

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of February 24, 2025, 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 February 24, 2025, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa, Florida. The following were present:

**BOARD:**

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman  
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
John Weatherford, Secretary  
Mayor Jane Castor, City of Tampa, Member  
Commissioner Donna Cameron Cepeda, Member

**STAFF:**

Greg Slater  
Amy Lettelleir  
Tim Garrett  
Keisha Boyd  
Raul Rosario  
Bob Frey  
Jeff Seward  
Shari Callahan  
Charlene Varian

Chaketa Mister  
Gary Holland  
Felipe Velasco  
Emma Antolinez  
Pedro Leon  
Anna Quinones  
Judith Villegas  
Brian McElroy  
Lisa Pessina

**OTHERS:**

Michael Garau, Kimley Horn  
Jim Drapp, HNTB  
Steve Ferrell, HDR  
Maddi Baptiste, Playbook  
Sally Dee, Playbook  
John Generalli, Wells Fargo  
Christina Matthews, WSP  
Scarlett Sharpe, WSP  
Hope Scarpinato, PFM  
Andrew Devenbeck, RBC  
Frank Leto, JP Morgan

Alex Bourne, RS&H  
Scott Chase, Webber  
Scott Armstrong, Parsons Corp  
Stefanie McQueen, HDR  
Joey Roselli, American StructurePoint  
David Franklin, Quest  
Christian Bradshaw, Raymond James  
Scott Hooton, Neology  
Sarah Lesch, Playbook  
James VanSteenburg, HDR

## **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**

### **1. Approval of Minutes of the January 27, 2025, Board Meeting**

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **IV. Discussion/Action Items**

### **A. Planning & Innovation – John Weatherford – Committee Chair - *Bob Frey, Director***

#### **1. East Selmon PD&E Final Approval**

Mr. Frey presented the final approval of the East Selmon PD&E study. The limits of the project are from the I-4 Connector to east of US 301. Mr. Frey noted the study evaluated capacity, safety, and operational improvements. Improvements are needed to reduce congestion and connect communities.

He briefly reviewed the preferred alternative and pointed out the benefits of the project, which include improved capacity, improved ramp operations, and improved safety.

Mr. Frey noted that one of the elements of a PD&E is to ensure there are no disproportionate impacts on any communities or locations. He presented a summary of potential impacts:

- No ROW impacts
- No relocations
- No potential historic impacts
- No potential archaeological sites impacts
- Minimal impacts to protected species or habitat
- No potential impacts to waterways
- Construction impacts will be mitigated
- Noise walls proposed to mitigate impacts at two locations

Finally, Mr. Frey briefly discussed segment priority and cost estimates by segment.

The requested action is for the Board to accept East Selmon PD&E Study.

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

Chairman Cassidy referred to the project benefits and the projected improved capacity of an additional 28,000 daily trips mentioned earlier in the presentation and asked what that provides in terms of years. Mr. Frey noted it would extend us out to 2046.

The Chairman asked about the cost estimates, noting they are in today's dollars. He asked about the project timeline if everything goes according to plan. Mr. Frey noted he anticipates starting the project in five years and completing it over 12-15 years based on prioritization.

Mr. Slater added that the phases are prioritized based on when the traffic growth hits the need. Breaking these into smaller phases allows us to better manage the project and stay ahead of growth.

The Chairman expressed concern about putting an estimate out there when the project start date is so far into the future.

Mayor Castor asked about the method of forecasting cost and whether historical increases are reviewed and applied to the estimate going forward instead of using today's dollars. Mr. Frey noted that we do not build inflation into the estimates. The mayor concurred with the Chair. She noted the projected 48% reduction in morning traffic mentioned earlier in the presentation is an impressive number. Mr. Frey agreed that the additional trips and travel times expected with this project will have a huge impact.

Chairman Cassidy asked if there has been any consideration of using the extra lane only for connected vehicles. Mr. Frey noted it was not analyzed as such. Mr. Slater added that this is a school of thought that he himself believes in. As we transition, at some point, at least the interstate system will move into a connectivity of having one lane dedicated to autonomous vehicles as well as transit/high occupancy vehicles. Those vehicles will be able to communicate with each other, as well as with partially autonomous vehicles that are on the rest of the system, and creating not only the right kind of data analytics needed to manage the surrounding system/network but also providing those safety benefits.

