

APPENDIX A – CUTR ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2022



Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes for Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2022 · 1:00–3:00 PM EST

University of South Florida – CUTR Rosa Parks Board Room

- Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Ysela Ylort at 1:06 PM
- Roll Call

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

	Name	Title	Organization	Designee	Appointment
P	Secretary Kevin Thibault (A)	Secretary	FDOT	David Gwynn (P)	Statute
P	Dane Eagle (A)	Executive Director	FDEO	Scott Rogers (P)	Statute
P	Noah Valenstein (A)	Secretary	FDEP	Chris Stahl (P)	Statute
T	Lisa Bacot	Executive Director	Florida Public Transportation Association		
P	Kimberlee DeBosier	Director, Project Excellence	WGI, Inc.		
T	Jean Duncan	Administrator of Infrastructure and Mobility	City of Tampa		
T	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		
T	Jon Martz, Vice Chair	Director Government and Public Affairs	Enterprise Holdings Company		
P	Joseph Waggoner	Executive Director	Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority		
P	Thornton J. Williams	Managing Partner	Williams Law Group, P.A.		
P	Ralph Yoder (A)	Executive Director	Florida Transportation Commission	Sonya Morris (P)	

Guests

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

CUTR Program Directors

- Xiaopeng “Shaw” Li
- Chanyoung Lee
- Pei-Sung Lin
- Sisinnio Concas
- Kristine Williams
- Phil Winters

Other CUTR Guests

- Jodi Godfrey
- Stephanie Lewis
- Roberta Yegidis
- Vishal Kummetha
- Cong Chen
- Lisa Ravenscroft
- Arunima Bagui
- Omkar Dokur

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Ysela Llort**Topic #1: Approval of Minutes: Chair Ysela Llort**

- Motion to approve minutes by Kim Debosier
- Motion seconded by Joe Waggoner
- Motion passed

Topic #2: FDOT Update: Secretary David Gwynn, P.E., FDOT Secretary

- Secretary Gwynn provided the FDOT update. Secretary Thibault will be leaving but will stay through the end of legislative session. He will lead the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority upon his departure. Secretary Thibault sent his thanks to the CUTR board, USF and CUTR faculty for the support and partnership, and he promises to remain a transportation partner. Search for next secretary will begin in the next several weeks, by the FTC.
- Other changes, Assistant secretary Courtney Drummond’s last day was last week. Chief Engineer Bill Watts was promoted last week to the assistant secretary role.
- Chief of Staff Tory Austin left to be a commissioner in Broward County. Kenyatta Lee is his new interim replacement.
- New General Counsel Rebecca Davis
- Public information officer is leaving at the end of session. So, many changes in Central Office.
- Looking forward to a successful year.

- Good news about the budget, with revenues higher than projected. Projected to return to pre-pandemic levels in FY2023 (so starting in July) and are projected to exceed those pre-pandemic levels after that.
- During this last cycle, the state allocations for the department were increased by \$1.4B through FY27. Of that, \$315 million is for statutorily required allocations which are tied to specific revenue sources, but \$1.1B is in discretionary allocations. Of that \$825M will go to the strategic intermodal system, \$275M will go to district funds.
- Seeing a return to pre-pandemic levels on the turnpike. Turnpike system hit the 1M in revenue, exceeding forecasts by 7%. Turnpike mainline is now completely cashless. 90% of the toll roads throughout the state will be cashless by 2024.
- Freedom First budget proposal, the governors proposed budget for FY 22-23 totals 9.27B in the work program, which includes a historic \$10.4B budget for FDOT of which 9.27B is slated for the work program. Investments include:
 - \$3.6B highway const
 - \$1.2B in resurfacing
 - \$117.3M in seaport infrastructure enhancements
 - \$297M in aviation improvements
 - \$185M for scheduled repairs
 - \$597M for rail and transit program advancements
- 2021 Bipartisan Law or IIJA was a reauthorization of the FAST Act, providing \$937B over 5 years. That includes \$550B for new investments for all modes of transportation, water, power, and energy, environmental remediation, public land, broadband and resiliency.
 - \$16.7B will come to Florida. \$13.5B will come to Florida in formula funds. Follows same general structure as FAST Act. \$187B in potential funding in discretionary competitive funding too.
- Legislative session is fairly quiet.
- Federal funds that were allocated last year are not recurring. Infrastructure is a good use for that money, and that money should be added to our work program. In D7 there is over \$300M in appropriations filed. In previous years, we needed money to fund earmark, and this should all be on top of the budget.
- New initiatives include the vital few, and the benefits, especially on the safety side are noticeable. One area, secondary crashes on interstates, is an area of concern. People are driving too fast, so we are looking for ways to slow people down. Peter Shu is working to help find solutions.
- Local luck in the past year, with Governor DeSantis advanced projects that we have been trying to initiate for years.
- Joe Waggoner mentioned that this all sounds great.
- The department is running a 20% vacancy right now. About a 30% delta in pay for the same position at the city or county. Working on the attracting and retaining. Kim Debosier indicated that the pay gap is concerning.
- Joe Waggoner asked if the efforts into police and enforcement will be directed toward speed enforcement? Secretary Gwynn said yes. They are also working to provide equipment to allow the collisions to be cleared quicker, more speed laser guns, light towers to expedite the ability to complete work in the dark, etc. There is a significant increase in pay for the State Troopers.
- Dr. Li mentioned that the workforce development is part of the weekly seminars, so keep advertising to the students.
- Ysela Llort asked Secretary Gwynn to thank Secretary Thibault for his ongoing support.

