

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of the April 22, 2024, Board Meeting  
1104 E. Twiggs Street  
Tampa, FL 33602

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The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority held a public meeting at 1:30 p.m. on April 22, 2024, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board:**

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman  
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
John Weatherford, Secretary

FDOT District Secretary David Gwynn  
Commissioner Donna Cepeda

**Staff:**

Greg Slater  
Amy Lettelleir  
Jeff Seward  
Bob Frey  
Keisha Boyd  
Shari Callahan  
Tim Garrett  
Judith Villegas  
Charlene Varian  
Chaketa Mister

Lisa Pessina  
Tiana Hill  
Felipe Velasco  
Emma Antolinez  
Brian Ramirez  
Gary Holland  
Anna Quinones  
Frederick Pekala  
Szabina Szenassy

**Others:**

Scarlett Sharpe, WSP  
Nicole Dufva, WSP  
Joseph Stanton, NMRS  
Phil Eshelman, Stantec  
Len Becker, HNTB  
Jim Drapp, HNTB  
Kevin Hoeflich, HNTB  
Snehal Ambare, CDM Smith  
Brent Wilder, PFM  
Johnathan Tursky, TransCore  
Scott Garth, DRMP  
Rick Patterson, Raymond James  
Mark Easley, HW Lochner  
Alex Bourne, RS&H

Darren Morse, SPP  
Sally Dee, Playbook  
Steve Williams, Infotect  
Wilderies Rodriguez, Infotect  
Brad Lang, Infotect  
Doug Draper, B of A  
Joey Roselli, ASI

## Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Cassidy called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## Public Input/Public Presentations

There was no public comment.

## Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes from the February 26, 2024, Board Meeting and the March 11, 2024, Board Workshop.

Approval of potential Board member travel.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve the consent items. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## Discussion/Action Items

**Planning & Innovation, John Weatherford, Committee Chair – Bob Frey, Director**

### **GIS Consultant Support from ESRI**

Mr. Frey presented a task to provide spatial analysis support in establishing a THEA GIS system to analyze data for the agency's operations, safety, and key performance indicators. The product will integrate existing data flows with spatial information and make data available to THEA staff and Board members.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with ESRI to accomplish GIS system integration in an amount not to exceed \$137,325.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Whiting Street PD&E Final Approval**

Mr. Frey presented a request for final approval of the Whiting Street PD&E Study which:

- Outlines corridor characteristics
- Evaluates impacts
- Informs proposed mitigation strategies
- Confirms there are no disproportionate impacts

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Adoption of Resolution 674 – Whiting Street Improvement Project**

Mr. Frey presented Resolution 674, which accepts the Whiting Street PD&E and approves the alignments therein. He requested Board approval of Resolution 674.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Operations and Engineering – Judith Villegas, Engineering Project Manager**

**CEI - East Selmon Resurfacing from 78th Street East to Falkenburg Road**

Ms. Villegas introduced an item to engage the services of a CEI consultant to perform field engineering and testing for the resurfacing improvements from 78th Street East to Falkenburg Road on the eastern portion of the Selmon Expressway. She noted that the Board previously approved the design and construction efforts in February, and negotiations were conducted and finalized with Consor Engineering (selected previously for task-driven contracts for minor design and CEI projects).

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Consor Engineering for \$294,407 to provide CEI services for the East Selmon Resurfacing from 78<sup>th</sup> Street East to Falkenburg Road.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

Mr. Slater asked Ms. Villegas about the current resurfacing project. Ms. Villegas advised that nightly lane closures are occurring, and we have not received any complaints.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Straddle Bent Crack Sealing – Contractor Selection**

The next item presented by Ms. Villegas was to provide all the labor, materials, equipment, and incidentals necessary to clean, seal, and waterproof the thirteen straddle bents supporting parts of the REL.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the selection of the lowest bid from Razorback, LLC for \$208,811 for cleaning, sealing, and waterproofing the thirteen straddle bents supporting portions of the REL and authorize and direct staff to negotiate a contract with Razorback. The contract is subject to review and approval of THEA General Counsel.

Firm	Amount
Razorback, LLC	\$ 208,811
M&J Construction	\$ 773,753
Titan Civil Construction	\$1,050,685

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Chairman Cassidy asked about the price discrepancies and what might be causing them.

Mr. Slater advised that THEA contacted each of these firms to get an explanation. One firm did not conduct a site visit and prepared their bid based on aerials.

Ms. Villegas added that a lot of the cost comes from estimating for MOT and we think others were not aware of the roadway and the need for MOT and overshot their estimates.

