



**East Central Florida Corridor Task Force  
Minutes from the October 10, 2014 Meeting  
Magnolia Room at the Institute of Food and Agricultural Science Extension Office  
6021 South Conway Road  
Orlando, Florida 32812**

Bill Killingsworth, Task Force Chairman, Director of Community Planning, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)

**Task Force Members Present (in alphabetical order):**

Rick Baldocchi, Commissioner, Orange County Planning & Zoning Commission, for the Honorable Jennifer Thompson, Orange County Commissioner

Rich Biter, Assistant Secretary for Intermodal Systems Development, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)

John Browne, Land Programs Administrator, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Tracy Duda Chapman, Chief Executive Officer, The Viera Company

Debbie Harvey, Chief Executive Officer, Ron Jon Surf Shop

Erik Jacobsen, General Manager, Deseret Ranch

Jeff Jones, Strategic Initiatives Director, Osceola County, for the Honorable Fred Hawkins, Osceola County Commissioner

Belinda Kirkegard, Economic Development Director, City of Kissimmee

Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy, Audubon Florida, for Eric Draper

The Honorable Mary Bolin Lewis, County Commissioner, Brevard County

Marcos Marchena, Citizen

Charles Pattison, Policy Director, 1000 Friends of Florida

**Facilitator**

Shelley Lauten, TriSect, LLC

**Task Force Staff Members Present:**

Maria Cahill, FDOT

Jessica Dean, HDR

Carly Hermanson, DEO

John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics

Kyle Masters, FDOT

Bill Pable, DEO

Ashley Porter, DEO

Ana Richmond, DEO

Bob Romig, The Florida Transportation Commission

Jean Scott, Strategies for Livable Communities

Huiwei Shen, FDOT

James Stansbury, DEO

Natalie Suner, GMB Engineers and Planners, Inc.

Brian ten Siethoff, Cambridge Systematics.

Matthew Wilson, Cambridge Systematics

Jim Wood, FDOT

## Welcome

Mr. Killingsworth welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the agenda. Commissioner Hawkins is represented by Mr. Jones and Commissioner Thompson is represented by Mr. Baldocchi.

## Potential Alternative Corridors

Mr. ten Siethoff presented the revised map of potential alternative corridors discussed by the Task Force the previous day:

### East-West Alternatives

1. State Road (SR) 528/Beach Line "Super Corridor"
2. SR 50/SR 408 corridor improvements
3. SR 520 improvements
4. US 192 corridor improvements
5. New east west corridor from Orlando International Airport/Lake Nona area to Central/Southern Brevard County
6. New east west corridor along the Orange/Osceola County boundary

### North-South Alternatives

1. Multimodal improvements to Narcoossee Road and SR 417 corridor
2. Extension of Northeast Connector Expressway to SR 528/Beach Line Corridor
3. New north south multimodal corridor through the Deseret North Ranch.

## Discussion

- Mr. Marchena requested that staff change the description of the SR 408 improvements to include a reference to SR 50, to avoid the appearance that the alternative would definitely be a tolled facility.
- The members discussed the planned improvements to Washingtonia Drive in Brevard County, which are important to relieve I-95.
- Concerning the maps presented by Mr. ten Siethoff, Mr. Lee noted that it appears that the Task Force is recommending improvements that blanket the entire study area. He suggested that the map should contain clear language indicating that the Task Force is not recommending the construction of all of the alternatives, but rather recommending them for further study.
- The members recommended that staff differentiate on the map between improvements to existing corridors and the construction of new corridors.
- Ms. Lauten asked the members if they approved of the alternatives going forward for additional study. Mr. Lee indicated that he is still concerned about a new crossing of the St. Johns River. All other Task Force members expressed their support of recommending the alternatives.

## **Draft Proposed Action Plan**

Mr. Kaliski presented the revised draft action plan, and passed out copies to the Task Force.

## **Discussion**

The members identified concerns with revised draft actions 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 15.

The members expressed the following concern with 2:

- The public input showed strong support for improving US 192, but that support is not reflected.

The members expressed the following concerns with 4:

- Mr. Jones asked for clarity regarding the various types of studies that are referenced. He proposed linking 4, 6, and 7 to create a network that is studied holistically. Mr. Wood suggested adding language to flesh out how the linkages could function together or separately.
- The members provided suggestions for rewording.
- Mr. Baldochhi noted that connecting SR 417 with the Osceola Parkway is very important.
- Ms. Duda Chapman suggested that the study should address the impacts on approved development.
- Mr. Jacobsen suggested that the study should address connectivity to the Northeast District.

