



CUTR Advisory Board Meeting CUTR Board Room October 28, 2009

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 1:55 p.m. by Board Chair Kimberlee DeBosier who welcomed board members and guests. Self-introductions of participants were made as follows:

Advisory Board Members and Designees:

Kimberlee DeBosier	Ysela Llort	William Sheppard
John Forney	Norman Mansour	Chris Stall for Sec. Sole (call-in)
Stephanie Kopelousos	Jo Penrose for Sec. Pelham (call-in)	Thornton Williams
	Manuel Rose	

CUTR

Ed Mierzejewski	Steve Reich	Kristine Williams
Pei-Sung Lin	Lisa Staes	Phil Winters
Steve Polzin	Joel Volinski	

Others: Sally Patrenos, Don Crane

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the July 2009 meeting were approved.

Chair's Comments: Ms. DeBosier reported that she met with John Wiencek, Dean of the College of Engineering, to discuss the perception of CUTR competition with consultants. The meeting provided an opportunity to inform the Dean on CUTR's role and policies regarding competition with consultants. CUTR will brief FICE and FSPE on CUTR's work program and future collaboration opportunities.

Director's Report: Dr. Mierzejewski provided an update:

- Achilleas Kourtellis, a previous recipient of CUTR's Georgia Brosch Memorial Transportation Scholarship, successfully defended his PhD dissertation; his research was related to CUTR's project to evaluate rear vision camera technology for tractor trailers.
- Significant progress has been made on the application process to obtain state matching funds for the CUTR scholarship. We have over \$100,000 in the account; this amount should make us eligible for the 50% match.
- Steve Polzin has been appointed to a number of prestigious national advisory groups.
- Jorge Castro, one of our summer REU students working on a joint CUTR-Computer Science project, won second place in the USF Summer REU Computer Science and Engineering poster contest.
- CUTR hosted a GIS Webinar to serve as a teaser to the "2009 GIS in Transit Conference" (November 16-18, 2009). Almost 100 people representing 28 states and 5 foreign countries attended.

- Earl Durden, previous CUTR award recipient and former chair of the FTC, presented a seminar on September 14th. He shared his experiences in the railroad and trucking industries and most importantly he shared some of his personal philosophy with our students and faculty.
- Approximately 220 guests have registered for the annual CUTR Transportation Achievement Award Dinner; this includes 18 sponsored tables.
- CUTR anticipates the publication of an investigative report on CUTR in the *St. Petersburg Times* in the near future.

Board Member Updates:

- John Forney indicated that while recession is technically over, it's difficult to feel too optimistic with unemployment still rising. He also elaborated on economic and funding trends for Florida and the nation.
- Stephanie Kopelousos commented on two recent P3 projects in Florida and talked about the message from USDOT regarding the importance of Tri-Rail and SunRail to Florida's application for high speed rail.
- Ysela Llort commented on the financial sustainability of urban rail given a 30+% operating cost disadvantage compared to local bus transit and noted the need to consider cost effectiveness given tight resources.
- Norman Mansour cautioned about the negative impact of commercial property foreclosures.
- Manuel Rose commented on the HSR proposal for Florida. Discussion covered various aspects of ridership risk and uncertainty surrounding use of HSR.

Budget Issues: Ed Mierzejewski reported that CUTR continues to receive ongoing support from the Dean, the Research Office, and the Provost. In spite of continuing cost pressures, CUTR's reputation for prudence and productivity has held us in good stead with USF administrative personnel. CUTR continues to face the challenge of dealing with fixed labor rates in multiyear contracts. He discussed the risk of unreimbursed costs to CUTR in maintaining employee compensation in light of fixed reimbursement rates that might not reflect raises to employees. Discussion ensued regarding how we might best respond given tremendous price pressures on clients and fiscal and administrative constraints.

Project Presentations:

- Traveler Assistance Device: Nevine Georggi and Mark Sheppard
- FDOT/FDCA Mobility Fee Study: Karen Seggerman
- Careers in Transit DVD: Joel Volinski
- Gandy Boulevard Business Impact Analysis: Steve Reich

New Business: There was no other business.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Schedule for 2010:

January 27

May 26

July 28 – teleconference

October 27 with Transportation Achievement Award dinner to follow (*tentative depending on availability of recipient*)