

Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority  
Minutes of the August 25, 2025, Board Meeting  
1104 E. Twiggs Street  
Tampa, FL 33602

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The Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority held a public meeting at 1:30 p.m. on August 25, 2025, at THEA Headquarters, 1104 E. Twiggs Street in Tampa Florida. The following were present:

**BOARD:**

Vincent Cassidy, Chairman  
Bennett Barrow, Vice Chairman  
Justin Hall, FDOT District 7 Secretary  
Commissioner Conna Cameron-Cepeda

**STAFF:**

Greg Slater	Charlene Varian
Jeff Seward	Chaketa Mister
Amy Lettelleir	Frederick Pekala
Tim Garrett	Gary Holland
Gregory Deese	Brian Ramirez
Raul Rosario	Brian McElroy
Keisha Boyd	Judith Villegas
Bob Frey	Anna Quinones
Shari Callahan	Lisa Pessina

**OTHERS:**

Sharlene Laircey, Quest	Sarah Lesch, Playbook
Diane Hackner, Quest	Michael Valdes, TransCore
James Van Steenburg, HDR	Brian Kirkpatrick, RS&H
Steve Ferrell, HDR	David Hubbard, Wey Engineering
Nathan Silva, RS&H	Matt Betancourt, RS&H
John Generalli, Wells Fargo	Ryan Aravind, Raymond James
James Drapp, HNTB	Drew Jenkins, Transp. Control Systems
Hope Scarpinato, PFM	Len Becker, HNTB
Frank Leto, JP Morgan	Andrew Derenbeck, ABC
Scarlett Sharpe, WSP	Stephanie McQueen, HDR
Christina Matthews, WSP	Davida Franklin, Quest
Scarlett Sharpe, WSP	Shauna Mudde, Tampa Bay Times
Sally Dee, Playbook	Brad Jones, Infotect

Chairman Cassidy called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input/Public Presentations** – There was no public input.

### **Consent Agenda**

**Approval of the Minutes of the June 28, 2025, Board Meeting**

**Approval of Board Member Travel – IBTTA – October 11-14 - Denver, CO - \$3,000**

**Approval to cancel the November Board meeting and reschedule the December 15 meeting to December 1**

**Approval of 2026 Board Meeting and Workshop Dates**

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Secretary Hall moved approval, seconded by Bennett Barrow. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Discussion/Action Items**

**Toll Operations, Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – Raul Rosario, Director**

#### **VMware vSphere Licenses**

Mr. Rosario discussed the need for VMware vSphere licenses to allow THEA to use our toll roadside server hardware more efficiently, improve flexibility, and have manufacturer technical support, ensuring that our systems are reliable and quickly recover from issues.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$197,413, from the capital budget, to purchase VMware vSphere for the toll system.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Commissioner Cepeda. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Operational Back Office System Implementation Support (OBOS)**

Mr. Rosario presented the OBOS Implementation Support item, noting that BCC Engineering, LLC will provide technical subject matter expert support for the OBOS project through December 31, 2025. This work includes participation in working sessions with the contractor and assisting THEA's team with document reviews and oversight of system configuration and testing.

He requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with BCC Engineering, LLC for \$95,280, from the capital budget, to provide technical support for the OBOS Implementation Phase.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **SolarWinds Implementation**

Mr. Rosario's final item was for a comprehensive IT management platform, SolarWinds, which plays a key role in ensuring our cybersecurity posture by detecting suspicious activity, managing user access, and maintaining detailed audit logs for compliance.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with TransCore for \$65,138, from the capital budget, to implement SolarWinds on the toll system.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Operations and Engineering – Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – Greg Deese, P.E., Director**

#### **Reversible Express Lane (REL) Gate System Replacement Scope Development and Project Support – HNTB**

Mr. Deese presented a request for a task order with THEA's GEC to evaluate the needs and requirements for the REL Gate System Replacement Project, develop the scope for the Request for Proposals, and provide technical advisory services during procurement.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with HNTB in the amount of \$101,012, from the capital budget, to support the procurement of the REL Gate System Replacement Project.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **East Selmon Sign Replacement Project Support – HNTB**

Mr. Deese presented the East Selmon Sign Replacement Project support request, noting that this project will update the sign panels to the latest standards and reflective coatings. He further explained that, currently, east of downtown the Selmon Expressway has all the original sign panels from construction in the mid '80s. This includes about 300 post mounted signs and 180 overhead signs. He indicated that this task will be coordinated with the construction of the East Selmon Project and to maximize the reuse of the signage for that project. Additionally, he explained that the sign structures and messaging will be reviewed ahead of that project to ensure improved safety to the traveling public. The task requested today includes support from design through final construction.

