



Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes for Microsoft Teams Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 · 1:00–3:00 PM EST

- Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Jon Martz at 1:01 PM EST
- Roll Call

Advisory Board members and Designees (P = Present on Teams, T = Telephone, A = Absent)

	Name	Title	Organization	Designee	
P	Kevin J. Thibault	Secretary	FDOT	Brad Thoburn Liz Stutts	Statute
P	Dane Eagle (A)	Executive Director	FDEO	Scott Rogers	Statute
A	Noah Valenstein	Secretary	FDEP	Chris Stahl (A)	Statute
P	Teresa Sarnoff	Member	FTC		Statute
A	Lisa Bacot	Executive Director	Florida Public Transportation Association		
A	Kimberlee DeBosier	Director, Project Excellence	WGI, Inc.		
P	Jean Duncan	Administrator of Infrastructure and Mobility	City of Tampa		
P	Sonny Holtzman	Principal	The Holtzman Group		
P	Ram Kancharla	Vice President Planning and Development	Port Tampa Bay		

P	Ysela Llort, Chair	Principal	Renaissance Planning Group		
P	Jon Martz, ViceChair	Director Government and Public Affairs	Enterprise HoldingsCompany		
P	Joseph Waggoner	Executive Director	Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority		
A	Thornton J. Williams	Managing Partner	Williams Law Group, P.A.		
P	Ralph Yoder	Executive Director	Florida Transportation Commission		

Guests

- Fred Mannering, Ph.D., Acting CUTR Executive Director
- Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director

CUTR Program Directors

- Phil Winters
- Victoria Perk
- Martin Catala
- Xiaopeng Li
- Kristine Williams
- Liz Stutts, FDOT
- Jennifer Flynn, CUTR
- Paul Goyette, CUTR

Welcome: Vice Chair, Jon Martz

Appendix A: Approval of Minutes: Vice Chair, Jon Martz

- Motion to approve minutes by Ram Kancharla
- Motion seconded by Kim DeBosier
- Motion passed

Topic #1: FDOT Update: Secretary Kevin Thibault, P.E., FDOT Secretary

- Jon Martz congratulated Secretary Thibault on his recent appointment to the TRB Executive Committee.
- Secretary Thibault congratulated Lisa Staes and her team on their work with their new contract with ENSCO.
- He shared that the Florida Legislative Session ended and legislators prioritized key transportation policies allowing the Department to enhance safety across the transportation system, while embracing innovative solutions, and increase mobility, as the state continues to grow.
 - Bill highlights include
 - New DOT bill closes the safety gap in the “Move Over” law in Florida and protects FDOT construction and safety personnel.
 - Invests resources in arterial highway improvements in Florida’s rural communities
 - Further improves safety in transportation systems
 - Provides fiscal responsibilities and government efficiencies, updating obsolete and/or outdated statutes and clarifying existing Department-related statutes
 - Budget highlights include
 - \$9.44B appropriated for the first year of the Department’s work program
 - \$2.8B for highway construction, 210 new lane miles
 - \$1B in resurfacing
 - \$110M+ in seaport infrastructure improvements
 - \$326M in aviation improvements
 - \$500M+ to repair 89 bridges and replace 18 other bridges
 - \$700M+ for rail transit program advancements
 - \$2B transfer of Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds to the State Transportation Trust Fund. Of that, \$1.75B to the State Highway System projects and \$250M to port

operation grants, especially those impacted by the pandemic. It may be adjusted based on guidance from U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Yellen to all states.

