

December 12, 2001 Minutes

MEETING SUMMARY

FLORIDA SEAPORT TRANSPORTATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Teleconference Meeting of December 12, 2001

A teleconference meeting of the Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development (FSTED) Council was held on December 12, 2001. Chairman Towsley called the meeting to order. Assistant Secretary, Mike Rubin called the roll. Members present were:

Mac McLouth, Canaveral
Phil Allen, Everglades
Val Schwec, Fernandina
Robert Bradshaw for Doug Anderson, Ft. Pierce
Anthony Orsini for Rick Ferrin, Jacksonville
Rick Watson for Raymond Archer, Key West
Ken Scarborough for David McDonald, Manatee
Chuck Towsley, Miami
Anthony Taormina, Palm Beach
Wayne Stubbs, Panama City
Michael Perez, St. Petersburg
George Williamson, Tampa.
Debra Corkhill for Governor's Office of Tourism and Trade and Economic Development
Toy Keller for the Florida Department of Community Affairs
Lorenzo Alexander for Florida Department of Transportation

A quorum was present. Also in attendance were:

John LaCapra, FPC
Nancy Leikauf, FPC
Michael Rubin, FPC
Toy Keller, FPC
Kim Petersen, SeaSecure
Jeff Brown, Everglades

Agenda Item 4, Status Report on Seaport Security Plans was taken up. Mr. Petersen gave the report. Mr. Petersen noted that they were still waiting for information from the ports of Tampa, Palm Beach, Key West, Jacksonville and Ft. Pierce. Mr. Bradshaw stated that the plan for Ft. Pierce was forwarded on Friday. Mr. Williamson stated that the plan for Tampa would be available on the 18th. Mr. Orsini stated that the plan for Jacksonville was e-mailed on Monday. Mr. Watson stated that he would check on the status of the plan for Key West, and forward it as soon as possible. Mr. Taormina stated that their consultant, Gee and Jenson, should have transmitted the plan for Palm Beach.

Agenda Item 5, Report from Seaport Security Consultant on Work Plan, was taken up. Mr. Petersen gave the report. Mr. Petersen informed the members that the first stage of a uniform statewide badging system had been developed and was in the process of implementation. The system is being installed at those seaports requiring badging at this time. The time of completion for this implementation is January 2002. The second phase of this uniform system will include a “one-badge” system that will integrate with each port’s various security systems, access control, CPT, front gates, doors, alarms, etc.

Chairman Towsley asked about the January 1 deadline being discussed by the FDLE. Mr. Rubin answered that there was no statutory requirement that everyone on port needed to have a background check and badge by that date. The statute requires that each seaport plan must have a process in place and identified in their seaport security plan by that date. Mr. Petersen stated the FDLE would not be able to process all of the background checks by January 1. Mr. Petersen informed the members that the FDLE was interested in a “good faith” effort, and would not hold any port to a January 1 deadline. The FDLE wanted to ensure that the seaport were making a good faith effort to check and badge all those requiring a badge. The members directed Mr. Petersen and staff to develop a letter/memorandum to the FDLE to discuss “good faith” efforts, badging and other security issues. The FSTED state agency partners agreed to participate in any memorandum or discussions concerning these issues. Mr. Petersen stated that SeaSecure would be e-mailing a bi-weekly port security bulleting to each port director and to staff members selected by the port directors. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept Mr. Petersen’s report.

Agenda Items 7 through 8 were taken up. Mr. LaCapra informed the members that the chairs of the House and Senate select security committees were now willing to introduce legislation that would allow 100% funding of security infrastructure projects from Chapter 311 funds and 1996 Bond funds. The Senate will hear the legislation on January 8, and the House legislation is ready to be heard on the House floor. Senate leadership has informed us that they would attempt to pass this legislation out of the Senate by the second week of the Regular Session. Mr. LaCapra directed the members to the proposed amendment provided to the members that would allow for recurring operational cost to be funded out of Chapter 311 moneys – the proposed amendment would authorize operational costs to be funded on a 50-50 matching basis. Mr. Alexander stated that the DOT was supportive of the amendment, but may have a question on the expiration date.

Mr. LaCapra informed the members that the Senate Select Committee on Security was meeting January 8, and those port directors with significant operating issues should plan on attending the meeting. Mr. LaCapra also informed the members that there have been discussions in the Florida Legislature concerning financing seaport security costs – specifically asking whether the ports could look to their private uses to help fund these cost. Chairman Towsley, Tampa, Jacksonville, and Everglades stated they would have someone at the meeting on January 8. The members discussed trying to seek new funds from the Legislature to finance seaport security costs. Members discussed whether 1999 Bond funds could be used as a source to finance seaport security projects. Mr. Francis stated that the FPFC would look into that issue at its next meeting. A motion was made to approve the legislation as currently drafted, but to determine whether additional modifications could be made to include 1999 Bond funds or any new moneys.

Ms. Menendez informed the members that FDOT and DCA currently jointly fund a lobbyist in Washington D.C., and would be happy to use her to assist these efforts.

Agenda Item 9, Discussion of Authorization and Process to Use FSTED Program Funds for Seaport Security Measures was taken up. Mr. LaCapra informed the members that the FPFC would have to hold a meeting to determine how FSTED bond funds might be used. Mr. Francis stated that the he was working with FPFC members, and looking at sometime early in January for a meeting date. Mr. Towsley and Mr. Francis directed Wilbur Smith to provide the FPFC and FSTED Council with an update on the status of FSTED bond funds.

Agenda Item 10, Discussion of FSTED Council Security Project Allocation Committee was taken up. Mr. Towsley asked Mr. Williamson whether his FSTED Allocation Committee would be willing to focus on recommendations concerning the amount of FSTED program funds that might be available for seaport security measures. Mr. Williamson asked whether the FPFC was going to provide any information on the amount of bond dollars that would be available. Mr. Francis stated that this was the intention of the January meeting, and Mr. Williams stated that the FSTED Allocation Committee should be able to provide the requisite recommendations. Mr. Hebert requested that the seaports that had received reallocated bond funds provide Wilbur Smith with their spend-down schedule for those reallocations. A motion was made, seconded and approved to direct Bond Counsel to assist in the preparation of amended agreements and other documents necessary for those seaports seeking to use bond funds for seaport security measures.

Mr. Stubbs informed the members that the Florida Ports Conference would need to schedule a meeting sometime around the beginning of next year to discuss issues of security and other items presented by

members of the Conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m.