



Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes for Microsoft Teams Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2021 1:00–3:16 PM

- Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chair Ysela Llort at 1:01 PM
- Roll Call

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

	Name	Title	Organization	Designee	
P	Kevin J. Thibault	Secretary	FDOT	Brad Thoburn, Elizabeth Stutts	Statute
P	Dane Eagle	Executive Director	FDEO	Scott Rogers	Statute
P	Noah Valenstein	Secretary	FDEP	Chris Stahl	Statute
P	Teresa Sarnoff	Member	FTC		Statute
P	Ysela Llort, Chair	Principal	Renaissance Planning Group		
P	Thornton J. Williams	Managing Partner	Williams Law Group, P.A.		
A	Kimberlee DeBosier	Director, Project Excellence	WGI, Inc.		
P	Sonny Holtzman	Principal	The Holtzman Group		
A	Ram Kancharla	Vice President Planning and Development	Port Tampa Bay		

P	Jon Martz, Vice Chair	Director Government and Public Affairs	Enterprise Holdings Company		
A	Jean Duncan	Administrator of Infrastructure and Mobility	City of Tampa		
P	Joseph Waggoner	Executive Director	Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority		
P	Lisa Bacot	Executive Director	Florida Public Transportation Association		
P	Ralph Yoder	Executive Director	Florida Transportation Commission		

Guests:

- Fred Mannering, Ph.D. Acting CUTR Executive Director – present
- Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director – present
- CUTR Program Directors
 - Pei-Sung Lin
 - Phil Winters
 - Sisinnio Concas
 - Chanyoung Lee
 - Xiaopeng Li
 - Kristine Williams
- FDOT – Elizabeth Stutts
- CUTR faculty, staff, and students

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

- Page 3 and page 5 missing Teresa Sarnoff's last name
- Motion by Jon Martz
- Motion seconded by Secretary Thibault
- Slight change in agenda topic order with Secretary Thibault speaking first

Topic #2: FDOT Update: Secretary Kevin Thibault, P.E.

- Funding impacts continue to be felt. Department continues to face revenue challenges as gasoline revenue has decreased due to the pandemic.
- Reduced planned commitments, adjusted bonding levels to preserve work program.
- Jan 28, 2021: Governor DeSantis released budget – Florida Leads. \$96.6B budget contains significant transportation infrastructure support and safeguarding taxpayer dollars. \$10.4B is allotted to the department provides \$9.4B for state transportation work program.
- \$50M for the road fund – funding for projects for economic development.
- Florida Congressman Daniel Webster named as ranking member on House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee - Ranking Republican member of the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- New Biden Administration: anticipate an increased focus on urban issues, connection with land use and transportation, walkable communities, and multimodal transportation system.
- Florida is set to receive \$470M from relief bill, with \$89M going to MPOs with a population of 200,000 or more.
- Safety and mobility: focusing on “vital few” for residents and visitors. Vital few

focuses on **improving safety, enhancing mobility, and inspiring innovation**. During February, focus on bicycle and pedestrian safety (with school bus safety), speeding and aggressive driving, and impaired driving.

- Chair Ysela Llort thanked the Secretary for his update.

Topic #3: CUTR Budget/COE Strategy: Interim Executive Director, Fred Mannering, Ph.D.

- University proposed a 2-year budget cut and CUTR was “held harmless” in the initial round.
- New USF Committees: A new committee on indirect cost return – hoping for more indirect costs returned directly to CUTR. A strategic renewal committee looks at the systemic budgeting – focuses on area of growth.
- The \$900B stimulus that was passed has USF receiving \$50M with some strings attached. The additional stimulus projected provides for fluid future budget prospects.
- CUTR may not be affected, but more updates next quarter. College is committed to protecting CUTR from any budget cuts.
- Chair Ysela Llort thanked Dr. Mannering for his update and continued support.

