

DISTRICT 6 ACEC-FL LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location: Executive Conference Room, 1000 NW 111th Avenue, Miami, FL 33172

Dates & Time: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

Facilitator: FDOT District 6 Transportation Support Division

Meeting Attendance

Representative Name	Agency/Company	Title
Daniel Iglesias	Florida Department of Transportation	District Secretary
Heidi Solaun	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Development
Rudy Garcia	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Operations
Cindy Capdevila	Florida Department of Transportation	Director of Transportation Support
Judy Solaun-Gonzalez	Florida Department of Transportation	District Consultant Project Management Engineer
Mario Cabrera	Florida Department of Transportation	District Construction Engineer
Mikhail Dubrovsky	Florida Department of Transportation	District CCEI Manager
Dru Badri	Florida Department of Transportation	District Assistant Construction Engineer
Dat Huynh	Florida Department of Transportation	District Planning and Environmental Administrator
Montserrat Sierra	Florida Department of Transportation	Professional Services Supervisor
Daniel Kong	Florida Department of Transportation	District Procurement Manager
Shelley Ortiz	Highway Studio	Team Chair, Representing SBE Engineering Firms
Enrique Tamayo	RK&K	Representing CE&I Firms
Anthony Jorges	BCC Engineering, LLC	Representing Mid-Sized Engineering Firms
Edwin Mojena	AtkinsRealis USA, Inc.	Representing Mid-to-Large-Sized Engineering Firms
Silvia Beltre	Ardurra Group, Inc.	Representing SBE Engineering Firms
Roland Rodriguez	Pinnacle Consulting Enterprise, Inc.	Workforce Development

Meeting Minutes

1. Opening remarks
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 24, 2025.
3. Action Items from Previous Meeting: No actions pending from previous meeting.
4. Call to Order: Opening Remarks
5. Discussion Topics:

I. District 6 Secretary's Update

- i) Update on leadership changes
 - Kevin Warthen appointed as new District Right of Way Manager
 - At the time of the meeting, the District Maintenance Engineer position was noted as TBD. Following the meeting, it was confirmed that Raymond Valido has been appointed as the District Maintenance Engineer. The District Roadway Design Engineer position is now vacant.
- ii) Reaffirmed the Department's commitment to innovation, collaboration, and open communication with the consultant community.

II. ACEC Leadership Changes

- i) Shelley Ortiz will be transitioning out as Liaison Committee Chair.
- ii) Silvia Beltre has expressed interest in assuming the role, pending discussion with ACEC leadership and approval by the District Secretary.
- iii) ACEC leadership will coordinate a meeting with Daniel Iglesias in May to discuss the transition.
- iv) A transition period of approximately 3–4 months is anticipated, with a target for completion by the May 2026 meeting.

III. Legislative & Policy Advocacy

- i) Updates provided on multiple transportation-related legislative efforts:
 - Update on current legislative activity, including several House and Senate transportation-related bills under consideration.
 - Concerns raised regarding CCNA-related matters and potential impacts to the Transportation Trust Fund.
 - FDOT is currently tracking over 200 transportation-related bills statewide and FDOT has its own transportation bill progressing through the House.
- ii) PD&E Legislative Changes:
 - Discussed potential impacts to project development schedules and coordination with the work program.
 - (a) 18-month PD&E schedule requirement
 - (b) 8-year programming requirement

IV. Work Program & Project Pipeline

- i) Consultant Acquisition Plan (CAP): Near finalization with updates to Palmetto Expressway projects.

- Segmentation of large projects (e.g., Palmetto) to improve funding flexibility and delivery timing
- Anticipated lighter work program for FY27
- Goal is to advance portions of major projects earlier while maintaining adaptability within the Work Program
- ii) Links to the CAP to be added to the District procurement website to improve accessibility (pending updates)

V. Quality & Process Improvement

- i) Ongoing coordination between design and construction teams to address recurring issues:
 - Unforeseen underground utilities identified as a major challenge
- ii) Emphasis on improving PD&E cost estimates:
 - Need for better early-stage cost forecasting
 - Consideration of workshops or pilot studies to improve estimating accuracy
- iii) Discussion of statewide initiatives:
 - Bridge life-cycle cost analysis (rehabilitation vs. replacement)
 - Increasing expectations for PD&E deliverables (schedule, cost, contingencies)
- iv) Consultant performance grades:
 - Used by District 6 in selection processes and tie-breaking

VI. Workforce Development & Industry Engagement

- i) Workforce Development updates were provided, highlighting ongoing coordination between FDOT, ACEC, and industry partners to expand outreach and talent development initiatives.
- ii) AASHTO STEM Boxes: Update on the STEM Boxes program, noting that 16 schools are currently participating. The Florida Engineering Society (FES) is coordinating the program regionally and providing training to schools on implementation.
 - Secretary Iglesias attended the FES District 4 Bridge Building Competition, which included participation from Broward County schools.
 - District 4 leadership, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), and FDOT District 6 representatives were present.
 - Secretary Iglesias expressed interest in partnering with ACEC and FES to expand similar STEM initiatives into Miami-Dade County schools.
- iii) FIU Career Fair (February 5, 2026): Strong participation was noted by both industry firms and student chapters, with over 40 firms and more than 130 students in attendance.
- iv) University Engagement: Tejsingh Rana (FES) recently joined the University of Miami Engineering Advisory Board, further strengthening industry-academic collaboration.
- v) Transportation Academy / "Roads to Your Future" Initiative:
 - District 6 is exploring opportunities to host a regional Transportation Academy event tied to an active construction project.

- The goal is to bring together consultants, contractors, and students to promote careers in transportation and support recruitment of full-time positions.
- Secretary Iglesias emphasized the importance of identifying a suitable project to showcase this initiative once construction begins.

vi) Industry Engagement:

- Secretary Iglesias reiterated efforts to expand participation in STEM-related programs and events within Miami-Dade County.
- Coordination with District 4 leadership is ongoing to replicate successful outreach models, including bridge-building competitions and student engagement programs.

vii) MathCounts Initiative:

- Roland Rodriguez noted an upcoming Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) MathCounts event planned for March at Miami-Dade College North Campus.
- A key challenge identified is securing sufficient iPads to support the event.

VII. Communication & Coordination

- i) Liaison Committee developing a District 6 newsletter to share project updates and personnel announcements. A draft will be circulated by next meeting
- ii) Procurement interview practices discussed:
 - Notes may be used as reference but should not be read verbatim during presentations

VIII. CEI and Other Business

- i) Recommendation for FDOT staff to include:
 - Alternative contacts in out-of-office messages
 - Complete signature blocks with contact information
- ii) Okeechobee project noted as completed and accepted.

IX. Adjournment

- i) Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM. Next meeting tentatively to be scheduled for May 2026.