**CEI – Straddle Bent Sealing**

Ms. Villegas presented the need to engage the services of a CEI consultant, Consor Engineering, to perform field engineering and testing for the contract work called for in the previous item – the Straddle Bent Sealing Project. Negotiations were conducted and finalized with Consor Engineering (selected previously for task-driven contracts for minor design and CEI projects).

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a purchase order with Consor Engineering for \$92,924 to provide CEI services for the Straddle Bent Sealing Project.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**THEA Headquarters Roof Replacement – Contractor Selection**

Next, Ms. Villegas presented the THEA roof replacement project. The purpose of this item is to provide all the labor, materials, equipment, and incidentals necessary to replace the THEA headquarters roof. She noted that patching was completed as part of the building renovations in 2021, but leaking persists during major rainstorm events.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the selection of the lowest bid from CMM Roofing for \$192,950 to remove and replace the THEA headquarters roof and authorize and direct staff to negotiate a contract with CMM Roofing. The contract is subject to review and approval of THEA General Counsel.

Firm	Amount
Allied Roofing, Inc.	\$361,460
CMM Roofing, Inc.	\$192,950
Service Works Commercial Roofing, LLC	\$298,444
Quality Roofing, Inc.	\$389,000

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**Reimburse Coca-Cola for the Construction of Upgrades at the Selmon Expressway Eastbound Exit at US 301 – not to exceed \$2,544,660**

Ms. Villegas moved on to an item that would allow THEA to reimburse Coca-Cola for the construction of the expressway improvements at the eastbound exit at 301. She pointed out that these capacity and safety improvements complement the work Coca-Cola must do to comply with their agreement with FDOT for increased access to their production plant at the southwest corner of the expressway and US 301. By having Coca-Cola complete the construction work, THEA will save time and money and ensure that the expressway improvements blend seamlessly with the Coca-Cola civil work. All work is within THEA's right-of-way and solely benefits THEA's customers.

Project Total	\$3,049,289
Design	\$ 504,629*
Construction	\$2,544,660

\*Approved at the February 26, 2024, Board meeting at a not-to-exceed amount of \$552,800.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Coca-Cola Florida to reimburse for the construction of capacity and safety improvements at the expressway eastbound exit to US 301 for a not-to-exceed amount of \$2,544,660.

***Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **Webber Infrastructure Management – Six-Month Contract Extension**

Finally, Ms. Villegas presented a request to extend the contract with Webber Infrastructure Management for an additional six months, from July 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, to continue the contract requirements for maintaining all highway and bridge assets listed in the contract.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with Webber Infrastructure Management, extending the contract for six months for \$1,171,948.62 to continue maintaining THEA's highway and bridge assets.

***Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **Toll Operations – Tim Garrett, Interim Director**

##### **Operational Back-Office System Support Increase**

Mr. Garrett presented a request to utilize additional services from Gannett Fleming and RS&H to support the procurement of the operational back office. He noted that the services include updating the procurement documents to allow for a mixture of on-premises and in-cloud solutions from prospective proposers including an updated engineers estimate, supporting an industry forum, supporting response to proposers' questions and answers, support for contractor demonstrations/oral technical presentations during the procurement and preparation of any required addendums.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a new purchase order with Gannett Fleming for \$217,290 and a new purchase order to RS&H for \$98,473 to provide additional services in support of the operational back office procurement through contracting of the operational back office contractor.

***Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.***

***The motion passed unanimously.***

**Budget and Finance – Jeff Seward, Director**

**Revenue Sufficiency Resolution 673**

Mr. Seward briefly discussed the requirement of the Master Bond Resolution to conduct a traffic and revenue analysis each year to ensure we have revenue sufficiency to cover our work program, debt obligations, and the budget for the following year. He introduced Phil Eshelman with Stantec, to present the Traffic and Revenue Forecast. Mr. Eshelman provided an update on the following:

- FY2024 Transaction and Revenue Growth
  - Consistent year-over-year growth of 3-4 percent when normalizing for hurricanes.
  - Anticipate continued strong growth through the remainder of the fiscal year.
- FY2024 Transaction and Revenue Forecast Performance
  - Confident FY24 forecast for both transactions and revenue will be met.
  - Strong footing for FY25.
- FY2025 Transaction and Revenue Forecast
  - Normalized and adjusted for hurricanes.
  - Estimated ~2% growth from FY24.
  - Standard rate escalation, 2.5%, and existing relationships between payment types.
- FY2025 Traffic and Revenue Forecast
  - Normalized FY24 transactions and revenue with accommodations for hurricanes.
  - Continued growth into 2025 (~2%), tempering from FY24 actual growth (~3.5%).
  - Base Toll Policy of toll escalation at 2.5 percent.
- Revenue Sufficiency Certificate Tests
  - Toll Coverage Requirement for Net System Revenue is 1.3 – THEA is expected to achieve 2.19 in FY25.
  - Toll Coverage Requirement for System Gross Revenue is 1.0 – THEA is expected to achieve 1.54 in FY25.

