

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
Minutes of the December 16, 2024, Board Meeting
1104 E. Twiggs Street
Tampa, FL 33602

The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority held a public meeting at 1:30 p.m. on December 16, 2024, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa, Florida. The following were present:

BOARD:

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman
Mayor Jane Castor, Member
District Secretary David Gwynn, FDOT
Commissioner Donna Cameron Cepeda, Member

STAFF:

Greg Slater	Judith Villegas
Amy Lettelleir	Emma Antolinez
Tim Garrett	Pedro Leon
Keisha Boyd	Frederick Pekala
Brian Pickard	Brian McElroy
Bob Frey	Anna Quinones
Lisa Pessina	Szabina Szenassy
Gary Holland	Julie Aure
Charlene Varian	Toni Nhlapo
Chaketa Mister	

OTHERS:

Jim Drapp, HNTB	Ivan Rodriguez, Quest
Rick Herrington, HNTB	Sally Dee, Playbook
Julie Davis, Rivero Gordimer	Jonathan Tursky, TransCore
Sam Lazzara, Rivero Gordimer	Christina Matthews, WSP
Patrick Goodwin, Rivero Gordimer	Alex Bourne, RS&H
Nicole Dufva, WSP	David Franklin, Quest
Brent Wilder, PFM	Stefanie McQueen, HDR
Maddi Baptiste, Playbook	Sarah Lesch, Playbook

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

II. Public Input/Public Presentations

There was no public input.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Minutes from the November 18, 2024, Board Meeting

B. SWE Extended Inspection Support – HNTB - \$212,876

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

The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

I-4 FRAME Yunex - \$755,205

Mr. Frey presented an item related to THEA’s participation in FDOT’s I-4 FRAME Project. He explained that Yunex will install fiber and ITS equipment along several routes connecting the Selmon Expressway to the I-4 corridor in accordance with the FDOT-D7 JPA with THEA. All work will be consistent with the approved plans and completed with CEI oversight. The connection will allow drivers to receive traveler information from Downtown Tampa to Orlando using connected technology, as well as increase the data sharing capabilities between THEA, FDOT, and the City of Tampa using roadside technology.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the execution of the task order with Yunex in the amount of \$755,205, reimbursable from FDOT funds, to perform the necessary installation of ITS equipment associated with the I-4 FRAME project.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous Planning, Traffic and Pedestrian Facilities – Contract Award

Mr. Frey presented information on the contract award to provide specialized services on an as-needed basis related to miscellaneous planning, traffic, and pedestrian facilities services.

Firm
WSP USA, Inc.
RS&H, Inc.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Gannett Fleming, Inc.
Benesch

He requested the Board to authorize and direct staff to negotiate and execute task-driven contracts with all five ranked firms – WSP USA, Inc., RS&H, Inc., HDR Engineering, Inc., Gannett Fleming, Inc., and Benesch. The contracts are subject to review and approval by THEA’s Chief Legal Officer.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

East Toll Plaza Roof Replacement – Contractor Selection

Purpose: To provide all the labor, materials, equipment, and incidentals necessary to replace the roofs on the two East Toll Plaza buildings.

Funding: Capital Budget - \$110,000

Action: Request the Board to:

- a. Approve the selection of the lowest bid from Jenkins Roofing Tampa, Inc., in the amount of \$110,000 for the roof removal and replacement at the two east toll plaza buildings.
- b. Authorize and direct staff to negotiate a contract with Jenkins Roofing Tampa, Inc. The contract is subject to review and approval by THEA’s Chief Legal Officer.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

Repair of Gornto Lake Drainage Ditch – Webber Infrastructure Management

Mr. Pickard presented a request for approval of a task order for Webber Infrastructure Management to replace damaged drainage structures, reshape the drainage ditch, and riprap the ditch sides at the Gornto Lake drainage ditch located on THEA property adjacent to Gornto Lake Road. Damage to the drainage ditch occurred during recent major storms.

Funding: Operations and Maintenance - \$153,741

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with Webber Infrastructure Management in the amount of \$153,741 from the Operations & Maintenance budget, to replace damaged drainage infrastructure, reshape, and riprap the ditch at the Gornto Lake ditch.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

Mr. Barrow asked for the location of Gornto Lake. Mr. Pickard noted it was just east of 78th Street. Mr. Slater clarified that the ditch is off Gornto Lake Road in Brandon and is not part of Gornto Lake.

The motion passed unanimously.

Camera Upgrade Site 60 – TransCore Task Order - \$87,995

Mr. Holland presented a request to update the existing roadside toll collection system cameras at site 60, the westbound East Mainline Toll Plaza, from VISCAM500 to VISCAM1000 cameras. He noted that the project includes the upgrade of the LED illuminators for the cameras. This upgrade will improve performance and provide spare VISCAM500 cameras for use at other toll sites and is part of the ongoing work to maintain the existing roadside toll collection system until the new roadside toll collection system is contracted and deployed.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$87,995 from the capital budget to perform all work necessary to complete the camera unit replacements.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

Mobile Gantries – TransCore - \$356,609

Mr. Holland presented a request to purchase two mobile gantries, which will give THEA the ability to temporarily toll and collect data for up to two lanes should THEA's permanent tolling infrastructure become disabled due to natural disasters, accidents, or construction activities. He provided an example of a scenario in Oklahoma where mobile gantries were deployed and noted that the purpose of portable gantries is to mitigate loss of revenue and traffic data collection at toll sites.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$356,609 from the capital budget to fabricate and equip two portable gantries.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

FY2024 Financial Statements/Audit Presentation – Rivero, Gordimer & Company

Ms. Pessina presented a request to accept the FY2024 audited financial statements. She introduced Rivero, Gordimer & Company to present the FY2024 Audit results. Mr. Lazarra of Rivero, Gordimer & Company introduced Julie Davis and Patrick Goodwin, and he gave a brief summary of the audit process.