The following concern was expressed relative to 7:

- Mr. Wood requested that FDOT and Metroplan Orlando be included as potential lead agencies.

The members expressed the following concerns with 8:

- Ms. Duda Chapman asked how development approvals could be affected if the corridor alternatives are adopted into comprehensive plans. Susan McCune, a planner with Orange County, clarified that it is possible to generally map potential corridors without identifying the specific alignments. She said that local governments could include language stating the purpose of such maps.
- The members discussed the intent of this draft action and how it relates to the charge in Executive Order 13-319 that local governments are encouraged to consider amending their plans to incorporate the Task Force's recommendations by 2015.

The members expressed the following concern with 10 and 11:

- Mr. Baldochhi suggested that they could be combined. The other members agreed.

The members expressed the following concerns with 15:

- Ms. Duda Chapman asked about the meaning of developing a framework. Mr. Wood stated that the intention is to establish a broad approach that could be applicable in other areas.
- Mr. Biter suggested that developing optimal approaches may be better than developing a framework.

- Mr. Baldocchi noted that implementation will occur largely at the local level. The counties should be listed more prominently as lead agencies throughout the document, but particularly with 15, since the counties will need to take the lead to preserve right-of-way.
- Ms. Lauten suggested identifying a lead agency and key partners for each action.
- Staff deleted the reference to the counties in draft action 2, as to avoid the appearance that the counties were not key partners in the other draft actions.

Mr. Biter requested that staff clarify the meaning of development orders. Ms. Richmond suggested that the clarification solely reference development orders associated with developments of regional impact.

Ms. Lauten asked the members if they agreed on the draft action plan and recommendations. All Task Force members indicated their agreement. Mr. Lee indicated that he might have further comment.

### **Options for Reconvening**

At the previous meeting, the Task Force considered a recommendation that they reconvene to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. Ms. Hermanson discussed potential options for reconvening pursuant to the Sunshine Law.

### **Discussion**

- The members discussed whether or not recommending legislative directives to ensure the implementation of the recommendations is beyond the scope of Executive Order 13-319.
- Mr. Marchena suggested recommending that the Florida Transportation Commission be tasked with tracking the progress of action items and the oversight of the implementation of the recommendations. They can recommend new or revised policies.
- Ms. Duda Chapman asked if the Florida Transportation Commission can recommend policy. Mr. Romig stated that the Commission's responsibility is to recommend transportation policy to FDOT and the Governor's office, but it cannot be involved with specific projects.
- The members discussed funding for the recommendations. Mr. Biter suggested that any lack of funding could be addressed in the future through annual reporting to the Governor's office.

### **Proposed Language to Address a New River Crossing**

Mr. Killingsworth read new text proposed by Mr. Lee. The new language would add a note to the description of Alternative H, which depicts a new river crossing. The language acknowledges the environmental issues associated with the alternative. The Task Force unanimously supported the language.

### **Public Comment**

- Douglas Sphar, Sierra Club Turtle Coast Group, expressed concern over a corridor through conservation land, as well as sea-level rise.

- David Bottomley, Orange County resident, encouraged the Task Force to consider the transportation needs of residents and address connectivity between Orlando and Brevard County.
- Marjorie Holt, Sierra Club Chair, noted that the study area includes sensitive environmental areas. She advocates planning transportation needs around areas that are already impacted. She expressed concerns regarding sea-level rise and the effects on the St. Johns River.

### **Next Steps**

Mr. Kaliski provided an overview of the framework of the Task Force's report. Mr. Killingsworth acknowledged that the Task Force achieved consensus on the corridor alternatives, the guiding principles, and are close to achieving consensus on the action items. The Task Force still needs to discuss the framework of the report and the implementation of the recommendations.

Mr. Lee requested that staff include in the report the Deseret North Ranch sector plan map and a map of the natural systems and wetlands on the Ranch.

Mr. Killingsworth stated that staff will send a draft of the report to the Task Force by October 21. If the members do not identify substantial changes to the draft by October 29, there will not be a webinar prior to the November meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Killingsworth thanked the Task Force members and staff. He adjourned the meeting.