



CITY OF COCONUT CREEK CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

**Government Center
4800 W. Copans Road
Coconut Creek, Florida**

**Date: September 28, 2017
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Workshop Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Tooley called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL:

Mayor Rebecca A. Tooley
Commissioner Lou Sarbone
Commissioner Mikkie Belvedere
Commissioner Sandra L. Welch
City Manager Mary C. Blasi
City Attorney Terrill C. Pyburn
City Clerk Leslie Wallace May

Mayor Tooley asked for consensus for Vice Mayor Rydell to participate in the workshop through phone conference, and consensus was given.

DISCUSSION – TURNPIKE EXPANSION

Mayor Tooley welcomed all in attendance and stated that the City had significant concerns related to the proposed expansion of Florida's Turnpike and the impacts to Coconut Creek residents. She recognized the following elected officials and community members in attendance:

Kristin Jacobs, State Representative;
Mathew Gotha, Chief of Staff for Broward County Commissioner Mark Bogen;
Theresa Brier, Deputy District Director for Congressman Ted Deutch;
Theresa Hadjipetrou, Legislative Assistant for Senator Kevin Rader;
Bruce Bandler, Administrator for the Wynmoor community;
Chick Chase, Chairman of the Coconut Creek Planning and Zoning Board;
Lauren Jackson, Ericks Consultants, Inc.;
Dr. Avis Proctor, Broward College North Campus President;
John Dunnuck, Broward College North Campus Vice President of Operations;
Laurie Sallarulo, President of Junior Achievement; and
Mike Sexton, Sexton Engineering on behalf of the City.

Mayor Tooley introduced Michael Shannon, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Director of Transportation and Development, who gave a brief introduction of the proposed expansion project and FDOT's team members. Mayor Tooley turned the meeting over to Assistant City Manager/Sustainable Development Director Sheila Rose, who led the discussion regarding the City's technical questions and introduced the City's Engineering Consultant Mike Sexton. FDOT's Project Manager Andy Healy gave an overview of the expansion project, noting that the turnpike would be widened from six lanes to ten lanes between Atlantic Boulevard and Wiles Road. He commented that the four new lanes would be express lanes, noise walls would be added where appropriate, and the Sample Road and Coconut

Creek Parkway interchanges would be reconfigured. Discussion continued regarding re-evaluation of the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study. Mr. Healy explained that the road profiles were designed but that the full details, including lane widths and noise wall locations, were still being developed. He commented that FDOT was taking public comment during the PD&E re-evaluation phase.

Ms. Rose stated that the City was concerned that the PD&E re-evaluation did not address environmental impacts of the project, including air quality and traffic evaluations. Martin Horwitz, FDOT Environmental Administrator, discussed the environmental impacts that were being re-evaluated as a result of the changes since the original design in 2006, and he explained the noise study re-evaluation process. Discussion ensued.

Ms. Rose noted that there was concern that the proposed widening was taking place only on the west side of the turnpike and asked FDOT staff to explain the rationale for the design. Mr. Shannon explained that the lane alignment was moved to the west to minimize the impact on existing gas lines. Discussion ensued regarding the impacts of the project to City residential communities relating to noise walls, landscape buffers, and glare screens.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's technical questions relating to the project landscaping, completion timeline, transit accessibility, and complete streets guidelines at the interchanges. Ms. Rose asked FDOT staff to review the changes on the draft plans, beginning with the areas of Sunshine Drive and the South Creek neighborhood. Dan Kelly, Design Consultant and Engineer of Record, discussed the location and height of the noise walls. Mr. Shannon noted that federal and state regulations dictate the location and type of noise walls that are required. Discussion ensued regarding the timing of the noise wall installation and noise mitigation efforts during construction.

Mr. Horwitz reviewed the project timeline, noting that the next public hearing would be held on October 17, 2017, followed by a two week comment period. He stated that the 60 percent-complete plan set would be submitted at the end of October, the 90 percent-complete plan set would be submitted in December, and the final plan set in May of next year. The City was concerned that final plans and PD&E re-evaluation reports would not be available before the public hearing on October 17 for public comment.