Mayor Castor offered up an observation she made while in Phoenix. Autonomous ride-share vehicles are used and once that technology becomes profitable it will be an interesting advancement.

***The motion passed unanimously.***



## **2. Adoption of Resolution 676 – East Selmon Project**

Mr. Frey then presented Resolution 676. Pursuant to Florida Statutes, Section 348.68, THEA shall, by resolution, determine the route or routes of the Expressway System. Resolution 676 accepts the East Selmon PD&E by the Authority and approves the alignments described therein.

The requested action is for the Board to adopt Resolution 676 approving the East Selmon Project routes.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## **B. Operations & Engineering – Bennett Barrow – Committee Chair – Judith Villegas, ITS Manager**

### **1. Approval of Final Ranking and Contract Award for Construction, Engineering, and Inspection (CEI) Services – ITS Infrastructure and REL Grounding PDP Projects**

Ms. Villegas presented an item to approve the Evaluation Committee's final ranking and authorize the contract award for Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) Services related to the ITS Infrastructure for East Selmon, West Selmon, and the REL Grounding Phased Design-Build Project.

The requested action is for the Board to:

- a. Approve the Evaluation Committee's final ranking for CEI Services.

Firm Name	Rank
Rummel, Klepper & Kahn, LLP	1
WSB, LLC	2

- b. Authorize staff to negotiate and execute a contract with the top-ranked firm. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff will 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 of the item, seconded by Mr. Weatherford.*

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. CEI task to provide construction inspection and testing of the infrastructure rebuild on the east side of Lakewood Dr. in Brandon – KCI**

Ms. Villegas presented a task order request for KCI to perform field inspections and testing for the Lakewood Drive drainage project in Brandon.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with KCI for \$82,302 from the capital budget to provide CEI services for the repair, remediation, and replacement of deteriorated infrastructure at Lakewood Drive in Brandon.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. CEI task to provide construction inspection and testing of the Drainage Upgrade Construction Project – KCI**

Ms. Villegas brought forth another task order request for KCI to perform field engineering and testing for the drainage project to upgrade THEA's open drainage system between 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and I-75.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with KCI for \$165,055 from the capital budget to provide CEI services for the construction of the drainage upgrade project from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to I-75.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Oversight Assistance on the Drainage Upgrade Design and Construction Project – HNTB**

Finally, Ms. Villegas requested approval to utilize THEA's GEC (HNTB) to assist staff with the oversight of the design and construction of the drainage upgrade project to upgrade THEA's open drainage system between 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and I-75.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with HNTB for assistance with review and oversight of the design and construction of the drainage upgrade project from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to I-75 in the amount of \$124,942 from the capital budget.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**C. Procurement** – Vince Cassidy –Chair – *Amy Lettelleir, Chief Legal Officer*

**1. South Selmon Capacity Project Shortlist Selection**

Ms. Lettelleir updated the Board on the selection process for the South Selmon Capacity project and presented the Evaluation Committee's recommendation to shortlist three firms responding to THEA's RFP to procure a design build firm for the project.

She requested the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee's recommended shortlist of firms for the South Selmon Capacity Project and direct staff to move forward with proposal evaluations and interviews with the shortlisted firms.

Firm Name
Middlesex Corp.
MasTec Civil Superior Construction Co.
Archer Western Construction, LLC

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Operational Back Office System Shortlist Approval**

Ms. Lettelleir also presented the Evaluation Committee's recommendation to shortlist four of nine firms responding to THEA's RFP to procure a firm for the design and implementation of the toll system operational back office.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee's recommended shortlist of firms for the Operational Back Office System and to direct staff to move forward with proposal evaluations and interviews with the shortlisted firms.

