

# FLORIDA KEYS TRANSPORTATION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 1, 2024  
Hybrid Meeting

## **Voting Members Present:**

David Rice, Chair (Monroe County)  
Tom Harding (Key Colony Beach)  
Greg Lewis (Layton)

## **Voting Members Attending by ZOOM:**

Robyn Still, (Marathon)  
Brian Shea, Alternate, (Marathon)

## **Voting Members Absent:**

Buddy Pinder (Village of Islamorada)  
Mary Lou Hoover, (Key West)

## **Monroe County Staff in Attendance:**

Richard Clark, Executive Director, Transit  
Cheryl Cioffari, Assistant Director of Planning  
Janene Sclafani, Transportation Planner, Planning  
Barbara Powell, Planning Policy Advisor, Planning  
Nathalia Archer, Assistant County Attorney  
Tamara Lamarche, Executive Assistant, Comm. Rice's Office

## **BOCC Members Attending by ZOOM:**

Holly Raschein, Mayor  
Jim Scholl, Mayor Pro Tem  
Michelle Lincoln, Commissioner

## **Non-members in attendance:**

See attached listing for ZOOM participants.

- I. Chair David Rice called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and made opening greetings.
- II. Approval of agenda. Greg Lewis made the motion and Tom Harding seconded. Agenda were approved.
- III. Approval of minutes of June 3, 2022. Tom Harding made the motion and Greg Lewis seconded. Minutes were approved.

- IV. Richard Clark gave an update and presentation regarding the current status of the list of prioritized projects provided to FDOT, and issues looking forward. Highlights below.

Of the 12 projects prioritized and sent to FDOT, all 12 have been addressed, most by FDOT. Some projects have been added to 5-yr. Work Plan, some complete, and some addressed by the County.

Need to update and review our priorities on-going. FDOT stated our priorities are theirs. Will go through our much larger project list, the municipalities local lists, take a look at, go to the cities, committee, and decide what will be good for our communities. FDOT is expecting to hear from us.

Big investment from FDOT flowing into Keys in coming years, the 18 mile stretch reconstruction of 4-5 miles is a 1-yr. project. The Snake Creek, Long Key, and Seven Mile bridges are all in the planning stages to begin work in the next few years, all are new bridge construction projects, no rehabilitation.

Transit can help at municipal board meetings, local organizations, chambers of commerce, to gather their interests. Achieve a summary of services recommended.

- Overseas Highway Transit Service, get it as functional and cohesive as possible
- Workforce transportation, essential for workers traveling to their place of employment from out of county residence, and within the Keys. Must be timely, and affordable. We currently have 9 buses on the routes at any time, we need 22 buses. We are moving close to 400,000 riders every year, and that number will increase with an enhanced bus service. The service now is a patchwork of Miami-Dade Transit out of Homestead, to a meeting point with Key West Shuttle Buses to complete the loop to Key West. It works, but we can improve it.
- Micro-transit, curb to curb, first and last mile connections, flexible for local transit.
- Ferry system grant – Talking to Tallahassee today about a rural funding grant for a ferry system to travel from Key West to Marathon, and Marathon to Islamorada.

- V. There were a few comments made, and a couple of questions from citizen participants on the Zoom:

David Rice made a few comments:

- He is glad to see FDOT is starting the 18-mile Stretch project. Very needed.
- The ferry service issue will need to be discussed. Only possible bayside, ocean side traveling by ferry really not possible, and won't be a reliable schedule in bad weather.

- The Islamorda bottleneck is a major traffic congestion issue, but probably will not be addressed in many years, FDOT estimated 15 years in earlier conversations.
- Smart light sensors that know if a car is waiting to turn, light can stay green to get accumulated vehicles through. Richard responded that we have 24 lights and 8 Emergency lights (fire stations) along US1, and our light systems are old and do not have smart capability. It is incredibly expensive and will take a long time to get these installed. However, we are headed towards that, for those stop lights that are critical.
- The BOCC recently postponed their efforts towards a Charter County voter referendum that would have provided funding for transit and sustainability issues. How are you hitting the capital needs of this, Richard?

Richard responded that there is no change in plans. He said in 18 months we will be running service. For startup capital, we are getting tremendous lifts from federal monies, some require a match, but am working towards a “rural designation” for Monroe that will waive the match requirements. Operations will hit us harder.

Sue Miller (Islamorada): Regarding new bus stops, she asked if the bus stops replaced or added within the Village would be the responsibility of the Village or the County.

Richard Clark responded that the enhancement program for new bus stops throughout the County would seek to standardize all stops and shelters to look alike, have the same recognizable signage, etc. They will be working with FDOT on this, as the bus shelters are located in the FDOT right-of-way. The stops, shelters, and signage will be the responsibility of the County to install and maintain. The County will of course, work with the municipalities on placement and signage approval.

Jill Zima (Islamorada): She expressed concern about uses of the Old Highway area going up towards the bridge. She stated it needs a multi-use northbound path for pedestrian, bicycle use. The cars come too close to people going by. There is a south-bound pedestrian/bike path now (US1). Who has the jurisdiction to address this?

David Rice responded quickly, that is the Village Council. Monroe County does not have the authority to dictate to municipalities or FDOT as to what they will do.

Greg Lewis stated he has been in the Keys for 30 years – he is very happy to be a part of this meeting and this committee.

Tom Harding said it was a great presentation.

Ken Jeffries of FDOT Transportation Division said thank you for including him, they are looking forward to working with you.

VI. Closing: In closing remarks, Richard Clark stated he is looking at continuing meetings of the committee approximately every six weeks to bi-monthly.

Motion to adjourn meeting from Greg Lewis, and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Harding. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

The entire meeting details can be obtained at our MCTV Video Homepage, <https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/monroe/?page=HOME> Look for the meeting date and committee name, click on that video to play.