Topic #3: CUTR Updates: Fred Mannering, CUTR Executive Director; Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director; Xiaopeng Li, NICR Director

- Dr. Mannering reported that many things are happening. The UTC recompetes will occur soon. CUTR is involved in seven preliminary centers for this recompetes. CTEDD, NICR, plus new centers: equity-focused center with U of Maryland, urban air mobility with U of Buffalo, public transit with Mineta, regional center (mobility center) led by NC A&T and UCF coalition. Tier 1 safety center led by UCF. While we can only lead one center at a time. There are advantages and disadvantages to leading and teaming. It is not always better to be the lead, because it requires more administrative tasks. There are varying probabilities, and with these seven, we will likely be successful on about four.
- SB1160. We are monitoring the progress of this bill, which would create a "CUTR-like" center at the University of Florida.
- Looks like USF is well positioned to get a chunk of money (\$55M) this year from the legislature.
- College of Engineering budget update, if USF gets this \$55M, it could trickle down to engineering, and Dean Bishop knows that CUTR is underfunded, so if the college gets a boost, it should help us.
- Journal of Public Transportation has been passed off to Elsevier. This will help with marketing and exposure.
- Institute of Applied Engineering: This spring CUTR will start running some contracts through this mechanism to see if it is more beneficial than DSR.
 - Chair Ysela Llort asked - What is the benefit? Speedy responses, contract renewal speeds increased. Mainly DSR has been a challenge for many years, and this does touch a little about the Strategic plan update that is underway. The past strategic plans have repeatedly commented on the challenges of delays caused by sponsored research. The idea that this institute of applied engineering could reduce those delays, is promising.
 - Kim DeBosier asked if the Institute of Applied Engineering is under the College of Engineering. It is affiliated with the college.
 - Joe Waggoner what is the mission of applied engineering? Applied engineering is kind of a redundant name. The mission is set up to work closely with operations command in Tampa. It is organized for the defense sector. The idea is that you can get pilots in the field almost initially, rather than being delayed by research protocol. Joe said it is not redundant because it means what can you do today. This is how you can apply the knowledge gained, and that sounds like a positive take.
 - Ysela Llort mentioned that it is smart of Dean Bishop to introduce this center.
 - Kim DeBosier asked if FDOT contracts can go through that? Fred mentioned that potentially yes, though Lisa Staes added that FDOT already has a great indirect rate, and so it may not be the most beneficial to take FDOT issued task work orders through them.
 - Ysela Llort asked for a detailed comparison of the two approaches in a future meeting.
 - Joe Waggoner mentioned that this may help because they will be focused on engineering related contracts.
- Associate Director Lisa Staes reported CUTR Associate Director activities. Internal meetings and DSR meetings have been recurring on a regular basis. TRB 2022 was a successful event with a great reception. TRB was about a third of their normal attendance record, but we were only about 30 people shy of our typical reception attendance records.
 - Working with program directors on the update to the CUTR Strategic Plan.

