



## **CUTR Advisory Board Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**May 11, 2011**

Center for Urban Transportation Research, Boardroom  
3808 Alumni Drive, Tampa, FL 33620

#### **Attendees:**

##### **Advisory Board Members and Designees:**

Kimberlee DeBosier, Chair, Bayside Engineering

Senator James Hargrett, Jr.

Thornton Williams, Williams McMillian, P.A.

Debbie Hunt, Florida Department of Transportation

Jo Penrose, Florida Department of Community Affairs (call-in)

Chris Stahl, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (call-in)

##### **Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF:**

Stephen Reich

Jan Davis

Pei-Sung Lin

Steve Polzin

Ken Short

Lisa Staes (call in)

Kristine Williams

Joel Volinski

Chairman Kimberlee DeBosier called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. and welcomed the attendees and guests.

#### ***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

Following a motion by Kimberlee DeBosier to approve the February 9, 2011 meeting minutes that was seconded by Senator Hargrett, Jr., they were unanimously approved.



*Chair's Comments:*

The Chair informed the group that one of our newest Board members is Ananth Prasad, FDOT Secretary. She also let everyone know that Board Designee, Sally Patrenos has stepped down from her position as Director of the Florida Transportation Commission and a letter will be sent to thank her for her years of service to CUTR's Board. Debbie Hunt stated that the deadline for applications for her replacement is June 14, 2011.

*Report of the Award Committee:*

Kim DeBosier reported that the committee recommended Senator Malcolm Beard as the 2011 Transportation Achievement Award recipient. Senator Hargrett made a motion for Senator Malcolm Beard to be recognized as the 2011 Transportation Achievement Award recipient, which was seconded by Debbie Hunt and unanimously approved. Senator Beard was very instrumental in the birth of CUTR and an avid transportation advocate. Senator Hargrett will contact him. Senator Beard has made many contributions to transportation and he was in the House of Representatives and later the Senate.

*Status of the Director Search:*

Ken Short reported the first Search Committee for CUTR's Director was held on April 5, 2011. The members are as follows: Kim DeBosier, Chair, Bayside Engineering, CUTR Advisory Board Chair; CUTR: Steve Reich, Dennis Hinebaugh, and Kristine Williams; USF: Sharon Hanna-West, College of Business, Kala Vairavamoorthy, School of Sustainability, Elizabeth Strom, Office of Community Engagement, Rick Baker, Innovation Partnerships, Paul Sanberg, Research and Innovation, and Robert MacLeod, Architecture and Community Design; Linda Saul-Senna, former City Council Member, City of Tampa. Dean Wiencek chaired the meeting. Hank Lavandera from the General Counsel's Office reviewed the sunshine laws and offered suggestions on how to conduct business. The job description had been posted but the Committee made suggestions for its modification. A new description and advertisements will be on-line starting June 1 through June 30, 2011 and the search committee will meet early July to discuss top ten applicants. The list of top five candidates will be given to Dean Wiencek by July 26, 2011 with on-campus interviews planned to be held by September 2, 2011.

*Steve Reich provided his Interim Director's Report:*

*External Review:*

The external review that was requested by Provost Wilcox is scheduled for June 19, 20, and 21. The reviewers are Robert Skinner, Jr. Executive Director, Transportation Research Board, Dr. Samer Madanat, University Transportation Center Director, University of California, Berkeley, and Dr. Daniel Sperling, University Transportation Center Director, University of California, Davis. They will meet with



President Genshaft, Provost Wilcox, Dean Wiencek, the Vice President for Research, the heads of several USF centers and departments, state and local officials and representatives from CUTR.

The reviewers have been charged to:

1. Critically evaluate the appropriateness and quality of CUTR'S research efforts to date within the context of USF's strategic plan and the needs of our state and community.
2. Critically evaluate CUTR'S current resources and suggest how they might be best invested to deal with the future research challenges in urban transportation.
3. Comment on CUTR's financial model in terms of the relative proportion of support coming directly from USF versus external sources.
4. Provide an assessment of how CUTR'S financial model compares to other nationally recognized urban transportation research centers.

Questions to be answered by the committee:

1. Does CUTR have sufficient breadth of research emphasis on forms of transportation other than roadways that will become more important to the future of our community, our country and the world?
2. Is CUTR's research portfolio consistent with comparable university transportation centers at top tier public research institutions?
3. Is there sufficient diversity of revenue streams compared with other university transportation research programs with which you are familiar?
4. Does CUTR have a clear fundamental mission that is consistent with the mission of a research public university?
5. How might CUTR best position itself going forward to leverage relevant strengths in other Colleges, Centers and offices at USF as well as assisting the State and community with economic development activities?