Topic #4: CUTR Updates: CUTR Associate Director Lisa Staes, NICR Director Xiaopeng “Shaw” Li

- Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director - Ms. Staes provided an update of her activities since the November 2020 CUTR Advisory Board meeting (complete list provided on the last page of the Advisory Board meeting packet).
- Program directors are reviewing and evaluating CUTR’s performance measures. The effort is being led by Dr. Sisinnio Concas with expected outcomes including:
 - a revised list of performance measures for CUTR
 - a process for collecting, measuring our success/areas for improvement, reporting, and tracking performance; a method for utilizing the data to drive business development and CUTR strategic planning activities
 - an outreach and information sharing process with CUTR administrative, faculty, students, other personnel, and the CUTR Advisory Board
 - a basis for faculty evaluations
- Ms. Staes discussed her call with TeamFL Executive Director Brady Nepple that included a joint commitment to re-establish and expand partnership. This could include joint training, webinars, or podcasts, organizational support, and potential coordinated events. Will continue to foster this relationship and support each other.
- Regular meetings are still occurring with Sponsored Research.
- TRB annual meeting and other publication successes were shared.
- Discussed recent awards and contracts.

- FY 2020 Contracts and Grants Revenue: 15M
- FY 2021 YTD (November 2020): 4.1M
- FY 2021 YTD (January 28, 2021): \$9.4M
- FY 2021 Awards “In Progress”: 2.2M
- Total 2021 Awards to Date: 11.6M
- Jon Martz and Chair Ysela Llorc commended the team for the great results.
- Xiaopeng “Shaw” Li, Ph.D.
 - Won the National University Transportation Center (UTC) in 2018 – one of two teams picked from 51 applicants. Congestion is the main focus area. The National Institute for Congestion Reduction (NICR) started in July 2019 with an award of \$7.5M for 3 years with partners the University of California Berkeley, Texas A&M University, and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez.
 - NICR built on four pillars: data, mobility platforms, innovative alternatives, and freeway corridors. 17 projects underway in Year 1. Year 2 RFPs were collected on February 8, 2021. New research ideas will include COVID-19, equity and social justice, and technological adjustments. Expected to award Year 2 projects in mid-April.
 - New stand-alone website created for NICR.
 - Progress report to USDOT, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Research and Technology (OST-R) in October 2020.
 - NICR meeting with stakeholders since fall.
 - Received two CUTC student awards.
 - Establishing contact with the NICR advisory board.
 - Jon Martz stated that NICR already had an executive advisory committee listed and asked if they had been contacted. He recommended reaching out to those individuals. Dr. Li indicated that he would reach out to those already listed in proposal. Rephrased to indicate the activities will kick off with the advisory committee.

Topic #5: Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting: Lisa Staes, CUTR Associate Director

- Ms. Staes announced that Victoria Perk, Ph.D., Jennifer Flynn, and Austin Sipiora received a TRB Paper of the Year award for “Evaluation of the Federal Transit Administration’s Transit and Health Access Initiative: Case Highlights, Findings, and Recommendations.”
- CUTR TRB 2021 activities: 3 Standing Committee chairs, 7 presiding events, 21 participating in committees, 4 papers published, 2 Emeritus Committee members, 1 paper of the year, 2 lecterns, 3 workshops, 31 poster presentations, and 43 CUTR employees in the 2021 TRB program.
- Ms. Staes presented a graph of CUTR’s TRB participation trends from 2017

through 2021 and noted that CUTR did well in 2021, second to 2019 in terms of activities.

- 2 Council of University Transportation Centers (CUTC) student awardees: Zhiwei (Nicklaus) Chen and Xiaowei (Tom) Shi
- Open for member comments on TRB: Chair Ysela Llort indicated that she is a member of three committees and commented that person-to-person is preferable in many ways, but the virtual meetings were well done. She added that the attendance numbers for committee meetings were impressive. Sisinnio Concas agreed.
- Lisa Staes agreed in terms of the committee meetings, though many of the other workshops or lecterns and posters faced technology challenges.
- One takeaway is that virtual committee meetings were well done – perhaps just as good as in-person.

Topic #6: CUTR Annual Transportation Award Event and Florida Transportation Hall of Fame Awardee Selection Committee: CUTR Associate Director Lisa Staes

- Ms. Staes stated that we will be holding the in-person award event that will likely occur on November 9, 2021. She asked for volunteers to help with the planning of the event and more importantly the selection of Florida's 2021 Transportation Hall of Fame awardee. Volunteers include:
 - Sonny Holtzman
 - Jon Martz – Chair
 - Joe Waggoner
 - Ysela Llort
 - Kim DeBosier
- Lisa will reach out to Kim DeBosier, Jean Duncan, and Ram Kancharla to see if they are interested in participating.
- She stated that staff did reach out to the Marshall Center to see if the November 9th date is available – awaiting response (have since received confirmation that the Marshall Center is available for November 9, 2021).

