

Meeting Minutes  
**FLORIDA HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION COUNCIL**  
September 1, 2004  
Teleconference

- Welcome and roll call of members and guests
  - Call to order: 10:03 by Council Chair, David Johnston
  - Members present Dave Johnston, Susanne Karr, Alan Shapiro, Bill Albaugh, Marsha Levy,
  - Guests present Elisabeth Hassett, Susanna Thompson, Bryan Dennis, Jeff Caster, Ruth Cole, Dennis Murray, Susan Preil, Chris Webb, Willson McBurney, Dick Bush, Raul Mederos
- Ruth Cole DOF, sitting in for Tom Gilpin, while FDACS seeks permanent replacement for Joann Phillips
- Update on status of grant funding for 2004 and 2005
  - Jeff Caster and Bill Albaugh explain reduction by \$200 million in transportation funding. FHBC Grants are one of many areas cut.
  - David Johnston recommends individual efforts to lobby for legislature to restore funding for FHBC grants.
  - Bill Albaugh recommends informing local governments of the situation, so they can lobby their own local state legislators.
  - Marsha Levy requests **list of legislative committee members, appropriations, and transportation..**
- Discussion of Council's role and responsibility during time without funding for grants
  - Using I-95 project in FDOT District Four as an example of the positive results that come from cooperation within communities. Marsha Levy suggests that individual members of the Council become local/community advocates for highway beautification.

- Bill Albaugh recalled that each FDOT District Secretary was directed to find ways to support, or partially support the projects that were ranked by Council in 2003/04 but may have remained unfunded. The Department continues to landscape highways with the 1.5% funds.
- Update by District staff on status of projects awarded grants in previous years.
  - District One, nearly all grants are closed out. Some losses from Hurricane Charley.
  - District Two, One project remains active, Ortega Bridge. Council expressed their preference for projects to be closed out in a timely fashion, and encouraged District to work with City of Jacksonville to complete the project as quickly as possible
  - District Three, Projects in Mexico Beach, Lynn Haven, Gulf Breeze, Panama City have been successfully completed
  - District Four, A project delayed by roadway construction was recently installed using construction funds rather than the grant.
  - District Five Two ongoing projects, Orlando, and Brevard county. Both progressing nicely
  - District Six, No active projects
- Rule Chapter 14-40. There have been no changes since last meeting. None are proposed at this time.
- New Business
  - Marsha Levy, expressed gratitude for cooperation from FDOT and communities in District Four.
- Meeting adjourned 11:16 am