

May 2020 FLFAC Meeting Notes

Call to Order

- **Welcome**
 - Rickey won't be able to join today so Holly Cohen will be leading along with our Chairs to help facilitate - Robert Midgett and John Dohm
- **Discuss Agenda**
- **Roll Call (Those present are listed)**
 - David Anderton
 - Joe Arbona
 - Mark Bontrager
 - Tori Bradley
 - Gene Conrad
 - John Dohm
 - Gary Goldfarb
 - Robert Hooper
 - Larry Kahn
 - Bob Ledoux
 - Bruce Lyon
 - Robert Midgett
 - Amy Miller
 - Alix Miller
 - Seckin Ozkul
 - Stan Parkes
 - Troy Post
 - Mike Rubin
 - Greg Stuart

Housekeeping

- Last meeting was at Deland in FDOT D5 office where we discussed the FMTP; scenario planning, project prioritization, highlighted freight systems & assets, and top issues & needs.
- Meeting minutes from last meeting are approved officially
- Gene Conrad, Airport Director at Lakeland Linder Int'l Airport, has agreed to join our group and we're excited to have him on board
- As discussed last year, there is a new format of yearly membership cycles of 1.5 years
 - This will allow for a staggered renewal to ensure membership cycles overlap, maintaining experience pool cycle over cycle
 - This year around September/October we will do another cycle of staggered renewal
- Review of the tentative schedule for the year, expecting a meeting late July/early August and one in the fall as well.

FMTP

Diana Elsner provides a quick look at the plan that this committee helped put together

- Our process to update the plan relied on:

- Policy guidance from the Florida Transportation Plan,
- Setting updated objectives to set up what we want to accomplish,
- Variety of inputs from people and data,
- Developing recommendations for each objective based on the inputs,
- Adding a detailed action plan to guide implementation efforts.
- Plan objectives were designed and verified with the FLFAC
- PAC & FLFAC – the two major groups which provided input to the needs of FMTP
- Regional Freight Forums - key topics were placed into categories based on how many times regional forums mentioned the topic.
- Top challenges were developed with FLFAC help to identify what is needed most and should be the top priority – congestion/bottlenecks, truck parking, empty backhaul
- Prioritization – there is not enough money to fund everything, so an updated scoring process was created for the FMTP
- 50 recommendations were developed through technical analysis and based on emerging market trends
- Each of the 50 recommendations was further broken down into action items for implementation
- 5 main topics of implementation moving forward are truck parking, freight resiliency, freight safety, last-mile connections, electric vehicle adoption
- **Discussion**
 - Gary Goldfarb: There are a lot of private solutions now that were helped along by the FDOT pushing for some of the plans that have been established – wanted to note that this is a big step forward

Statewide Truck Parking

Tanner Martin gives an overview of the recently completed truck parking study

- **Purpose**
 - Identify where in the state there were truck parking issues, and analyze those causes and solutions.
 - As well there was need for a response to FHWA's Jason's Law survey
- **Approach**
 - Understand the national and district efforts
 - Through analysis and prioritization
 - Utilizing that understanding, determine solutions and possible implementation strategies
- **Analysis**
 - This was completed using ATRI and Department of Revenue data
 - Concluded that we are currently 3.5k spaces short, and by 2030 will be 5k short

- **Areas of Concern**
 - Analysis was able to determine and pinpoint where the greatest areas of concern are across the state
- **Outreach Efforts**
 - Utilized for verification of results and analysis
 - Surveys were sent to industry members and stakeholders
 - These surveys resulted in the identification of why carriers are not using truck parking spaces
- **Recommendations**
 - Add capacity
 - Leverage technology
 - Build partnerships
 - Update policies
 - Establish a truck parking improvement program
- **Discussion**
 - Robert Midgett: How do we engage the private sector to determine whether these identified areas are appropriate?
 - Gary Goldfarb: Agreed that the state is doing well currently; perfect time for the state to call on the private state for technology solutions, Prologis is a good example. FDOT needs to lead and I think they are doing that
 - specifically in regards to how the state has provided apps which can identify areas for parking for the user, data agrees with analysis
 - Cites examples of current initiatives by FDOT being the key driving force behind many of their current investments
 - Larry Kahn: Private real estate is utilizing these findings, particularly the heat map, to invest in areas to develop truck parking.
 - One of the largest issues we will have to battle against is the public perception of 'Not in my Backyard' – This will need help with messaging
 - We need to create a slightly deeper analysis by creating further details on where zoning is allowed for truck parking, not just where truck parking is needed
 - Maybe some temporary permitting can be allowed to cover the current need
 - Along those lines, now may be a good time to look for possible areas where leases are very much needed for income, like airports
 - Holly Cohen: I just wanted to note we are working with FHWA to do some truck parking workshops in some of these red areas in the near future – we'll be looking at those NIMBY concerns, what are the local MPO processes, what facilities already exists, etc.