Topic #7: CUTR Advisory Board Student Engagement Opportunities: Chair, Ysela Llort and Vice Chair, Jon Martz

- Idea is to find ways to have students more engaged with the Advisory Board
- Jon Martz: stated that engineering curriculum has not changed much in 40 years, and much of what you see in day-to-day work is not something you are exposed to as a student. The value of some of the topics, financial, technology, etc., can all be valuable to make informed career decisions.
- Volunteering a few hours could help to provide students valuable insight – one-off type of meeting.
- At Renaissance, the company conducts seminars that she could possibly open to CUTR students.

- Chair Ysela Llort stated that we need to frame this program to make this happen.
- Ms. Staes noted that our progress will be shared at the next meeting. Dr. Li will take the lead on the effort and Ms. Staes will support.
- Brad Thoburn is happy to join the effort and provide insight. The various financial sources and policy implications would be very interesting. Maybe a roundtable with brief assigned reading: how a work program is put together, how the money flows, how the Department's public transportation budget and awards are managed and distributed, etc.
- Information to be included in the Advisory Board update – number of students, how or if shadowing opportunities can be accommodated, webinar hosting, etc.
- Shaw and Lisa will work on a draft idea statement and send it out to get initial reaction before the next board meeting.

Topic #8: CUTR Research Presentations

Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority Connected Vehicle Pilot Performance

Measurement Results: Joe Waggoner, Sisinnio Concas, Ph.D., Achilleas Kourtellis, Ph.D.

- Joe Waggoner introduced the Connected Vehicle Pilot – the project developed dashboard is becoming an CV industry standard. 4M added to the project due to CUTR's success.
- Sisinnio Concas thanked THEA and described the details of the 6 use cases and the data management and data presentation work that was completed for the Connected Vehicle Pilot. The pilot just completed Phase 3.
- One of three pilot test sites - Wyoming (weather) and New York City (urban) and Tampa (commuter).
- Deployment: 6 cases. Case 1: Reverse lane issues, weekday travel, trying to get downtown quicker. Case 2: Wrong way entry: changes to accommodate travel and warning. Case 3: Pedestrian safety by courthouse. Case 4: Multimodal, headway travel for fixed route buses. Case 5: Streetcar issues and conflicts. Case 6: Traffic projection. Improve mobility flow.
- Sisinnio Concas explained goals, performance measures, experimental design, and participant recruitment.
- All information securely stored in private server, removing any identifying information. No cameras installed on vehicles. Cannot view participants. Fully rely on data-driven metrics.
- USDOT can download analytics and real-time information. The dashboard was designed for this project and has been invaluable in the ability to visually present the massive volumes of data that was collected.
- Explained the pandemic issues and time frame of analysis by case.
- Presented summary of findings, feedbacks, and future applications and research.
- Phase 3 Report will be published soon: Connected Vehicle Pilot Deployment Program Performance Measurement and Evaluation, Phase 3
- Phase 4 is starting: integration of original manufacture equipment manufacturers

(OEMS) with Hyundai, Honda, and Toyota and support USDOT spectrum interference testing (SPITS).

- Teresa Sarnoff asked if this is a black box type technology that is added to the cars. Is it beneficial for testing to have the box vs a cellular application?
- Sisinnio Concas: Yes, this is a black box. Joe Waggoner: Most of the vehicles in this test were not equipped with vehicle build-in technology. Built hardware and software into the infrastructure to use the “black box” technology.
- John Martz: How were participants selected?
- Joe Waggoner: Offered toll discounts by targeting REL.
- Brad Thoburn: How did COVID impact the findings of this project? Vehicle miles are down, but are coming back, peaks have flattened, and fatalities are skyrocketing. How did conditions on the roadway contribute to these trends?
- Sisinnio Concas: Each vehicle has software that collects travel diary logs to establish profile. Many behavioral changes can be tied to traffic conditions, and safety applications may also incentivize or desensitize this type of driving behavior. Pilot to examine behavioral information in deployment.
- Chair Ysela Llort: Do you have information on the driver or just the vehicle?
- Sisinnio Concas: Sisinnio Concas is the IRB provider, which is held securely and only accessible to the properly trained researchers. USDOT and THEA do not have access to that identifiable information. Driver information is completely secure and private.
- Highly scrubbed data goes to the ITS data hub. Some information, like the type of vehicle receiving the alert is held for only specific access. All identifiable information is removed.
- Joe Waggoner mentioned that the increase in fatalities is due to an increase in total speeds and unsafe driving due to open roads with no congestion.
- Brad Thoburn: Seeing the data would really assist with knowing the trends.
- Jon Martz: Were rental cars taken into consideration?
- Sisinnio Concas: Yes, but we needed participants in one area of Tampa for the study.
- Chair Ysela Llort thanked the presenters and the board members for the great conversation.