- Transportation funding replaced due to funding lost from pandemic. In late 2020, the Trump Administration executed a COVID-19 relief measure that included \$470M for the state of Florida. These funds have enabled the work program to move forward and protect the safe and efficient movement of people and goods. Also includes funding for transit agencies and partner airports. In April, Governor Ron DeSantis made his recommendations for the American Rescue Act funds. Governor DeSantis asked for \$1B to the work program, and the Legislature appropriated \$2B.
- The Resilient Florida Grant Program which awards money to state and local agencies for resiliency projects received \$1B. This will provide more than \$2B combined with the Florida Leads budget recommendation.
- Governor DeSantis signed a proclamation declaring May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. FDOT and Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Agency on their “Share the Road” campaign. May is National Hurricane Preparedness Week. FDOT encourages all Floridians to prepare for the 2021 Hurricane Season.
- AASHTO update: The Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (SASHTO) will hold its meeting in Florida for the 2021 annual meeting. This is a great opportunity to showcase Florida transportation. The theme is “Uniquely Florida” and will be held on July 31 – August 3 at Hilton Orlando, Bonnet Creek.
- Secretary Thibault opened the floor to questions.
- Joe Waggoner: Is there a likelihood to get the TB Next, interchanges, and 275 work projects back with new funds? Secretary Thibault: We are doing everything we can with the additional funds and have discussed the projects in the Westshore area. The U.S. Treasury guidelines are helpful for highways, but the funding was not what we expected. We are reviewing all documents. We should know the impacts within the next few weeks.
- Jon Martz: Are you seeing projections for “normal” state revenues again? Secretary Thibault: The first August forecast saw a \$1.6B reduction in the work program funds. In December, the update increased by \$300M. In March, it was increased again by \$300M. Using on these forecasts, Florida will be back on track by next spring (2022). Longer term issue – by 2027, Florida will see the impacts of fuel-efficient and electric vehicles on our revenues.

Topic #2: CUTR Updates: Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director

- Ms. Staes summarized her activities since the February meeting including CUTR Management and Operations, Marketing and Work Program Development, and specific Project Activities and indicated that a comprehensive list of activities was included in Appendix B of the meeting packet. She also reviewed FY2020 awards and FY2021 new awards to date and presented sponsor details from FY 2016 – 2020 and FY 2021 to date.
- Ms. Staes indicated 2021 was on track to be another successful year for CUTR, surpassing the value of FY2020 awards. Finally, she noted that there were several contracts in process.
- Ms. Staes suggested that the Advisory Board and CUTR leadership meet annually to discuss budgets and work program development strategies. Jon Martz agreed. Teresa Sarnoff also agreed stating it was key. Ms. Staes suggested to meet in August 2021 for the first meeting.
- Ms. Staes gave a brief overview of the USDOT Transportation Technology Center.
 - The Association of American Railroads has managed the site since 1982. FRA issued a RFI in early 2019. CUTR executed a teaming agreement with ENSCO to participate as a

part of their proposal team. RFP released in 2020 with a two-phase proposal process with the first phase submitted in May 2020 and the second phase in July 2020. CUTR received notice of the award a few months ago.

- The transition of project leadership is already underway. The on-site transition will likely occur prior to April 2022.
- Ms. Staes discussed the location site and the technology center. Current focus is research, development, testing, and training for rail industry, but will expand for other surface transportation research and testing.
- Center for Surface Transportation Testing and Academic Research (C-STTAR) team will be led by CUTR and include Michigan State University, Colorado State University Pueblo, Michigan Tech, Oregon State University, National Disaster Preparedness Training Center at the University of Hawaii, University of Nebraska Lincoln, and Mineta Transportation Institute at San Jose State University.
 - Focus areas: support and advance USDOT's mission and direction; support and advance federal, state, and local transportation safety, security, and emergency management programs; improve safety and security; provide solutions; facilitate collaboration and coordination; increase TTC site utilization; develop future transportation researchers and industry professionals.
 - CUTR's role: direct C-STTAR and lead university team; member of ENSCO's leadership and TTC Steering Committee, co-chair University Research Steering Committee, responsible for research dissemination, training management, logistics, development, and delivery, and site safety management and training.
 - Expansion includes pipeline research and testing, truck and heavy vehicle testing, 5G connectivity research, technical training and workforce development, transit research and testing, confined transportation research and testing, first responder training, and intelligent transportation system and cybersecurity testing.
- 20-year contract with a five-year base period and five-year option after the first five years. Complete transition of DOT operations, maintenance and research programs to ENSCO will be completed by October 2022.