Commissioner Belvedere announced that the *Wynmoor* community would be having a town hall meeting on October 5, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. regarding the proposed expansion project and invited all to attend. She stated that the installation of the noise wall would potentially impact existing trees on the *Wynmoor* property and noted that further discussion was warranted to discuss the impact. She asked FDOT to address noise mitigation during the construction of the project. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Welch was concerned about the pedestrian impacts at the Coconut Creek Parkway interchange, and Mr. Shannon noted that pedestrian movement is taken into account during the review process.

Commissioner Sarbone spoke about additional tolls for the express lanes and the State's push to eliminate the express lanes on I-95. Mr. Shannon responded that express lanes are used as traffic management strategy and that FDOT would be building the infrastructure for express lanes with this project. He discussed recent legislation changes that affect how tolls for express lanes are implemented.

Mayor Tooley asked if noise walls would be provided for the properties in the *Centura Parc* neighborhood that are adjacent to the turnpike, and Mr. Healy stated that the area did not meet the

requirements for a noise wall. FDOT agreed to install landscaping in the area that did not meet the minimum noise wall requirement and to look into additional glare screens as necessary.

Vice Mayor Rydell asked if FDOT was receptive to considering independent noise studies, and Mr. Shannon noted that any independent studies would have to follow federal requirements. Discussion ensued.

State Representative Kristin Jacobs expressed her dislike of express lanes. Discussion ensued regarding the policy decision to provide new traffic capacity as express lanes. Representative Jacobs requested that FDOT provide the details of the public outreach efforts that were conducted in Broward County related to the implementation of express lanes on the turnpike. Discussion ensued regarding the toll revenues being utilized in the counties in which they are collected. Representative Jacobs asked for additional information on the length and ingress/egress of the express lanes. Mr. Shannon explained that the express lanes were proposed to start at Mile Post 5 to roughly Mile Post 116 and that FDOT would be evaluating connectivity of the express lanes to the interstate system.

Matthew Gotha, Chief of Staff for Broward County Commissioner Mark Bogen, asked who was surveyed in regards to gauging public support for the express lanes. Turnpike Planning Manager Alison Stettner stated that they would forward the full survey data, which was available on FDOT's website. Mr. Gotha spoke about the number of accidents that had occurred in express lanes in Miami Dade County, and Mr. Shannon discussed safety improvements that FDOT had made for express lanes. Mr. Gotha stated that Broward County Commissioner Mark Bogen was vehemently opposed to the project.

Broward College North Campus Vice President of Operations John Dunnuck asked FDOT to clarify if they would be acquiring additional land on the campus for retention or extending the easements, as well as the location of a potential construction staging area. Mr. Healy reviewed drainage plans and explained that FDOT would be using its existing right-of-way to address retention. He discussed bus circulation and clarified that they would not have a construction staging area on the campus, but may need to relocate a dumpster location. It was noted that the dedicated westbound left turn lane into Broward College would be maintained throughout construction. Discussion ensued regarding noise abatement adjacent to the college. Mr. Horwitz discussed the configuration of the southbound on-ramp at Coconut Creek Parkway and noted it would be constructed with a Mechanically Stabilized Earth (MSE) wall to accommodate the change in elevation from Coconut Creek Parkway to the turnpike.

Laurie Sallarulo, President of Junior Achievement, asked FDOT to coordinate with Junior Achievement during construction to mitigate impacts to program schedules regarding any necessary changes to bus circulation areas and scheduling.

Ms. Rose reiterated that the City was concerned about having adequate time to review the plan documents prior to the public hearing to provide comments on the project, and City Manager Blasi asked if the public hearing date could be moved to November. Mr. Healy noted that the project timeline was in accordance with federal application deadlines. Discussion ensued regarding the design and impacts of the project.

Mayor Tooley concluded that FDOT's next public hearing on the project would be held at the Coconut Creek Community Center on October 17, 2017, at 5:30 p.m. and thanked those in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

Transcribed by Marianne Bowers

Leslie Wallace May, MMC
City Clerk

Dated