- Alix Miller: There may be a lot of land available, airport parking is a good idea, but it HAS to be on the route of the driver due to HOS issues
 - Everyone is well aware of the health issues going on, so it is in the realm of discussion right now to consider the idea of releasing liability for private corporations to other companies.
- John Dohm: It needs to be considered whether wider shoulders or power line area could be utilized
 - At the end of the day though, we need to develop land that has potential for amenities, this is one of the greatest needs of users
- Robert Hooper: Why did some companies like Walmart stop allowing overnight parking?
 - Robert Midgett: There was a large issue with human contaminants being left in the lots creating a dangerous environment
- Holly Cohen: what would be the best solution to make a P3 opportunity viable?
 - Gene Conrad: we were fortunate to start planning a few years before. They are paying us almost 47 cents/sq ft, and the building should be open soon
 - In reference to truck parking in airports, if Amazon wasn't here, I'd look to partner with someone to park trucks here for \$130,000/yr, and then I'd look to add some infrastructure with revenue
 - If airports knew about this, they would jump on it. Especially right now, they are looking for revenue.
 - Gary Goldfarb: everyone has a little land they aren't going to use right now. FDOT can have a conversation with the airports.
 - Larry Kahn: One barrier to working with the government is the ability to maintain the land over time due to further investment potential not being certain – the maximum lease is 50 years. You have to have enough sale cycles in the cycle to work.

FMO Research Projects

Holly Cohen provides a look at the current on-going research projects

- What kind of information is the FMO Office looking to develop in regards to future freight efforts?
- **Off-Hours Delivery Update**
 - The intent of this project is to understand whether or not shifting hours slightly affect the possibility of improving safety or delivery efficiency.
 - Can this be implemented elsewhere throughout the nation
 - South Florida has particular interest in off-hours study results due to their dense urban development
- **Upcoming Research**

- Land-Use designed to identify and push identification of appropriate areas for logistics infrastructure establishment
- Empty Back-haul – try and understand what is driving this effect and provide recommendations for how it could be improved
- Rail crossing optimization – Optimizing an increase in safety at rail crossings while ensuring efficiency is maintained
- **Discussion**
 - Robert Midgett: Does this look towards solving the issues that we have ahead of us?
 - Seckin Ozckul: Land-Use: Yes, we were just talking about truck parking and what land uses are compatible and incompatible; potential high logistics activity areas could be suggested to local MPOs and that would be helpful
 - Larry Kahn: it would be very useful to make sure that we are on the right track to better understanding the need and identifying to a greater extent and granularity not only the causes, but also the solutions.
 - These will help us better understand the balance that will have to be found when trying to understand how we can affect areas where local ordinances have significant restrictions
 - Gary Goldfarb: This is definitely an important discussion that should be tied specifically with the empty-backhaul
 - Mike Rubin: we continue to have a land use issue on our ports by the water – you get a lot of local governments that want condos on the water.
 - Joe Arbona: Rail crossings – with an incident, the ability to move goods and people stops immediately. Anything that helps mitigate those conflicts helps. Consider closures as well as upgrades at crossings.
 - Robert Midgett: Any topics to consider for future years?
 - Joe Arbona: It needs to be ensured that rural areas are considered in all of this, not just the metro areas
 - John Dohm: Also it is important to consider future research here as we will not be able to know what technology will be what changes the world, we must be ready for all possible changes
 - Platooning vehicles
 - 3D printing
 - Robert Midgett: increase 10x in small package deliveries in my neighborhood. This is something we need to consider in future planning with increase in e-commerce.
 - Gary Goldfarb: Add drones into that conversation – what will drone deliveries look like in urban & rural areas – conflicts with FAA?

COVID-19 Discussion

A round-table discussion on how COVID-19 has impacted the industry; what are you seeing/expecting?

- Mike Rubin: Oil demand is down
 - As well as this we are seeing a decline in most other movement of cargo
 - This is leaving ships, trailers and rail containers stranded
 - John Dohm: In most areas, container storage need is generally up
 - Gary Goldfarb: Cargo flights are actually up in Miami International Airport
- Robert Hooper: Many trucking companies are worried about sanitation, there is not enough access to sanitation commodities for many of the more local trucking companies
 - **Larry Kahn: Ace Hardwares around FL have this in their cleaning isle.**
 - **Gary Goldfarb: WTC Miami has a website that matches buyers and sellers for small quantities of these kinds of goods.** With this virus, we have less traffic on the roads, less truck idling, and we need to look at that.
- John Dohm: this is a great chance for the FSU study and other college studies
- Tori Bradley: Crop losses in Florida in the millions isn't the entire picture
 - Other big issue is product being held at distribution center due to the priority for canned and non-perishable goods as well as a reduction in processing speed due to reduced workforce and social distancing guidelines
 - There hasn't been a reduction in demand so much as a bottlenecking of the vehicles and resources needed to move these goods

Public Comments

Final Member Comments

- Tori Bradley: We should look into utilizing some of this good press to push some of our initiatives
- Gene Conrad: Thank you for letting me participate, I hope I can add value.
- Gary Goldfarb: Thank the staff at FDOT for doing an incredible job.
- Larry Kahn: Everybody please be safe.
- Bruce Lyon: Welcome Gene Conrad, this was a terrific meeting, I applaud staff and the team. I'm very curious about the FSU study – could have far-reaching implications. Also, related to land use studies and empty backhaul, have the studies come back to marketing decisions and targeting for DEO. Collaboration across the agencies. Great job.
- Robert Midgett: thank everyone; it is great that the industry is working together with the government to make FL a better place for business.
- Seckin Ozkul: I want to applaud you and Rickey for moving research forward – this is a big component for all the issues at hand.

- Holly Cohen: Thank you all; Be on the lookout for a COVID-19 survey. Take a look at the truck parking study that is now out. Land use suitability study is available to look at as well.
 - Motion to adjourn.