Chairman Cassidy asked what the debt service is. Mr. Eshelman noted the debt service in FY25 is \$48M. The Chairman asked if the other revenue was investment revenue. Ms. Lettelleir replied in the affirmative. Mr. Slater noted that THEA is putting a lot more money to work in FY25 with major construction and improvements with South Selmon and we are starting to see that impact.

Mr. Seward added that THEA is putting money away strategically in anticipation of the South Selmon Capacity Project to offset the cost of borrowing.

Next, Mr. Seward presented Resolution 673 – Revenue Sufficiency Resolution. He reported that THEA has received the Revenue Sufficiency Certificate prepared by Stantec, who has determined that net system revenues and gross system revenues will be sufficient to comply with the provisions of the Master Bond Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

He requested Board approval of Resolution No. 673 making a positive determination regarding the sufficiency of Net System Revenues pursuant to its Master Bond Resolution.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Investment Advisory Services**

Mr. Seward presented an item to procure professional investment advisory services for the portfolio management of THEA’s operating bond funds, debt service, and capital funds. THEA received six proposals in response to the Investment Advisory Services Request for Qualifications. The Evaluation Committee scored and ranked the firms as follows:

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Chandler Asset Management Inc	2
Deep Blue Investment Advisors	5
Hilltop Securities Asset Management LLC	3
Meeder Public Funds	6
Public Trust Advisors	1
Ramirez Asset Management	4

The requested action is for the Board to authorize and direct staff to negotiate and execute a contract with the highest-ranked firm. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff shall negotiate with the next highest-ranked firm. Contract is subject to review and approval of THEA General Counsel.



*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### Team Reports

**Planning & Innovation** – Mr. Frey provided an update on the US 301 PD&E Study, first providing some background about increasing development and demand on US 301, and projected corridor population growth. He pointed out that we are seeing heavy population growth in South Hillsborough County.

Mr. Frey discussed the analysis conducted by the Transportation Planning Organization, which found extensive support for elevated travel options and anticipate moving the project to the top three in their 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The project ranked seventh in the 2045 LRTP. The analysis also suggests a strong potential for congestion reduction.

Chairman Cassidy asked about the pie chart indicating 21% negative feedback. Mr. Slater explained that those comments came from another area north of us who likely are not in favor because they want the money going to a local project.

Mr. Frey reviewed the project development process, noting that we are in the planning phase (pre-PD&E), which entails:

- Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Screening – which has been initiated and will be ongoing through the PD&E
- Data Collection and Assessment – Traffic data collection is complete. The next step is traffic analysis
- Stakeholder and community engagement, listening and initiation will occur over the summer with several workshops, in person and virtual. We will coordinate with the TPO to ensure compatibility with their community plans.
- ETDM screening is complete and will go to Tallahassee for review. The purpose and need have been approved by FDOT District 7.
- Traffic data collection is complete. The results show that average speeds drop below 20 mph on a significant portion of the corridor; significant crashes within the corridor; and the average trip is thirty miles and 46 minutes.

Chairman Cassidy asked if this trip average is for US 301 only or if it includes I-75. Mr. Frey responded that it is only for US 301.

Continuing with Traffic Data Collection, Mr. Frey noted that US 301 is already over-capacity during peak periods. An additional north/south limited-access facility would provide extra capacity during incidents/closures on parallel corridors or during a hurricane evacuation.

- The engagement strategy is complete and implementation is underway. Phase 1 consists of listening and data collection; Phase 2 entails active collaboration; Phase 3 is Project Development & Environment (PD&E) Study; Phase 4 is construction coordination. He also pointed out that the US 301 website is complete, a public survey will be administered, project fact sheets will be disseminated, and public presentations will be delivered.

Chairman Cassidy asked about the timeline. Mr. Slater, speaking from both a construction and a financial perspective, as we near the closing stage of the East Selmon PD&E followed by the construction of South Selmon, the Board will need to discuss whether we want to add additional capacity to the existing system or expand the system first. The original thought was to go south, then east, then work our way down – that is ten to twelve years. The timeline could accelerate by doing an expansion down in the south instead of going to the east.