- Budget update was provided. Ysela Llort asked about the \$11M mark, and how that compares to previous years. We are a little ahead of previous years.
- Dr. Shaw reported NICR's update. The year 3 request for proposals was sent out last November, and that call was extended to Feb 14 in hopes of getting more proposals. June 30, 2023 is the latest date for project completion, and final reports are due two months before that date.
 - 2021 UTC Student of the Year was awarded to Carly Venditti from Texas A&M University. Brian Staes also received a CUTC award. Cami Li also won a CUTC award.
 - The NICR webcast series and Friday Graduate Student Seminars have occurred all year.
 - The NICR I-Corps workshop was held last fall for faculty and students, and it was focused on linking the students from research to the commercial world.
 - Tampa Bay Citizens Academy on Transportation was held to help the community understand how projects are planned and executed. Ysela asked how people were invited to attend. Kristine Williams was in charge of that project. Kristine did a broad call through the city of Tampa for residents that were interested in transportation. There was a registration cap, and the whole project included a student presentation as well. About 28 students were in each course. USF students were teamed with the citizen groups to work together to provide them with real world experience in public engagement as well. It was planned to be in person but was transitioned to a fully virtual format. Ysela mentioned that the virtual citizen meetings are resulting in more participation.
 - Ram asked when do you start applying for these programs that are coming out? Dr. Li responded that some are continuations, and others are new opportunities. We can look into more detail to expand our collaborations. Lisa Staes added that there is one that included a Rail Center of Excellence, and we will follow that one very closely. We will be the lead on that proposal, and all C-STTAR members would join us.
- Dr. Mannering, Ms. Staes, and Dr. Shaw all thanked the CUTR Advisory Board.

Topic #4: CUTR at TRB: Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director

- 3 standing committee chairs, 10 presiding events, 2 lecterns, etc. Participation in TRB is lagging a little behind 2019 values, but we are trending in the upward direction on the papers. Zhiwei Chen won a CUTC award. Brian Staes, Robert Bertini, and Nikhil Menon also won an award.

Topic #5: CUTR TRB Presentations – Part 1: Sisinnio Concas, ACES Program Director; Vishal Kummetha, Postdoctoral Scholar; Omkar Dokur, Ph.D. Candidate

- Sisinnio Concas introduced his team - Dr. Kummetha and Mr. Dokur. Dr. Kummetha will present on the Longitudinal Study of the COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Activity Travel Using Connected Vehicle Data.
 - Number of personal trips is reverting to pre-pandemic levels. Travel time and VMT in PVs are increasing at a steady rate.
 - Kim Debosier, what will it take to run the data through today? We will just have to re-run the data
 - Ysela, have you noticed like changes in time-of-day travel changes? The study did not look at time-of-day. What have you noticed in the data Secretary [Gwynn]? A flattened peak.
 - Yu Zhang asked what makes this project unique? This is a data driven approach using ground truth used to validate the findings. This provides an opportunity for reviewing changes of the same users over time.

- Joe Waggoner: was the CV project a unique project for CUTR? Does CUTR do other projects like that? Yes. We work with industry partners. The combination was unique in the project and seemed to be very valuable. Ysela Llort, the more we can speak about these valuable findings, then we can leverage this value in the future. Joe: Is there potential to knock on private doors to suggest future partnerships? Ram: Insurance companies are tracking this every day for many people. Maybe you can collaborate with them. Is there another way to increase the numbers of participants? Who uses these analyses? These papers are going through reviews for many research journals, and this will also provide information to practitioners both immediately and in the future. Ram asked if the secretary actually uses this type of data. Secretary Gwynn indicated that they have modelers that use very intricate data like this in their analyses.
- Omkar Dokur presented on Securely Sharing and Visualizing Connected Vehicle Analytics.
 - Ysela Llort asked, if the secretary notices many pedestrian-vehicle warnings along a stretch of road, then the secretary could use that data to understand the actions along this roadway. Omkar responded that the tool was developed to help an analyst determine if the warnings are appropriate to the drivers to reduce the false positive assessment.
 - Secretary Gwynn is using a similar type of data, using cameras to determine and trend near miss events at certain hot spot areas.
 - Questions were asked to come after the meeting, as the time is scarce now.

**Topic #6: 2022 CUTR Annual Transportation Award Event – Florida’s Transportation Hall of Fame
Awardee: Jon Martz**

- Ysela Llort congratulated Mr. Holtzman and thanked the CUTR Advisory Board for their continued efforts throughout the last year.
- Ron House, Chairman of the Florida Transportation Commission, was selected as the 2022 awardee pending motion and approval
- Joe Waggoner moved
- Ram Kancharla seconded the motion
- Motion approved

Topic #7: CUTR Advisory Board: Ysela Llort, Chair

- At the second meeting we determined we should be looking for advisory board officer to chair the selection committee.
- Joe Waggoner would like to help as the chair. Ram will serve on the nominating committee. Jean will also serve on the nominating committee.
- Please deliberate and return to this meeting for the next meeting.
- Any other board member items for discussion?
- Joe is officially retired. Congratulations came from all.

Ysela Llort ended the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 PM EST.