Chairman Cassidy asked if the amount is all labor. Mr. Deese responded in the affirmative. The Chairman also asked for an estimate of man hours. Mr. Deese noted that the scope includes about 1100 man-hours spread over five different positions. He pointed out that this is an upset limit task that will be monitored closely, and we will save hours

when we see the opportunity to do so. Mr. Deese indicated that staff will also be thoughtful about where we want to place new signs, looking at the structure, conducting inspections, reviewing messaging, and making sure what we end up procuring can be used to the maximum extent possible once we get to the East Selmon construction project.

Chairman Cassidy noted that his biggest concern is timing. East Selmon construction is two years away, and asked if doing the work now could result in signage being in the wrong location once East Selmon is complete? Mr. Deese explained that the East Selmon Project has a master sign plan, so the signs we use will conform to the needs of the new project.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall.*

Secretary Hall commented that this is a very reasonable for the work, and because it is an upset limit they are only being paid for the hours worked.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

Commissioner Cepeda proposed incorporating Spanish-language messages on the digital signs. Mr. Deese noted a current ITS project that is expanding our dynamic message signs, and THEA will explore this option. Mr. Slater also noted that the presentation Ms. Villegas will be giving this afternoon on our ITS Master Plan implementation and how we are getting Spanish language into the digital signs.

### **Utility relocation efforts necessary for the South Selmon Capacity Project**

The next item presented by Mr. Deese was the utility relocation efforts needed for the South Selmon Capacity Project to mitigate the risk of delay to avoid conflicts with project construction. It includes 10 utility owners we will be working with.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order for the removal and relocation of their utilities for an amount not to exceed \$1,574,798 from the capital budget.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Drainage Ditch Clearing – Webber**

Mr. Deese discussed the efforts to clear vegetation and perform grading to maximize positive drainage conveyance in ditches within the Selmon Expressway right of way in the Euclid and El Prado areas.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to execute a task order with Webber for the removal of vegetation from THEA's drainage ditches for an amount not to exceed \$74,278 from the capital budget.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Storm Drain Inventory and Assessment - Shenandoah General Construction and Envirowaste Services Group**

Finally, Mr. Deese presented a request to execute task orders with both Shenandoah General Construction and Envirowaste Services Group to perform inspection and desilting services in advance of the South Selmon Capacity Project and portions of the Meridian Avenue system.

The requested action is for the Board to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute task orders with both Shenandoah General Construction and Envirowaste Services Group to desilt and video inspect THEA's storm drains for an amount not to exceed \$302,064 from the capital budget.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Information Technology and Security – Bennett Barrow, Committee Chair – Shari Callahan, Director**

#### **Finance Network Infrastructure Enhancements Task Order – Infotect Design Solutions**

Ms. Callahan presented an item to modernize network infrastructure for the finance portion of the network and enhance productivity. The work includes hardware and software in THEA headquarters, as well as the data center. As part of THEA's FY26 Work Program, the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Phase 1 will begin with the upgrade of the accounting and financial environment servers, software, and the equipment needed at headquarters and the disaster recovery center for a replicated environment.

She requested the Board to authorize the Executive Director to sign a task order with Infotect Design Solutions to provide hardware and services to upgrade the finance component of the network infrastructure in the amount of \$70,902 from the capital budget.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Legal – Vince Cassidy, Chair – Amy Lettelleir, Chief Legal Officer**

#### **Approval of the Evaluation Committee's Recommended Shortlist for the US 301 PD&E**

Mr. Lettelleir presented a request to approve the Evaluation Committee's shortlist of firms and authorize staff to begin interviewing shortlisted firms.

<b>Firm</b>
<b>HDR Engineering, Inc.</b>
<b>H.W. Lochner, Inc.</b>
<b>RS&amp;H, Inc.</b>

The requested action is for the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee’s recommended shortlist of firms for the US 301 PD&E Project and direct staff to move forward with proposal evaluations and interviews with the shortlisted firms.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Final Ranking and Contract Award for Design Services – Final Design of Whiting Street Improvements**

Ms. Lettelleir presented the approval of the final ranking and contract award for design services for the Whiting Street Improvement Project.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee’s final ranking for design services for the Whiting Street Improvement Project and authorize and direct staff to negotiate a contract with the top-ranked firm, Kisinger, Campo & Associates. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff shall negotiate with the next highest-ranked firm. The contract is subject to review and approval by THEA Chief Legal Officer.

<b>Firm</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
<b>Kisinger, Campo &amp; Assoc.</b>	<b>93.33</b>
<b>American Structure Point</b>	<b>90.00</b>
<b>Michael Baker International</b>	<b>80.33</b>

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Miscellaneous Design and CEI – Shortlist Selection**

Ms. Lettelleir presented the shortlist recommendations of the Evaluation Committee for the Miscellaneous Design and CEI.

