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CUTR ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

January 27, 2004

CUTR Board Room, University of South Florida

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm by Board Chair Art Kennedy. The welcome was followed by self-introductions of all Board members and staff. In attendance were the following:

Advisory Board Members

Art Kennedy
Jim Holton

John Beck
Ken Metcalf (for Secy Castille)

Kimberlee DeBosier
Marion Hart (for Secy Abreu)

CUTR

Ed Mierzejewski
Patricia Ball
Steve Polzin

Gary Brosch
Larry Hagen
Steve Reich

Joel Volinski

Special Guests

Kathy Betancourt, USF
Hon. Arthenia Joyner, Florida House of Representatives

Attendees were provided with copies of the meeting agenda, minutes of the last meeting, and assorted other materials.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the April 23, 2003, meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dr. Mierzejewski presented a report on CUTR and related activities:

- Special thanks to Art Kennedy for the essay competition award he sponsored.
- CUTR had 22 presentations on the 2004 annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board in January. CUTR employees were honored with several awards: Researchers Xuehao Chu and Mike Baltes received the Best Paper award from the Committee on Bicycle & Pedestrian Travel; researcher Kristine Williams was nominated for Best Paper by the Committee on Access Management; grad student Lavenia Toole-Holt was recognized as Student of the Year by the Southeastern Transportation Consortium; grad student Julie Goodwill was recognized as NCTR Student of the Year by FTA's Research and Special Programs Administration. It was moved and seconded that the Board commend all TRB participants and award recipients; Dr. Mierzejewski will draft a formal resolution.
- Dr. Mierzejewski met with Alan Voorhees regarding a potential major financial gift to CUTR. Assistance from the Board will be sought at a later time, if appropriate.

- Assistance to the Florida Transportation Commission on the Regional Transportation Planning study was completed. Mr. Beck and Mr. Holton noted that the report was well received by the Legislature and the Governor's Office, but has been met with some resistance. Findings of the study are supported by the FTC.
- CUTR is working with the FDOT Public Transit Office and the Florida Aerospace Development Corporation on behalf of the Florida SAFE Council to identify airport security needs, funding, and the establishment of priorities. This is CUTR's first work in the aviation area.
- CUTR researcher Kristine Williams recently developed the national Access Management Manual, published by the Transportation Research Board.
- Rooms in the CUTR building are being remodeled to accommodate new offices and storage.
- CUTR is included in a federal earmark for a major program related to port and airport security; it is expected this will commence in summer 2004.
- Reauthorization of TEA-21 and its provisions related to University Transportation Centers, of which CUTR's National Center for Transit Research is a part, is continuing to be debated.
- Activities related to the National BRT Institute continue, with assistance needed to encourage Senator Bill Nelson to support it.

REMARKS FROM FDOT: Mr. Hart commented on behalf of FDOT that the legislative session is approaching and FDOT will be as responsive as possible to legislative committees. The new budget includes more funding in the State Transportation Trust Fund. Secretary Abreu will be appointing three Assistant Secretaries. FDOT anticipates much discussion on Florida's high speed rail proposal.

CUTR AWARDS DINNER RECAP/PLANNING: Patricia Ball was commended for her work on the First Annual Transportation Award Dinner. A committee of Bill McDaniel, John Beck, Jim Holton, and Art Kennedy will discuss the 2004 Dinner, including location and award recipient.

CUTR STATUTE: A small group met in December to discuss potential changes to the Florida Statutes regarding CUTR. It was decided to postpone requesting changes at this time.

CUTR LONG-TERM STRATEGY: CUTR proposes to be more engaged with the Florida Transportation Commission, the Florida Legislature, and the Governor's Office. Mr. Beck noted that FTC is seeking to secure funding from the Legislature to allow retaining CUTR for special assistance. Mr. Beck noted that Dr. Mierzejewski's meetings last year with the House and Senate transportation committees were well received, and more contact with senators Sebesta and Russell are anticipated. Mr. Beck also noted that CUTR's input related to high speed rail and TEAM Florida would be beneficial. Rep. Joyner noted that she would welcome an unbiased opinion on high speed rail and commented that she will advocate for CUTR when appropriate.

FUTURE MEETING FORMAT: The Board agreed that its quarterly meetings should include an annual or semi-annual update on CUTR projects and that the fall or winter meeting be geared toward strategies related to the legislature and legislative committees.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no new business.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.