CUTR Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes -- DRAFT
February 17, 2017

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

Attendees:

Advisory Board Members and Designees:

Thornton Williams, Williams Law Group, P.A., Chair
Kim DeBosier, Vice Chair, JMT
Ed Coven, FDOT (called in)
Sonny Holtzman, The Holtzman Group
Ram Kancharla, Port Tampa Bay
Ysela Llort, Renaissance Planning (called in)
Bob O’Malley, CSX Transportation (called in)
Scott Rogers, Florida DEO (called in)
Senator Jim Sebesta, FTC

Center for Urban Transportation Research, USF:
Robert Bertini
Dennis Hinebaugh
Jan Davis
Chanyoung Lee
Pei-Sung Lin
Steve Polzin
Ken Short
Lisa Staes (called in)
Joel Volinski
Kristine Williams

CUTR Graduate Research students:
Katrina Corcoran, Austin Gibble

Guests:
Bob Hartnett, Brady Nepple, TEAMFL
CUTR Advisory Board Meeting

Thornton Williams called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Following a request by Thornton Williams to approve the November 15, 2016 meeting minutes, Senator Jim Sebesta approved the motion and it was seconded by Ram Kancharla; they were unanimously approved.

Introduction:

Introductions were made around the table.

Director’s Report:

Congratulations to Kimberlee DeBoisier for receiving the Dean’s Distinguished Service Award from the USF College of Engineering. This award recognizes a distinctive and creative group of entrepreneurs, innovators and business leaders who have made significant contributions to the field of engineering as well as the USF College of Engineering. She will be honored on April 8, 2017 at the Palma Ceia Golf and Country Club.

USF/COE and CUTR Updates:

a. 100 in 100 – Bertini has exceeded this goal but is still interested in making new contacts and he asked the assistance of the advisory board. A form was distributed to them asking for three suggestions.

b. New projects for the 4th quarter 2016 are as follows: almost $120k from private sources/consultant contracts; $1.5 million from FTA: Safety Standards Development; over $5.1 million from Florida DOT; $1.7 million from THEA: Connected Vehicle pilot; $11k from new sponsors: Service Edge Solutions and Trillium Solutions.

c. New proposals submitted so far in 2017: $90k to U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities; $209k FTA amendment to evaluate Federal Rides to Wellness Program; over $1 million to State of Florida ($309k for Commuter Assistance Program Evaluation and $254k for Mobile Fare Payment Pilot; $10k to Hillsborough County (Complete Streets); HART Bus AV project; Hillsborough MPO Bus AV project; Florida Department of Health: Complete Streets program; Mercedes-Benz (German) traffic information analysis; FDOT EV Evacuation project idea; FDOT Trail inventory project idea; National Science Foundation Proposal: Smart Cities ($1M with USF Industrial Engineering and $200k with USF CEE). Potential strategic initiatives: City of Tampa MOU for Smart Cities and a proposed strategic initiative with the Transportation Technology Center (TTCI) in Pueblo, Colorado in support of FTA’s transit safety and security programs.
d. NCTR/UTC Update: There were 200 applications for the UTC competition with only 35 selected. CUTR is part of three successful proposals. They are all Tier 1: “Teaching Old Models New Tricks” at Arizona University (USF share $250k/year); “Center for Transportation, Environment, and Community Health” at Cornell University (USF share $350k/year); Center for Transportation Equity, Decisions and Dollars” at University of Texas at Arlington (USF share $200k/year). With the new administration coming in, there could be another competition. CUTR will inform board members of any updates.

e. Diversity and Inclusion is one of the most important values under the umbrella of CUTR’s strategic plan. For National African-American History Month, a presentation was on display in the CUTR lobby to honor the African American Transportation Leaders and Innovators.

f. Upcoming events: Every Friday at 11:00 am at CUTR in CUT202, there are Graduate Transportation Seminars organized by the Florida ITE student chapter. On February 24th, CUTR Advisory Board member, Ram Kancharla will be the guest speaker. Florida Senator Jeff Brandes will speak on March 10th. There is a special meeting on Wednesday, March 1st sponsored by the LiveMove USF featuring the author, Gabe Klein, of “Start-Up City”. Advisory Board members are welcome to join and/or give a presentation.

g. A committee is working on a new design for CUTR’s logo.

h. Social Media – CUTR has almost 600 likes on Facebook; the goal is to get 1,000 likes; invite your friends to like Center for Urban Transportation Research.

i. Study Abroad Summer 2017 – Rob Bertini will be leading USF in the Netherlands: Sustainable Urban Mobility for 2 weeks in May. While he was at Portland University, he taught this course in the Netherlands a total of four times.

**CUTR Advisory Board Strategic Plan Update**

Steve Polzin presented an update on strategic issues concentrating on Goal 1 of the CUTR Strategic Plan, “Financially sustain CUTR over the long-term.” He reported an overview of the CUTR financial foundation from inception in 1988 where CUTR received state annual funding all the way to the present where funds are not received from the state and now CUTR depends on grants and contracts. He went over the strategic and business challenges. He summarized the next steps to continue to explore different avenues of opportunities to sustain significant funding commitments to CUTR/USF.