Firm
HDR
Conсор North America
RK&K
Burns & McDonnell
EXP U.S. Services, Inc.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the Evaluation Committee’s recommended shortlist of firms for Miscellaneous Design and CEI services and authorize and direct staff to move forward with proposal evaluations and interviews with the shortlisted firms.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall.*

Chairman Cassidy asked for an example of the type of project for which miscellaneous design and CEI service would be used. Mr. Deese cited the repair on Lakewood Drive as an example for miscellaneous design services. He added that CEI services could be used for some of the smaller upcoming jobs. This gives us flexibility to not have initiate another procurement.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

**Approval of Selection for Construction Services – Selmon Drainage Improvements**

Ms. Lettelleir presented the selection of the firm for construction services for the Selmon Drainage Improvement Project, which includes improvements from west of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street to Falkenburg Road.

The requested action is for the Board to approve the selection of the lowest bid from Sun Civil, LLC in the amount of \$2,197,117 from the capital budget, and to authorize and direct staff to negotiate and execute a contract Sun Civil, LLC. If negotiations are unsuccessful, staff shall negotiate with the next lowest bid firm, Rogar Management & Consulting of Florida, LLC. The contract is subject to review and approval of THEA Chief Legal Officer.

Firm
Sun Civil, LLC
Rogar Management & Consulting of Florida, LLC

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall.*

Mr. Slater pointed out that this item is a good example of a project for which we would use miscellaneous design contracts.

*The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Approval of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority Interlocal Agreement with the Martin County Tax Collector's Office**

Ms. Lettelleir presented an interlocal agreement with the Martin County Tax Collector that will allow THEA customers to pay tolls to the Martin County Tax Collector's office for the release of registration holds and to provide the procedures for remittance and reporting between the parties. The requested action is for the Board to authorize THEA's Chairman to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the Martin County Tax Collector's Office.

*Chairman Cassidy requested a motion to approve. Bennett Barrow moved approval, seconded by Justin Hall. The motion carried unanimously.*

#### **Annual Board Elections**

Ms. Lettelleir opened the floor for nominations for the annual Board elections for Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary.

*Secretary Hall moved to retain the current slate of officers, seconded by Commissioner Cepeda.*

- Chairman – Vincent Cassidy
- Vice Chairman – Bennett Barrow
- Secretary – John Weatherford

Both Chairman Cassidy and Vice Chairman Barrow accepted the nominations. Election of Secretary is contingent upon Mr. Weatherford accepting the nomination.

*The motion passed unanimously upon a roll call vote.*

#### **Staff Reports**

##### **Operations & Engineering – Judith Villegas, ITS Manager**

Ms. Villegas provided a brief overview of the East & West Selmon ITS Infrastructure and Grounding Modifications Phased Design Build Project. She reviewed the goals of the project, which are to extend coverage across the expressway, provide more information to customers, regional connection with FDOT District 7, and safety improvements. The scope involves installing ITS devices throughout the expressway and includes ancillary civil, utility, and structural work.

She briefly discussed current camera coverage of the system and where future camera installation will occur.

Ms. Villegas also provided a comparison of a phased design build project delivery method versus the traditional design bid build and design build methods, noting that the phased design build method allows for a fast procurement process, owner control over design, best value pricing, owner/designer/contractor collaboration, and the identification of risks prior to submitting bids. She further explained that the phased design build method provides opportunity for project scope clarification and improvement and allows for the highest level of risk mitigation.

Ms. Villegas gave a quick overview of each phase of the phased design build project delivery method, noting the project milestones that will require Board action. She also pointed out that the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) sets a maximum price for each work package and pricing verification is done by independent cost estimates and through obtaining subcontractor bids and open book cost estimating. In the event an agreement on the GMP cannot be reached during the design phase, the phased design build will take design to 100% for the agreed-upon design price, which will allow THEA to then procure a design bid build contractor – this is the off-ramp Process built into the phase design build method.

Also unique to the phased design build delivery method is work packages will be developed where we can phase the construction and select which packages will be designed first, and each package will have a guaranteed maximum price. If we are unable to negotiate, we have another option to take the design and procure those services. She touched on the independent cost estimator, which allows for two methods of verifying cost to get the best value.

Finally, she reviewed the construction phase, which will be delivered similar to a design build.

Chairman Cassidy asked if the purpose is speed. Ms. Villegas explained it is more about developing a scope together with the designer and contractor. Part of it is we have ITS devices that we will be mounting on the segmental structure, and we know there are risks associated with that. So, we want to bring in someone from both design and constructability to ensure we are identifying and mitigating those risks as a team.

