CUTR Advisory Board Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

October 26, 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.
Robert Romig, Florida Department of Transportation
Thornton Williams, Williams McMillian, P.A.
Dr. Manuel Rose, Florida Transportation Commission
Jeanette Hallock-Solomon, Florida Department of Community Affairs (call-in)

Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF:
Stephen Reich
Jan Davis
Damien Drayton
Dennis Hinebaugh
Pei-Sung Lin
Lisa Staes
Kristine Williams
Phil Winters
Joel Volinski

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Following a motion by Kimberlee DeBosier to approve the August 10, 2011 meeting minutes that was seconded by Robert Romig, they were unanimously approved.
Chair’s Comments:

Kimberlee DeBosier’s comments revolved around the Directorship; the Search committee recommendations were presented to Dean Wiencek and he in turn has interviewed some of the candidates and now it is in the Provost hands. It has been a long road (1 ½ years) since the Director has left. She thanked Steve Reich for doing two jobs and the mangers at CUTR for pitching in to make it possible.

Steve Reich provided his Interim Director’s Report:

2011 Transportation Achievement Award Dinner Update:

Steve Reich thanked the planning committee of Damien Drayton, Grace Hunt, Wendy Teague, and Ken Short for all of their hard work on this event. It was a disappointment that Secretary Prasad was not able to be there, but we were pleased that Assistant Secretary Brian Blanchard will convey the Secretary’s thoughts and vision for the future of Florida’s Transportation System. Attendance seems to have surpassed last year – 227 as of this morning. Similarly, the number of table sponsors equals last year with 16 and exceeds the sponsorship amounts – 8-gold and 8-green. Last year there was 1-platinum, 5-gold and 10-green. We have a great program and there will be two Georgia Brosch Scholarship winners. Senator Hargrett and Tom Lee will be addressing as well.

University Transportation Center Recompetition Status

Steve Reich re-capped the latest Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011, P.L. 112-5 passed in March and the new rules which involve only consortia of two or more Universities to be eligible to compete and up to twenty-two university transportation center consortia to be selected: 10 regional centers, 10 Tier One Centers, and two Tier One Centers with a public transportation focus. After much discussion and deliberations with potential partners, we settled in on a team that includes USF as lead with University of Illinois at Chicago, North Dakota State University, and Florida International University. A meeting was held with the principals of the centers in Chicago to reach agreement on operating and governance of a consortium. The name National Center for Transit Research – NCTR was retained; 3.5 million to be matched: $1.75 to CUTR, $750k each to University of Illinois and North Dakota State University, and $350k to Florida International University; all must be matched for a $7 million UTC; proposal was submitted yesterday. We received many letters of support including a strong one from FDOT. Steve thanked Joel, Dennis, Phil, Steve P., Reena, and USF Sponsored Research.

CUTR Director Search Update

The Search Committee chaired by Kim DeBosier had selected all three candidates for visits, which was accepted by Dean Wiencek. Dr. Jill Hough, Director, Small Urban and Rural Transit Center, PhD Transportation Technology and Policy, North Dakota State University, Fargo was here September 7, 8, and 9. Dr. Shashi Nambisan, Director, Institute for Transportation, Iowa State University, PhD Civil Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, CA, MS Civil Engineering, Virginia Tech was here September 21, 22, and 23. Mr. Jason Bittner, Deputy Director/Research Scientist, National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, research appointment in the College of Engineering’s Wisconsin Transportation Center, and lecturer in transportation management and policy at UW-Madison was here September 28, 29, and 30. The Search
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Committee recommended to the Dean, the candidacy of Mr. Bittner and the University is currently negotiating with him. He is tentatively scheduled for a return visit to USF to meet with President Genshaft and Provost Wilcox on November 7th.

CUTR News

CUTR’s first patent, Optimizing Performance of Location-Aware Applications Using State Machines was awarded on October 11th to the inventors group that includes Sean Barbeau, CUTR Research Associate and Computer Science and Engineering PHD candidate; Philip Winters, Director of Transportation Demand Management Program at CUTR, Dr. Rafael Perez, Computer and Science Engineering Professor; Dr. Miguel Labrador, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Engineering; and CUTR Senior Research Associate, Nevine Georgi.

CUTR’s second patent; Wireless Emergency-Reporting System was awarded today to the same group of inventors. The Board extended congratulations to all involved. +

Dr. Sisinnio Concas was awarded a RFHIP position to be funded for 2 years.

Steve Reich met with Dr. Manjriker Gunaratne, Civil and Environmental Engineering and Dr. Jose Zayas-Castro, Industrial IMSE in regards to CUTR collaboration on 8/12/11.

State Revenue Study – Steve Reich gave a revenue presentation to the Florida Transportation Commission (9/14/11) and to the MPOAC Advisory Committee (9/15/11) and will be make a recommendation in November to 27 local officials where it can be accepted or rejected.

Dr. Pei-Sung Lin and the ITS, Traffic Operations and Safety Program was awarded approximately $2.5M of motorcycle safety related grants from FDOT/NHTSA for FY 2011-2012.

Federal Update

The Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works has tentatively scheduled a mark-up of a two-year SAFETEA-LU reauthorization for November 9th at 10:00 am. The bill is being referred to as the “Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21)”.

Board Member Updates

Robert Romig reported that the revenue for transportation will be hit $897 million over the next 5 years. The legislative session starts in January this year due to reapportionment; FDOT are in the program development mode right now and are doing everything they can to become efficient with innovative financing to move projects forward. It will continue to be a challenge because of the economy and it will be a very difficult session for the legislature and government.

Thornton Williams reported that Doug Calloway of Floridians for Better Transportation is leaving and that Wes Watson, Director of the Florida Public Transportation Association is retiring as well.

New Business -- none

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Presentations

Sean Barbeau – Optimizing Performance of Location Aware Applications Using GPS Auto-Sleep (Patent Number 8,036,679)

Dr. Achilles Kourtellis – Evaluation of Pedestrian Safety Action Plan in Tampa Bay

Kristine Williams and Domenico Pontoriero – Performance Measures for Public Involvement

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.