Firm Name
Neology, Inc.
Quarterhill, Inc.
A-to-Be USA, LLC
Accenture, LLP

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*



**D. Toll Operations – Bennett Barrow – Committee Chair – *Raul Rosario, Director***

**1. UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) Battery Replacement – TransCore**

Mr. Raul Rosario noted that he is presenting four items today – all of which are related to maintaining the legacy toll system. He briefly discussed the need to mitigate toll system power interruptions at the toll plazas and headquarter locations. The current batteries are approaching their end of life.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$70,958 from the capital budget to purchase and replace the batteries at all toll sites, excluding the southwest extension.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. HQ VxRail (Applications) Network Redundancy Install**

Mr. Rosario proceeded with an item to enhance the connectivity and redundancy of THEA's HQ VxRail application cluster THEA must install a single distribution switch. Currently, the five VxRail nodes are connected directly to the core switch, consuming a total of ten ports and lacking redundancy. The new switch will provide redundancy on the system.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$63,526 from the capital budget to purchase and install a single distribution switch for THEA Headquarters VxRail.

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

Chairman Cassidy asked if there are any other applications or systems that need addressing. Mr. Rosario noted an additional item on the agenda needed to address redundancy. The Chairman asked if today's actions, to the best of our knowledge, will mitigate any failure to recover on the system. Mr. Rosario replied in the affirmative.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

**3. Qumulo (Storage)Top of Rack Switches**

The next item presented by Mr. Rosario was to install, configure, migrate, and test two stacked top-of-rack switches. The objective is to reduce the number of connections to the core switch from 10 to 4, while ensuring redundancy and scalability.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$115,496 from the capital budget to purchase and install two stacked top-of-rack switches.

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

*The motion passed unanimously.*

#### 4. Toll System Firewall Replacement

Finally, Mr. Rosario presented a request to install, configure, migrate, and test two new Palo Alto firewalls to replace the toll system's existing firewalls, which are reaching end of life. The objective is to ensure a seamless transition to the new firewall system while maintaining network security and performance.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$164,272 from the capital budget to purchase and install two new firewalls.

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

Chairman Cassidy asked if this is one of the recommendations by the consultant that looked at our system. Ms. Callahan explained that it is to extend the life of the legacy system on the tolls network - it was not recommended in the audit.

The Chairman asked if any of this equipment would be reusable. Mr. Rosario noted that the firewall and switches may be reusable.

Mr. Weatherford inquired about the life of a firewall. Mr. Rosario advised it is around five years. He further explained that the current firewall will no longer be supported after September.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

### V. Team Reports

#### A. Toll Operations – Raul Rosario – Director of Tolling Technology and Customer Experience

Mr. Rosario presented the updated toll data, beginning with weekly transaction for January 2025 followed by the monthly transactions, noting a total of 6,743,120 transactions, a 3% increase year over year.

Next, he touched on the average weekday transactions, year over year, pointing out an increase in volume in all plazas, with the REL up by 19%. Mr. Slater noted that the increase is a product of the slip ramps balancing the traffic back and forth.



Finally, Mr. Rosario provided the breakdown of processes tolls by transponder (69%) and Toll-by-Plate (31%).

**B. Budget & Finance** – Jeff Seward – *Chief Financial Officer*

Mr. Seward provided the Board with an update on the financials. He reported on revenue – 53% of total budget collected, which includes \$3.5M uncollected revenue during the Hurricane Milton toll suspension. If that were added in, we would be at 56% of what we anticipated.

Chairman Cassidy asked if this was straight lined or if seasonality is factored in. Mr. Seward explained that what is reflected here is the total amount, but we do have the estimate by month, which includes seasonality.

On the expenditure side THEA has spent 30.4%. He pointed out two new elements to his quarterly report. One is *preservation (R&R)*, an amount that is approved by the Board every year during the budget process. The other addition is *capital*. These two numbers represent the total R&R and capital budget as far as what we account for as capital and R&R. As we prepare the FY 26 Work Program and OM&A Budget – we are fine tuning what is presented to the board in terms of planned R&R and budgeted capital improvements for the following fiscal year.

Mr. Seward went on to explain the preservation expenditures to date, as well as capital expenditures.

He also discussed investment income, reporting that THEA has collected 60.6% of what was anticipated for this year, and we anticipate coming in above what we are budgeting.

Finally, he noted that THEA will begin the budget process next week and will bring forward a balanced budget for board approval.

Chairman Cassidy requested that the next quarterly report include a column titled *Budgeted Year-to-Date*. Mr. Slater added that as THEA continues to develop its asset management program it will allow us to be much more precise with our R&R budget and on the capital side we have shifted our approach to ensure projects don't hit the street before they are ready to lower the risk factor.