He added that THEA does intend to coordinate with the county on some outreach over the summer.

**Toll Operations** – Mr. Garrett presented the weekly and monthly transactions for March, which is traditionally the busiest month on the expressway. We are averaging approximately 1.6M transactions per week. Looking at the weekday transactions we notice a trend, the highest increase is 17.1% on the REL followed by the West Extension. Overall, we saw a 3.5% increase. Finally, he reported that of the total transactions, 68% were from transponder accounts and the remaining 32% were Toll-By-Plate. We hope to see more transponder accounts with the implementation of the new RTCS and OBOS combined with some of the other initiatives we have planned.

Mr. Slater briefly discussed daily transactions noting that records were broken a number of times last year - the last one being the Taylor Swift concert, which broke the record by 4,000 transactions. We broke that record on March 1, 2024, with no events happening – just growth.

**Strategy, Communications & Community Engagement** – Ms. Boyd updated the Board on THEA in the media reporting a 1.3% increase in total audience and a 518.9% increase in total net audience growth, most of which is due to a podcast Mr. Slater participated in. Impressions, engagements, and post clicks are also up considerably.

In the community – THEA participated in MacDill Airfest, Career Day at Academy Prep, Leadership Tampa Bay’s Power of Access, Girl Scout’s Women of Distinction, TBBJ Mentoring Monday, Leadership Tampa’s Transportation Panel, and Brian Pickard was a featured speaker at the ASHE event.

Finally, Ms. Boyd gave an update on the Selmon East PDE public hearing. We had a number of business owners and residents come out to share their opinions. We also had comments come in over the weekend – mostly positive – and we are responding to those comments.

## Executive Reports

**Executive Director** – *Greg Slater, Executive Director*

**Contract Renewals and Expirations** – Mr. Slater reported that THEA has eight contracts expiring:

- Burgess & Niple for Misc. Design & Construction Services
- HDR Engineering, WGI, and RS&H for Misc Planning & Traffic Services
- Kimley-Horn for Misc. Trails, Parks & Community Enhancement
- Marlin Engineering and Yunex for Misc. Emerging Tech Services
- PFM Financial Advisors for Financial Advisory Services

He also reported there are another seven contracts that are eligible for renewal – those include:

First One-Year Renewals:

- BCC Engineering for Professional Engineering Services
- Milligan Partners and RS&H for Misc. Toll Operations Support

Second One-Year Renewals:

- Calvin Gloedano & Assoc for Misc. Trails, Parks & Community Enhancement
- KCI Technologies and Kisinger Campo/Misc. Design & Construction Inspection CEI
- Vistra Communications for Marketing and Communication Services

**Executive Director Report** - Mr. Slater thanked Bob Frey, Keisha Boyd, and the whole team for a successful public meeting on the East Selmon PD&E. We heard a lot of great insight from the community for us to weave into the final solution that comes to the Board.

He also discussed THEA's ongoing partnership with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector's office, noting that we are working to expand the program into other counties, including Pinellas, Pasco, Charlotte, and Hernando.

Mr. Slater reported on the East Selmon emergency paving approved by the board at the last meeting. THEA has successfully relieved some of the urgency, reducing the need to use the entire amount authorized.

He reminded the Board that the budget workshop is scheduled for May 6, and the May Board meeting is May 20. There is no need for a June workshop, and he will be briefing Board members in early June for the June 24 Board meeting.

Mr. Slater announced that the city is doing a project on E. Twiggs Street, so access will be limited. We will continue to share information as it comes in.

Finally, Mr. Slater recognized Lisa Pessina and Julie Aure for their 5-year work anniversaries.

**General Counsel – Amy Lettelleir**

No report.

**Chairman – Vincent Cassidy**

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Board Workshop – May 6, 2024
- Board Meeting – May 20, 2024
  
- Board Workshop – June 10, 2024 – *Cancelled*
- Board Meeting – June 24, 2024

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

District 7 Secretary Gwynn announced that FDOT is opening the Gateway Expressway, which is a brand-new toll facility in Pinellas County. It will open midday on Friday and be toll-free for a week. We are also opening the first segment of the express lanes I-275, and they will tie into the Howard Frankland express lanes around this time next year, and the Westshore interchange will tie into that.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:16.

APPROVED:  ATTEST:   
Chairman: Vince Cassidy Secretary: Bennet Barrow

**DATED THIS 24TH DAY OF JUNE 2024.**