Topic #3: NICR Updates: Xiaopeng Li, Ph.D., NICR Director

- Dr. Xiaopeng Li gave a brief update of the NICR structure and its partners.
- New activities include NICR's meeting with Congressional Committees and Offices in March 2021. "Dear Colleague Letter" initiated by Congressman Mark DeSaulnier calling for extension of NICR and another UTC.
- Year 2 Projects were awarded after a review process. NICR leadership team selected projects. NICR submitted Semi-Annual Report to Congress on April 30, 2021.
- Workshop Plan: NICR Student Council to host workshop in fall including speakers and presentations.
- Technology Transfer Team: USF NSF I-Innovation Corps Site Training Plan is a three-week course to better identify client needs.

Topic #4: CUTR Advisory Board & Student Engagement Proposal: Xiaopeng Li, Ph.D., NICR Director

- Dr. Li presented the plan to incorporate CUTR Advisory Board members with transportation and planning students. Advisory Board members' presentations will be built into the Friday Transportation Seminar Series, co-sponsored by NICR.
- These hour-long discussions during the fall and spring semesters allow students to connect with transportation professionals and researchers. Advisory Board members can present on a variety of topics about their career, education, or daily work life.
- Goals include preparing students for careers in transportation and planning; leadership skills; transportation post-pandemic; the future of Florida transportation.
- Advisory Board members will be invited to sign up for a Friday slot, and they will be alerted on their presentation beforehand.
- Dr. Li will send out a schedule with a list of available dates.

Topic #5: 2021 CUTR Annual Transportation Achievement Award Event and Florida's Transportation Hall of Fame Awardee Selection Committee: Jon Martz, Committee Chair; Lisa Staes, Deborah Schultz, Christina Van Allen, CUTR

- In late March, the sub-committee met to discuss the 2021 Hall of Fame Awardee. The Advisory Board announced the 2021 Florida Transportation Hall of Fame Awardee: Sonny Holtzman. The Advisory Board and other members of the meeting congratulated Mr. Holtzman.
- CUTR's Jodi Godfrey gave a brief synopsis of the 2021 New Voice Award announcement. Applications are due by September 1, 2021. Ms. Godfrey asked the Advisory Board to spread the word about the award.
- CUTR's Deborah Schultz announced the sponsorship packages will be released in mid-May 2021. CUTR would like to increase attendees this year. Currently, there are no issues with capacity due to COVID-19.
- CUTR's Christina Van Allen to distribute sponsorship packages and information once the CUTR team meets with USF's College of Engineering.
- Kim DeBosier confirmed that the Florida Engineering Foundation has approved their sponsorship of the event.

Topic #6: 2022 CUTR Annual Transportation Achievement Award/Florida's Transportation Hall of Fame Event: Lisa Staes, CUTR

- CUTR confirmed for joint event in 2022 with TeamFL. The contract has already been signed with the Renaissance Tampa International Plaza Hotel. TeamFL conference to be held from October 18 through October 20, 2022. The CUTR Transportation Achievement Awards will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2022.

Topic #7: CUTR Advisory Board Bylaws Committee Update: Lisa, Staes, CUTR

- Thornton Williams could not join today's meeting. Ms. Staes gave a brief on the bylaws meeting.
- The bylaws committee meeting occurred on April 12, 2021. The committee reviewed the 2003 and 2016 versions of the CUTR bylaws. Minor edits to keep statutory consistency with its language. The committee will meet in late July to finalize its recommendations in preparation for the Advisory Board review and approval at the August 10, 2021 meeting. The committee is using the 2016 version as its base.
- Committee members include Thornton Williams (Chair), Ysela Llorca, Kim DeBosier, Jon Martz, Jean Duncan, Sonny Holtzman, Teresa Sarnoff, Joe Waggoner, and Lisa Bacot.