Comments from the Chair:

Thornton Williams brought Rob on to invigorate CUTR and he is taking the lead to make CUTR more visible. The main issue is that we are not losing funding; CUTR collaborates and partners with companies to work on cutting edge projects. Looking at the big picture, the long term strategy is not an immediate crisis as funding levels are not going down.
Discussion resulted in the following motion:

Following a request by Thornton Williams for Rob Bertini to give a report on the funding level in 6 months, Senator Jim Sebesta approved the motion and it was seconded by Kim DeBosier, they were unanimously approved.

TRB Annual Meeting Summary:

CUTR was well represented at 2017 TRB Annual Meeting with 33 CUTR/USF people on the program. For the first time, CUTR hosted a reception, which was well attended. A booth was also well received and a positive experience. Chanyoung Lee and Lisa Staes were acknowledged for doing a great job of leading the booth and event. Also, thanks go out to the CUTR support staff working behind the scenes to make sure everything went well. In the future, we would like to invite more CUTR/USF alumni. Photos from 2017 TRB

CUTR 2016 Transportation Achievement Awards Dinner Summary:

The transportation awards event was held on November 15, 2016 at the Embassy Suites honoring Orlando Mayor, Buddy Dyer and it was a success. There were over 200 attendees and 22 table sponsors, 5 more sponsorships than last year. The revenue was over $35,000 with the net income close to $16,000. Photos from the event can be seen on the CUTR website. The 30th anniversary for CUTR will be in 2018.

CUTR Nomination Committee for 2017:

Thornton Williams asked for one member to join him and Kim DeBosier on the CUTR Nomination Committee to choose the Chair and Vice Chair. Sonny Holtzman offered his services and a teleconference will be scheduled. Recommendation will be brought to the board at the next meeting.

CUTR Transportation Achievement Award Committee:

Thornton Williams asked for volunteers to participate on the CUTR Transportation Achievement Award Committee to recommend this year’s award recipient. At this meeting the guiding principles and the subtitle of the award (e.g., Florida Transportation Hall of Fame) will be discussed. It is to be used as a branding concept for CUTR so no one else can use it. It would be a trademark. Ysela Llort offered her services and a teleconference will be set to include Williams and DeBosier. Recommendations will be brought to the board at the next meeting.
Chair’s Comments:

Team Florida Joint Meeting

Bob Hartnett, President/CEO of TEAMFL and Brady Nepple, IT consultant of TEAMFL proposed a joint TEAMFL/CUTR event. Consideration was given to have a joint meeting with TEAMFL in 2018 possibly late October or early November. That would be the time of CUTR’s awards event and discussion ensued on whether it would be a good time to have the first annual meeting. Board members liked the idea of having a joint meeting at that time. TEAMFL typically has approximately 400 attendees from the private sector and a larger venue possibly closer to downtown would work.

Typically, the TEAMFL meeting begins on Thursday with Board of Directors’ meeting, focus sessions, and a cocktail reception. The focus session could be done with students at the round table sharing cutting-edge ideas. On Friday, there is a general session and ends at 12:30 pm. Kim DeBosier made a suggestion to keep the existing format of TEAMFL with a free afternoon on the second day. CUTR’S award event could be on Friday evening or if the day needed to be shifted because of the schedule of the award recipient, it could be adjusted.

Discussion resulted in the following motions:

Thornton Williams, Chair proposed “to have a joint meeting with TEAMFL in the Fall of 2018 and to keep the existing schedule of TEAMFL with the afternoon free on the second day.” The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Chair Williams proposed that ”if needed, the day could shift to accommodate the schedule of the award recipient.” The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Action items:

Dr. Robert Bertini and Bob Hartnett will meet to discuss if CUTR and/or a student will make a presentation at the TEAMFL portion of the 2018 joint meeting.

By-Laws Discussion: Tabled.

CUTR Lobbying –Request for Board Vote:

Following a request by Thornton Williams to register as a lobbyist on behalf of CUTR, Senator Jim Sebesta approved the motion and it was seconded by Ram Kancharla; it was unanimously approved.

Following a request by Thornton Williams to cover his own registration fee, Ram Kancharla approved the motion and it was seconded by Ysela Llort; it was unanimously approved.
Other:

Senator Jim Sebesta announced his resignation as a CUTR Advisory Board member. His term with the Florida Transportation Commission will end at the end of March and he is not seeking re-appointment. He was thanked for his service and wished the best.

Brief Student Presentations:

Katrina Corcoran: Florida Transit Information and Performance Handbook

Austin Gibble: NCTR Scholar Experience: A Review

Board Member Discussion: None

Board Member Updates:

Ed Coven reported that the opening for the Florida Department of Transportation Secretary has been advertised with the deadline to have resumes in by March 20th. The Florida Transportation Commission will recommend three names to Governor Scott.

Upcoming Potential Board Meeting Dates:

A decision had been made previously by the board to get input from the members on what date works for them by voting each quarter. It was decided to continue doing it this way. Keep item on agenda and discuss it at a later date. Grace to send a “doodle poll” to determine next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.