Mr. Slater noted that this is the method FDOT used at the Westshore interchange, and it allows you to develop work packages and bring in those innovative practices collaboratively. He also noted that part of this project is expansion of the DMS boards and referenced back to Commissioner Cepeda's recommendation for Spanish-language DMS boards. He asked Judith if that would be possible under this contract. She replied in the affirmative.

There was a brief discussion about DMS sign spacing for maximum effect.

### **Toll Technology & Customer Experience – Gary Holland, Toll Systems Manager**

Mr. Holland presented the toll statistics for July 2025. He reported total transactions at 6,692,058, a year over year increase of just over 300,000.

For the different segments of the Selmon Expressway, transactions are up 7% on the West Extension, 6.2% on the West Mainline, 2.3% on the East Mainline, and 19.9% on the REL. Overall, year over year, transactions are up 5.9%.

Finally, he presented the transponder/toll-by-plate transactions which come out to 67% transponder and 33% toll-by-plate.

Chairman Cassidy asked if we know, of the 33% of toll-by-plate transactions, do we know what is local versus out of state. Mr. Holland noted that information could be segmented out and provided at a future date.

### **Communications and Community Engagement – Keisha Pickett Boyd, Director**

Ms. Pickett Boyd provided an update on media coverage, noting that the adoption of the FY26 Work Plan generated strong regional media coverage by the Tampa Bay Business Journal, Fox 13, ABC Action News, 10 Tampa Bay, Spectrum News and Yahoo.

She highlighted industry engagements over the past month and touched on publicity metrics, including close to \$700K in earned publicity.

Finally, she noted an increase in social media followers over the past month.

## **Executive Reports**

### **Executive Director – Greg Slater, Executive Director**

#### **Contract Renewals and Expirations**

Mr. Slater updated the Board on two expiring contracts, one with Corcoran Partners for government relations, and the other with Kimley Horn for the Selmon East PD&E. He also made note of a contract renewal, the first one-year renewal with the University of Arizona for emerging tech.

#### **Director's Report**

Mr. Slater reported on the following:

- The annual presentation to the FTC was successful, with the main discussion points centered around growth in video transactions.
- The SunPass Campaign will soon be underway, targeting approximately 30,000 system users. It will run September-June with bi-monthly benchmark check-ins with the Tolls Team.

- He spoke at the ITS World Congress about how Florida toll agencies are leading in innovating and implementing. He pointed out an interesting statistic – 90% of all lane miles added in Florida since the 1990’s have been toll facilities.
- THEA is working with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector’s office to allow them to clear tolls in an online environment and at their mobile kiosks.
- He reported that he met with the MacDill base commander and THEA will have a presence at MacDill to get some help collecting data around system usage from active-duty service members working on base. The goal is to acquire the right data to help THEA restructure its discount program.
- TPD arrested 2 motorists who were racing at speeds in excess of 100 MPH on the SWE. Both charged under the new super speeder law – the result of a measure sponsored by Representative Alvarez.

### **Team THEA**

Mr. Slater announced that THEA has secured Laura Croft, formerly of TECO, to serve as the PIO community liaison for the South Selmon Capacity Project.

He also recognized Jeff Seward, Chief Financial Officer for five years of service.

Finally, Mr. Slater announced that Moody’s Ratings has revised THEA’s outlook to positive from stable and has affirmed the A2 rating. He read a quote from the release: “THEA’s better than expected leverage forecast and the fact that credit metrics will be more comfortably positioned relative to peers support the positive outlook. The positive outlook is supported by a prudent execution of the capital improvement plan and exemplary liquidity. The positive outlook also acknowledges the sustained strong revenue performance, supported by annual inflation indexed toll rates and strong demand for the authority’s toll road as an essential transportation facility.” He thanked the Board for their leadership resulting in this achievement.

### **Chief Legal Officer – *Amy Lettelleir, Esq.***

Ms. Lettelleir noted that each Board member has been provided an ethics form and requested it be signed and returned at the earliest convenience.

### **Chairman – *Vincent Cassidy***

Chairman Cassidy provided an update to the Board about what he learned at a recent conference in Orlando and the advancements made relative to electric vehicles.

Secretary Hall added that aerial transportation is also gaining traction.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- **Board Workshop – September 8, 2025 - *Cancelled***
- **Board Meeting – September 22, 2025**
- **Board Workshop – October 13, 2025 - *Cancelled***
- **Board Meeting – October 27, 2025**

**Old Business**


No old business.

**New Business**

No new business.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

**APPROVED:**  **ATTEST:**   
**Chairman: Vincent J. Cassidy** **Vice Chairman: Bennett Barrow**

**DATED THIS 22nd DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025.**