

Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee

Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of the Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee was called to order at 1:05 p.m. on December 6, 2019 in Marathon by Commissioner David Rice.

Present

Committee Members

Commissioner David Rice
Mayor Mary Lou Hoover
Kimmeron Lisle
Ken Davis (alternate)

Non-committee Members

Rod Delostrinos	Ken Jeffries (Zoom)
Christina Miskis (Zoom)	Christina Neel
Alison Higgins	Justina Gfesser (Zoom)
Tim Staub	Norman Wartman
Tamara Lamarche	Rita Irwin
Cheryl Cioffari	Kimberly Matthews (Zoom)
Juanita Jones (Zoom)	Tiffany Gehrke (Zoom)
Anna Marie Haskins (Zoom)	Shereen Yee Fong
Chris Pennant	Kevin Luten (Zoom)
Tish Burgher (zoom)	Angelic Mercer (Zoom)
Dat Huynh	Joel Perez (Zoom)
Dottie Moses (Zoom)	Yamilet Diaz

Approve agenda:

Mary Lou Hoover made a motion to approve the agenda as amended; Ken Davis seconded the motion.

Meeting Summary:

A. Approval of meeting minutes from November 15, 2019

Mary Lou Hoover made a motion to approve the minutes; Ken Davis seconded the motion.

B. Discussions with invited guests, FDOT and Miami Dade Transit

- Dat Huynh - FDOT
 - FDOT is working on items below which can help alleviate traffic congestion along US1.
 - Relocate or remove the weigh station in venetian shores on Plantation Key
 - Upgrading and monitoring signals they control in the County.
 - Looking at the possibility for a high level bridge for snake creek bridge in the future. The bridge was recently rehabbed and does not qualify for replacement yet.
 - With the upcoming construction on Cow Key Bridge, a feasibility study on alternative transportation for was done and sent to Key West.
- Joel Perez – Miami Dade transit
 - Commissioner Rice asked if Monroe express route will be included in the MDT overhaul. Joel Perez said all services provided are being looked at by transit alliance, a nonprofit organization, routes in Monroe County were not included at this point. However, they are open to review changes suggested by Monroe County.
 - Commissioner Rice also brought up the service extension and that we are proceeding with the plan for the turnaround at Isla Bella, it will be about eight months before competition. Joel Perez suggests testing the turnaround with a bus prior to finalizing plans. Commissioner Rice would like to meet with Miami Dade Transit discuss the proposal. Joel Perez said Mr. Cruzcasas would be the one to discuss the route change with and to also send the request to director's office.
 - Mary Lou Hoover mentioned bus pass (Dade Monroe Express) issues. The closest place to purchase a pass is at exit 12 and an online purchase takes 30-60 days to get but you still have to go to exit 12 to activate it.
 - Joel Perez said 344th St. is a new location to purchase bus ticket at vending machine (TVM). Monroe County can request TVM's at specific locations, however they need to be maintained which will be and additional cost.

- An email request should be sent to Joel Perez identifying locations for TVM's so he can estimate the maintenance cost. It may be possible to set up the TVM's so Monroe County can maintain them. the email should also request passenger info.
- Rod Delostrinos stated Key West Transit is looking to retrofit their buses to communicate with Miami Dade Transit bus systems.

C. Transportation envision planning update – Kimberly Matthews

- Upon discussions with Commissioner Rice, it was decided the committee is in a good place right now and not in need of the envisioning exercise. this can be revisited later as the committee identifies more issues and may need direction.
- Kimberly prepared a statement of purpose for the committee to review for the next meeting.

D. Update on feasibility of hurricane evacuation test on Memorial Day weekend

– Commissioner Rice

- Commissioner Rice discussed with the entities involved the feasibility of the hurricane evacuation test. The test would involve coning 2 lanes north of the 18-mile stretch on memorial day weekend. It was decided it would cause major issues and the Sherriff's office does not have enough workforce to safely conduct the test, therefore, it will never be implemented. The three entities that would be involved are the Director of Emergency Management, Sherriff's Office, and FDOT.

E. Islamorada Commission responses regarding Norman's Transportation Ideas, Issues, and Options – Christina Neel

- Christina Neel prepared a handout in response regarding Commission responses.
 - Will be on next month's Islamorada Village Council agenda
 - School zone signs of closed school were removed last month.
 - Freebee has expanded to all four islands. Vehicles that can go over bridges were purchased.
 - Norman Wartman comments addressed were:
 - Will examine the feasibility of bus pull offs

- Scramble lane study to identify possible areas where lanes can be reconfigured, widened, etc.
- Current challenges:
 - Rain Barrel and Betsy the Lobster – tourist photo location
 - Bus stops – identify locations
 - Plantation Key – 2 school zones and two churches
 - Snake Creek Bridge – tourists photo location...while driving
- Rita Irwin stated TDC has a new app with tourist info on scenic highway and places to see.

F. Presentation on Micro-mobility – Mary Lou Hoover

- Jesse Purden vice president of Slidr presented on Micro-mobility (any unit under 500 kilograms). The company has four products: bikes, trikes, scooters, and electric vehicles that can work for some areas of the Keys.
 - Common issues and solutions with micro-mobility are:
 - Left in places not allowed
 - Slidr designates drop off points for units identified by a city and a picture must be submitted of the unit at a specified location in order to end the transaction. The number of units that can be left at a drop off point at a time is also designated by the city to avoid clumping.
 - Number of units
 - Slidr only delivers the number of units ordered by a city
 - Speed
 - A maximum speed determined by the city can be set for each unit type
 - Age of riders
 - A driver's license is required to rent a unit limiting rentals to license age riders
 - Benefits are:
 - Reduction of carbon foot print,
 - Alleviate parking issues

G. Update on TDC and hotel advertising – Mary Lou Hoover

- Through her discussions, she found no one interested in advertising to discourage travel by car. Alison Higgins suggested using Cow Key bridge work to open discussion with hotels.

- Rita Irwin suggested to have some way to get tourists information of traffic challenges they will face on their drive. The TDC has a page “how to get here” that lists alternative transportation. It was suggested to have packages that include flight, shuttles, and hotel. We also need to better educate vacation rental owners/property managers.
 - Janene Sclafani asked about the feasibility of commercial flights at Marathon Airport. The first issue is that per the FAA, the runway has to be moved 40 feet to the north, this can possibly be accomplished in the next five years. Additionally, airlines want a profit guarantee which is high. However, this option is not off the table and is continually looked at.

H. Presentation on Transportation 101 training series – Alison Higgins

- Alison Higgins created a list of training workshops for those interested in learning about different areas of transportation. The workshops will be held before or after FKTCC meetings.

Action items:

- Organize a meeting with Miami Dade Transit
- Prepare email to Joel Perez identifying locations for TVM’s and requesting passenger info
- Review statement of purpose and provide comments if any
- Christina Neel to bring Normans Wartman transportation ideas, issues and options before the Islamorada Village Council for discussion next month.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m. The next general meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on January 17, 2020 in Marathon.

Minutes submitted by: Janene Sclafani, Monroe County Transportation Planner

FKTCC County website link:

<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/1163/Florida-Keys-Transportation-Coordination>