Mr. Weatherford asked about the percentage for Legal/Human Resources/Procurement entry. Mr. Seward explained that it is included in the 97.7%. Mr. Weatherford also asked what falls under the Communications budget. Mr. Seward noted THEA's contracts with Playbook and Vistra Communications. It does not include any of the communications support work for our capital projects.

**C. Communications** – Keisha Pickett Boyd – *Director, Communications and Community Engagement*

Ms. Sally Dee with Playbook Communications presented the Communications update on behalf of Ms. Pickett Boyd. She reported that Mr. Slater was recognized in the Tampa Bay Business Journal Power 100 List, and Ms. Pickett Boyd was recognized by the Tampa Bay Business and Wealth as a finalist for their Women Who Win Award – Government & Public Service category. Florida Trend's Transportation issue published a profile about THEA and Greg's leadership.

Ms. Dee made note of the USF Bridge Building Competition that THEA sponsors as part of the commitment made to Mr. Lee Roy Selmon when he gave his name to the expressway. The competition provides STEM opportunities and exposure for local students.

Ms. Dee highlighted recent project fact sheets that have been posted on the website to keep the public informed and also gave an update on the South Selmon Capacity Project, noting community engagement meetings and communications as well as key outreach efforts, and next steps.

Chairman Cassidy asked if we received similar feedback as we did with 301 where people who live outside of the area submitted comments. Mr. Slater said we may have gotten similar feedback when we did the PD&E, but this effort is very direct and targeted customer interaction, and we are not getting a lot of feedback from outside the area.

Finally, Ms. Dee provided an update on the publicity metrics and social media followers.

**VI. Executive Reports**

**A. Executive Director** – *Greg Slater, Executive Director*

**1. Contract Renewals and Expirations**

Mr. Slater reported that THEA has two contract renewals - one is the second one-year renewal with Atkins Global for miscellaneous toll operations and support services; the other is the first one-year renewal with Burgess and Niple for consultant structures inspection.

**2. Director's Report**

Mr. Slater reported progress on the work program and budget processes, as well as on both the SSC project and the OBOS project. He added that hurricane damage repairs are near completion after some delays in fabrication.

Mr. Slater pointed out that over the next 60 days the implementation of the new asset maintenance contract with new categories and higher performance metrics will be apparent. As the roll out begins, THEA is requiring the contractor to maintain:

- All mainline sections of SR 618, SR 618A, SR 628A, Brandon Parkway, Brandon Main Street, Paul's Drive Connector, Lakewood Drive (from SR 60 to just south of Brandon Parkway) and Meridian Avenue
- All Access/CD roads and ramps connecting to the Selmon Expressway
- The Selmon Greenway
- All stormwater management and mitigation areas associated with the highway corridors including compliance with permit requirements
- The entire THEA structures inventory, including bridges, over-lane signs, and all high mast steel light poles.
- All Selmon Expressway underpasses including vegetation, aesthetics, lighting, sidewalks, structural features

The crew will also perform:

- Litter Crew five days a week
- Herbicide six times a year on all walls and poles
- Monthly roadside mowing, more in summer months
- Pressure washing the system once a year
- Vacuum sweep every two weeks

Finally, Mr. Slater reported that THEA has posted the Director of Operations position and has some great candidates expressing interest.

**B. Chief Legal Officer – Amy Lettelleir, Esquire**

No report.

**C. Chairman – Vince Cassidy**

**1. Upcoming Meetings**

- Board Meeting – March 24, 2025
- Board Workshop – April 14, 2025
- Board Meeting – April 28, 2025

**VII. Old Business**

No old business.



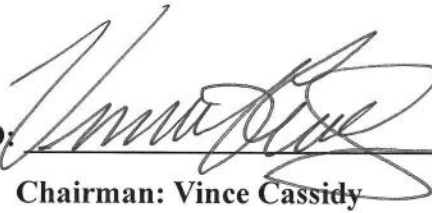
**VIII. New Business**

No new business.

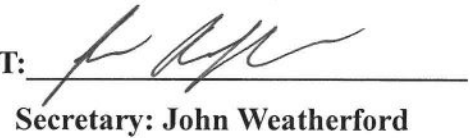
**IX. Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Chairman: Vince Cassidy

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Secretary: John Weatherford

**DATED THIS 24<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MARCH 2025.**