. As a result, Ms. Gough, who leads permitting efforts with the general engineering consultant, was invited to provide an update on key regulatory changes.

Ms. Gough presented an overview of the mitigation strategies being implemented for various projects. She reviewed relevant mitigation requirements and regulations and provided a summary of CFX's current efforts. She concluded with an outline of upcoming mitigation needs based on CFX's work plan.

She invited committee members to share their insights and provide input on potential opportunities for further exploration.

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

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

E. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

Chairman Durr invited committee members to submit recommendations for future agenda items. Mr. Lee requested that the Southport Project be presented at a future meeting. Mr. Pressimone confirmed that this presentation will be scheduled for the next committee meeting.

F. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Durr announced that the next Environmental Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

He announced that the incoming chairman will be Brittany Sellers, City of Orlando Representative.

Chairman Durr adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Minutes approved on May 22, 2025.

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