Ms. Davis noted that there were no disagreements with management during the audit and the audit provides assurances that THEA’s financial statements are free of material misstatement.

She also reported that THEA is in compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grants, and that no material weaknesses were noted.

Finally, Ms. Davis presented a high-level summary of the financial statements, reviewing total assets, liabilities, deferred inflows and outflows, and net position. She also provided a summary of the income statement.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Cassidy mentioned the two awards THEA’s Finance Department received this year and expressed his excitement to hear the agency is getting the attention it deserves. He thanked everyone and extended his wishes for Happy Holidays to all.

Bond Counsel Services

Ms. Lettelleir presented a request for approval to procure bond counsel services for all legal matters in connection with financing, refinancing, refunding, and other services related to the ongoing management of the Authority’s debt.

The requested action is for the Board to:

- a. Approve the ranking and recommendation of the Evaluation Selection Committee.

Firm	Rank
Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP	1
Bryant Miller Olive, P.A.	2

- b. Authorize and direct staff to negotiate and execute a contract with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough, LLP. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff

shall negotiate with the next highest ranked firm. The contract is subject to review and approval by THEA's Chief Legal Officer.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 FDOT Secretary David Gwynn.

The motion passed unanimously.

Team Reports

Planning & Innovation – Bob Frey, Director

Mr. Frey gave an update on the US 301 Community Engagement efforts. More than 7,200 residents responded to the survey as of December 9, 2024, with 94% in support of THEA exploring alternatives to ease congestion on US 301.

THEA recently held a series of public workshops, which were advertised in printed publications, on social media, and through direct mail postcards. A total of 76 registered guests attended the workshops.

Mr. Frey reviewed common themes and reactions, noting that citizens were engaged, and conversations were constructive.

He closed by explaining the next steps, which include a draft RFP for the PD&E; Board approval of PD&E firm; a 36-month PD&E process before Board approval and presenting findings to the Hillsborough County BOCC.

The Chairman asked if we need 36 months. Mr. Frey is hopeful it could take less, but he is planning for 36-48 to ensure due diligence.

Chairman Cassidy asked what businesses are saying. Mr. Fry noted they have concerns about how construction will affect their businesses.

Operations & Engineering – Brian Pickard, P.E., Director

Mr. Pickard presented an update on the THEA Headquarters office renovations. The project is at 23% of contract time. The first and second floors are near completion and the third floor is expected to be completed in mid-February.

Toll Operations – Gary Holland, Toll Systems Manager

Mr. Holland presented the weekly toll transactions for November noting a drop during the week of Thanksgiving. He reported a year-to-year increase in monthly transactions for November, and an overall year-to-year increase in average weekday transactions of 5.9%.

Finally, Mr. Holland reported on the number of SunPass customers vs. Toll-by-Plate customers, which remains at 67% and 33%, respectively.

Communications – Keisha Pickett Boyd, Director

Ms. Boyd provided an update on THEA's Communications and Community Engagement activities since last month.

She reported that THEA's East Slip Ramp Project has earned a spot on Roads & Bridges Top 10 Roads of 2024. She also noted that Mr. Slater will be a presenter for the ITS America Smart Roads Webinar #3: The Future is Smart Roads: The Next Evolution in Transportation. He was also interviewed for the Florida Business Minds Podcast where he discussed traffic management challenges in Florida.

Ms. Boyd also discussed publicity metrics, noting 15 mentions, an audience of more than 20 thousand, and nearly \$140,000 in earned media. Finally, she pointed out the continued increase in social media followers on all platforms, with a total audience of 37,201.

Executive Reports

Executive Director – *Greg Slater, Executive Director*

Contract Renewals and Expirations

Mr. Slater reported on two contract renewals. A second one-year renewal with Arthur J. Gallagher for Insurance Broker Services, and a first one-year renewal with Infotect for managed services.

Director's Report

Mr. Slater also reported that the OBOS (Operational Back-Office) project was successfully advertised on December 2. He also advised the board that after its authorization given at the October 28 Board meeting for inspection work on the Selmon extension by Burgess and Niple, additional needs arose that were unknown at the time, which required expansion of that task and the ability to approve in the field. This resulted in an additional cost of \$91,597. He reported that he authorized the additional work, and efforts taken to obtain the lowest cost due to the efficiency of the team already on site.

Mr. Slater noted that over the past few weeks, he has personally presented THEA's program and plans to the TPO and the Planning Commission and the progress and direction of our efforts has been well received.

He reported that on Tuesday, December 10, FDOT District 7 hosted and invited THEA to a networking event at Higgins Hall in Tampa, bringing together DBEs, small businesses, prime contractors, community partners, and government agencies. He thanked District 7 Secretary David Gwynn for his leadership in hosting this important event.

Mr. Slater announced that he will be in D.C. in early January to speak at the National Academy of Science Transportation Research Board on transportation system vulnerabilities and resilient systems.

Finally, he reported that THEA ended the year with two of the most important efforts on the street, financial health, a clean audit, and recognition for financial transparency. He thanked everyone for their support and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Chief Legal Officer – *Amy Lettelleir, Esquire*

No report.

Chairman – *Vince Cassidy*

Upcoming Meetings

- Board Meeting – January 27, 2025
- Board Workshop – February 10, 2025
- Board Meeting – February 24, 2025

Old Business



No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

APPROVED:  ATTEST 
Chairman: Vince Cassidy Vice-Chairman Bennett Barrow

DATED THIS 27TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.