#### *General Information Items*

CUTR webcasts are presented every other Thursday at noontime and to date there have been 500 participants; webinars can be found at: [http://www.cutr.usf.edu/events\\_news/webcast.shtml](http://www.cutr.usf.edu/events_news/webcast.shtml).

Dr. Daniel Sperling's visit to CUTR was very informative and well attended.

Steve Reich and Joel Volinski met with FDOT Research Center and Office of Public Transportation regarding NCTR project solicitation in Tallahassee.



CUTR has hired a Human Resources Manager, who will start on May 16, 2011- Damien Drayton.

Representatives from CUTR have been briefing U.S. Senate and House staff on the federal University Transportation Center program with regards to a federal re-authorization bill. Meetings have been scheduled with Senator Nelson, Senator Rubio, Chairman Mica, Congresswoman Castor and others will be arranged.

Joel Volinski was selected as the third speaker for the RITA Transportation Innovation Series.

CUTR briefed top FHWA officials in Washington on CUTR's capacity and capabilities.

Joel Volinski and Dennis Hinebaugh met FTA officials on project priorities for NBRTI.

Steve Polzin gave the Keynote address to the American Bus Association of Board of Directors.

Four applications were submitted for the University's Research Faculty Pathway Grant and College's Research Faculty Hiring Incentive Programs. They were on social marketing and transportation, resiliency planning for sustainable transportation infrastructure, sustainable urban transportation and transit safety research.

Lisa Staes' team secured competitive research grant for development for FTA's Safety Research Roadmap.

Dr. Pei-Sung Lin's team will find out on May 15th if they won the FDOT project, "Landscaping of Highway Medians at Intersections" against Texas A & M and FAU.

The research contract performance for 2010 are as follows: As of quarter 4, there were 118 active contracts; the value of labor backlog (excluding E&G) was \$3,315,248; there were 5.47 months of labor backlog (excluding E&G); the value of the new proposals was \$1,445,444; value of new contracts was \$2,691,027 and the total client survey for overall satisfaction are 17/18.

Debbie Hunt inquired to the proportion of research awards to CUTR from the State of Florida. Steve Reich responded that they represented 57% of total contracts, or \$4.2 million for calendar 2010 and 70% for 2011.

*Legislative Report*

Thornton Williams reported that 2,000 bills were filed and the least amount of bills (265) were passed. Attached is a list of the transportation bills that were filed and their outcomes.



*Legislative Federal Report*

Joel Volinski reported that there are no bills that have been fully prepared at the federal level. The big question is whether or not there will be a surface transportation bill this year or if the bill will continue to be approved via continuing resolutions. There is a huge disparity between what the Obama Administration has proposed (a \$560 billion bill over 6 years) and what the House has proposed (\$240 billion over the same amount of time).

Congressman Mica, Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee would have liked a bigger bill, but is proposing a bill consistent with House leadership philosophy calling for no revenues beyond what the federal gas tax produces. He wants something marked up by end of June and to go to the floor by September. We are trying to work with the congressional staff as it relates to us as a federally designated University Transportation Center (UTC). The USDOT has called for a total restructuring of the UTC program. Right now there are 60 UTC's and the plan is to reduce the number to 20. Each competitively selected consortium will receive funding consisting of up to \$3,500,000. While this provides opportunities for CUTR, it also means this will be the most competitive process CUTR has ever gone through, and we will need to find partners to be able to match whatever level of federal funding we receive if we are successful in being selected as one of the 20 UTCs under the new program.

*Board Members' Updates*

HB 7207 made numerous changes to Florida's growth management process. One of the staff at The Carlton Fields law firm in Tallahassee has done an analysis of the bill which will give a better idea of the changes. See attachment.

Thornton Williams mentioned that the portion of Highway 90 between the Jackson County line and the Holmes County line was named the Ben G. Watts Highway.

*New Business* -- none

*Project Presentation*

Steve Reich presented the project, Revenue Study Options.

*Next Steps and Meeting Schedule*

The next meeting will be held from 1:30 pm – 4:00 pm in Tampa on August 10, 2011.

*Adjournment* - The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.