

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority
Minutes of the September 28, 2026, 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 September 28, 2026, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

BOARD:

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman
Justin Hall, FDOT District 7 Secretary

Commissioner Boles, Member
Mayor Castor, Member

STAFF:

Greg Slater
Amy Lettelleir
Jeff Seward
Raul Rosario
Greg Deese
Shari Callahan
Bob Frey
Charlene Varian
Chaketa Mister

Anna Quinones
Szabina Szenassy
Kim Listemann
Krishna Rentala
Manny Flores
Brian McElroy
Emma Antolinez
Pedro Leon
Krishna Rentala

OTHERS:

Sharlene Lairesey, Quest
John Generalli, Wells Fargo
Michael Garau, Kimley-Horn
Hida Hilferding, DRMP
Billy Hattaway, ETM
Rick Wester, ETM
Rick Patterson, Raymond James
Len Becker, HNTB
David Hubbard, EXP
Kevin Daugherty, EXP
Lori Buck, Quest
Morgan Bouchard, Prime AE
Michael Simon, KCI
Andrew Devenbech, RBC
Alex Bourne, RS&H
Brian Kirkpatrick, RS&H
Erin Lawson, KCA

Brannan Anderson, KCA
Todd Popelka, Atkins
Randall LoCicero, Atkins
Sally Dee, Playbook
Sarah Lesch, Playbook
Jason Dahlvik, Lochner
Frank Leto, JP Morgan
Mason Holce, Kimley-Horn
Christina Matthews, WSP
Scarlett Sharpe, WSP
Hiren Patel, PGA
Cody Bayer, DRMP
Cory Bloxam, DRMP
Stefanie McQueen, HDR
Hope Garuhreaux, HDR
Swapnil Chogle, Volkert

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 were no presentations and no public input.

III. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 24, 2026, Board Meeting

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Boles. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion/Action Items

A. Office of Infrastructure – Greg Deese, Director

1. Reversible Express Lanes (REL) Control Software - SwRI

Mr. Deese presented an item for software development services for the implementation of a new system to control the operation of THEA's Reversible Express Lanes and associated devices through SunGuide, THEA's Advanced Traffic Management System.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) for the development of the REL control software necessary to support the on-going operation of the REL for \$630,000 from the capital budget.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by District 7 Secretary Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

2. East Mainline Toll Gantry Construction Contract Award

Mr. Deese presented the contractor selection for the construction of the East Mainline Toll Gantry project.

Firm	Bid Amount
Cone & Graham	\$7,763,500.00
Nelson Construction	\$8,640,786.20
Gosalia Concrete Constructors	\$8,745,901.15
Preferred Materials, Inc.	\$9,303,626.00
Granite Construction	\$9,364,632.67

He requested the Board to approve the award of the East Mainline Toll Gantry project to Cone & Graham, in the amount of \$7,763,500.00 from the capital budget, and to authorize and direct the Executive Director to execute a contract. The contract is subject to review and approval of THEA Chief Legal Officer.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by FDOT District 7 Secretary Hall.

Chairman Cassidy pointed out the 20% difference between the lowest bid and the highest bid. Mr. Deese noted that is a typical range for ITBs of this type. The Chairman expressed concern that there may be some misunderstanding of the scope. Mr. Deese added that they called the low bidder to confirm each of their items and we are confident the number is good.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Legal – Amy Lettelleir, Chief Legal Officer

1. Approval of Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority Interlocal Agreement with the Broward County Tax Collector's Office

Ms. Lettelleir presented an Interlocal Agreement with the Broward County Tax Collector's Office to allow customers to pay THEA tolls to the Broward County Tax Collector's office for the release of registration holds and to provide the procedures for remittance and reporting between parties.

She requested the Board to authorize THEA's Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Broward County Tax Collector's Office.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by FDOT District 7 Secretary Hall.

2. Approval of the Evaluation Committee's Recommended Shortlist for General Tolling Consultant Services

Ms. Lettelleir presented the Evaluation Committee's recommended shortlist of General Tolling consultants.

Firm	Ranking
RKK	96.33
Atkins	95.33
RS&H	91.00
Milligan	88.33
Stantec	86.33

She requested the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee's recommended shortlist and to authorize and direct staff to begin the interview process with the five highest-ranked firms.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by FDOT District 7 Secretary Hall.

3. Approval of General Engineering Contractor (GEC) Award

Ms. Lettelleir presented the Evaluation Committee's final rankings for the General Engineering Services consultants.

Firm	Ranking
HNTB	93.67
KCA	80.00
Kimley Horn	79.67

She requested the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee's final rankings for GEC services, and to authorize and direct the Executive Director to execute a contract with the number one ranked firm, HNTB, and to execute continuing services contracts with the number two and number three ranked firms, KCA and Kimley Horn. Contracts are subject to review and approval of THEA Chief Legal Officer.

Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Mr. Barrow moved approval, seconded by FDOT District 7 Secretary Hall.

V. Staff Reports

A. Toll Technology & Customer Experience – *Raul Rosario, Director*

Mr. Rosario presented the toll statistics for August. He reported nearly 7M total transactions for the month, remaining relatively flat for the overall year-to-year monthly transactions. Our prepaid and postpaid transactions remain the same at 67% and 33%, respectively.

Chairman Cassidy requested a five-year lookback for the next meeting to give a better picture of how we are trending. Mr. Rosario will include that information in future presentations.

B. Communications – *Sally Dee, Playbook Public Relations*

Ms. Dee gave an update on THEA's communication efforts to engage with local media to lay the groundwork for FY27 and beyond. As an example of the engagement efforts, she pointed to an interview with TBBJ, the announcement of the Moody's rating upgrade and the announcement on THEA's economic impact on the region – both of which also published in the TBBJ. By telling these stories together we are helping the business community understand the investments THEA is making to the future of the region.

Another target is the trade publications, and local TV news. She gave some recent examples of THEA making headlines.

Next, Ms. Dee reviewed publicity metrics from June 1 – September 15, with 60 media mentions, 44,739,308 audience reach, and a \$1,147,165 publicity value.

She announced that the FY 27-32 Work Program is now online and gave Quest due credit for their work on putting it together.

Finally, Ms. Dee briefly touched on THEA in the community. Being a good neighbor is fundamental to THEA's philosophy – and that starts with listening and proactively engaging with the communities it serves. She pointed to some activities that support this effort, such as Mr. Slater did two presentations, one to the Brandon Riverview Chamber of Commerce and the other to the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners on the U.S. 301 PD&E. He also spoke with the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce about the South Selmon Capacity Project and what lies ahead. All these activities put a face to the agency and allow the community to hear directly from THEA's leadership, ask questions, and better understand how these projects connect their neighborhoods, businesses, and their daily lives.

VI. Executive Reports

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

1. Contract Extensions and Expirations

Mr. Slater reported one expiring contract with Millennium Floor Care for janitorial services.

2. Director's Report

Mr. Slater touched on the recent Moody's rating upgrade to A1, noting that this puts THEA in a small group of single asset toll authorities that have achieved that milestone and something of which we are extremely proud.

He reported that the November Board meeting is the target date for the final approval of the SSC ASAP items. He pointed out that, as of right now, we are looking in the \$10-\$15M range, with a variety of additions from safety, to adding concrete lining to our CSX ditch for better maintenance efficiency and flow, to community enhancements, like our final bridge plans.

Mr. Slater updated the Board on some of his recent and upcoming activities:

- Presented an update on US 301 to the Brandon-Riverview Chamber of Commerce and the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.
- Attending the Tampa Bay Chamber's annual benchmarking trip in Phoenix
- Accepted Vice Chairmanship for the Tampa Downtown Partnership – mobility and connectivity are a key focus area.

Moving on to the team THEA update, Mr. Slater announced two new additions to the team.

Brian Ngyen comes to us as the new IT Manager. Brian brings more than 17 years of technology leadership experience across the financial services, healthcare, government, and consulting sectors. Most recently, he served as Director of Enterprise Technology & AI Transformation, where he led initiatives involving cloud modernization, cybersecurity, business process automation, and artificial intelligence. He also spent nearly nine years with VyStar Credit Union, supporting enterprise technology operations and modernization efforts. Brian holds a bachelor's degree in computer and information sciences and a master's degree in organizational leadership, with a concentration in Technology and Data Analytics.

Kris Carson will be joining THEA in October as the new communications manager. She comes to us from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and brings with her extensive public sector communications experience. Kris has served for many years as the Public Information Director for the FDOT. District Seven, where she led communications and public outreach efforts for transportation projects throughout the Tampa Bay region. In this role, she worked closely with transportation professionals, elected officials, community stakeholders, media outlets, and the public to communicate complex transportation initiatives and keep the public informed on projects impacting our region.

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

No report.

C. Chairman – *Vince Cassidy*

1. Upcoming Meetings

- Board Workshop – October 12, 2026
- Board Meeting – October 26, 2026
- Board Meeting – November 16, 2026

VII. Old Business

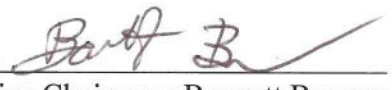
VIII. New Business

Chairman Cassidy reported that he and Ms. Lettelleir recently attended the IBTTA Tolling Summit and will have a report next month.

IX. Adjournment

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Chairman: Vincent J. Cassidy

ATTEST: 
Vice Chairman: Bennett Barrow

DATED THIS 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2026.