Toward a Florida Automated, Connected, Electric, and Shared (ACES) Transportation System Roadmap: Pei-Sung Lin, Ph.D., P.E., PTOE, FITE, Nikhil Menon, Ph.D.

- Pei-Sung Lin and Nikhil Menon presented the ACES (Automated, Connected, Electric, Shared) roadmap, including the website which leads to the activity viewer.
- Several universities working on different parts of the project including University of Florida, University of North Florida, University of West Florida, University of South Florida, and many others.
- Florida Automated Vehicles Summit – Since 2013
- Focus on automated, connected, electric, and shared transportation

- Nikhil Menon presented the program website including a fact sheet and the activity viewer, the key product from the project. The activity viewer map-based platform identifies the 28 current, operational ACES projects in the state.
- Design architecture includes different accessibility levels and services available.
- Filters on projects including category, type, and location. Each project will link to project details.
- Activity viewer also provides real-time information and location of Florida's bike share systems (9 throughout the state).
- Location of electric vehicle charging stations in the state are also included.
- The viewer is also mapping other initiatives throughout the U.S. including the location of connected vehicle deployments.
- Drs. Lin and Menon asked Advisory Board members to provide feedback to the presenters to improve on the project.
- Future opportunities will include more projects and filters within the system.
- Brad Thorburn mentioned that there needs to be work done in automated mobility, and FDOT will link to this project. It may be helpful to differentiate between Level 1 and 2 vehicle autonomy, and fast charge infrastructure for the EVs to help with range anxiety.

Topic #9: CUTR Advisory Board Business

- Jon Martz provided an update on the Federal Transportation Reauthorization process, indicating that we are still operating under an extension of the FAST Act. This year the Congress should draft bills by spring, hopefully by May, to have them completed by the July recess.
 - The situation looks much like 2009. The transition of USDOT staffing may lead to the Whitehouse looking for an extension. There is pressure from state and local governments to act now. It would be great to have assured that funding will remain in the pipeline.
 - The UTCs are a large part of the funding in the national appropriations. The value of the UTC program is not a given. UTCs may not have as much money for the next five years. The NIGR program got half of the 7.5M appropriation that was provided in 2018.
 - USF has been great at being a Tier 1 Center, but there is no assurance beyond that. Advisory Board members should use their influence to ensure CUTR is one of those selected.
 - It would behoove CUTR and the Advisory Board to remain involved. If called upon, participate in a webinar or call to select members of the House or Senate Committee staff to talk about the program and support CUTR with the Congressional committees.
 - Chair Ysela Llort mentioned the by-law review which was left incomplete in the previous review that was initiated.
- Teresa Sarnoff mentioned that all should review the old by- laws, the state statute

- and proposed changes.
- Chair Ysela Llort agreed, mentioning that there needs to be a review with associated observations.
 - Joe Waggoner agreed that we need to start with why we were set up and volunteered to assist. Volunteers include:
 - Teresa Sarnoff
 - Sonny Holtzman
 - Kim DeBosier
 - Lisa Staes said that USF's General Counsel would be available as needed.
 - Chair Ysela Llort asked to have Lisa reach out to members that are absent from this meeting to determine if they are interested in participating.
 - Lisa Bacot asked to participate as an ex-officio member. She was invited to participate as a non-voting member.
 - Thornton Williams offered to serve and provide an historical perspective. Further, he offered to chair the committee.
Chair Ysela Llort asked if there were any other questions or issues.

Meeting adjourned at 3:16 PM EST.