- Jon Martz asked if the Advisory Board would like to view the red line of the proposed changes. The Advisory Board agreed to wait until the August meeting.

Topic #8: CUTR Advisory Board Business: Jon Martz, Vice Chair

- Congress is heavily focused on an infrastructure package. Looking at an infusion of funds possibly for broadband. We do not know if it will be a part of the transportation reauthorization. NICR wants to become a part of the authorization bill and has support from Congressman Mark DeSaulnier.

Topic #9: CUTR Research Programs and Project Presentations: Lisa, Staes, Victoria Perk, Ph.D., and Jennifer Flynn

- Ms. Staes introduced CUTR's program areas and the respective program directors. In subsequent CUTR Advisory Board meetings, CUTR program directors will present their programs, personnel, and highlight specific projects/programs.
- Program Director Victoria Perk, Ph.D. introduced the Transit Research Program including faculty, staff, students, and recent projects including the National Bus Rapid Transit Institute (NBRTI), Research Evaluation Framework (FTA), and the Tampa Bay Clean Cities Coalition.
 - Florida Transit Information and Performance Handbook and NTD Assistance (FDOT) project
 - CUTR started the project in 1990. FTA's National Transit Database is used for information for Florida's urban transit agencies.
 - Assists with NTD-related support for FDOT Central Office, FDOT District Offices, FPTA.
 - Tasks include Florida Transit Information and Performance Handbook, Florida Transit Fast Facts, agency performance measures, data spreadsheets, etc.
 - NTD Training Courses: Transit Research Program administers two NTD training courses for Florida public agencies each year. Two 2020 virtual courses were conducted that included 44 total participants, representing 20 Florida transit agencies.
- CUTR Senior Research Associate Jennifer Flynn presented "Evaluation of FTA's Rides to Wellness (R2W) Demonstration: Summary Findings and Recommendations"
 - Ms. Flynn defined the program and process of the Rides to Wellness Demonstration Program.
 - Purpose: identify and test promising, replicable public transportation healthcare access solutions that support the "triple aim" of increased access to healthcare, improved health outcomes, and reduced healthcare costs.
 - Goals include costs, benefits, outcomes with data; actual verses expected outcomes; lessons learned. Learn about the successful and unsuccessful aspects.
 - Findings illustrated the program was successful at identifying innovative public transportation solutions to health access challenges.
 - It also showed that grantees were unable to gain access to health records; providers had to rely solely on self-reported health data.
 - In rural communities, lack of transportation may not be a barrier, but an indicator of larger issues with healthcare and insurance industries.
 - Project grantees used pre- and post-intervention data to demonstrate improved access to healthcare.
 - Several grantees were able to demonstrate limited evidence for improved health outcomes using self-reported data from participants.

- The goal of improved health outcomes may underestimate the value of programs that help people to maintain their health status.
 - Most grantees struggled with how to measure improved health outcomes and found that relying on self-reported data to quantify or attribute such outcomes to their projects yielded limited results.
 - Of all goals, reductions in healthcare costs proved to be the most difficult to measure when relying solely on self-reported data.
 - Grantees developed excellent ideas for performance measures in the grant applications and during early project phases; however, it was more difficult than anticipated to identify and collect the necessary data.
 - Programs need better planning for sustainability.
 - Ms. Flynn provided the recommendations based on the project's findings.
 - Jon Martz: Do you get many of these demonstration projects? Ms. Flynn: We do not receive all the demonstration projects. CUTR was chosen for this project due to the program's area of expertise. Ms. Staes: CUTR is also working to evaluate FDA's Safety Research Demonstration Program. It evaluates the project selection, but also investigates the national benefits improving transit safety.
- Jon Martz asked for a motion to adjourn
 - Joe Waggoner motioned to adjourn; Kim DeBosier seconded motion
 - Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM EST.