

# Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 24, 2021 (Hybrid)

### I. Greeting & Introduction

The regular meeting of the Florida Keys Transportation Coordination Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2021 (Hybrid) in Marathon by Chair David Rice.

### II. Roll Call

#### *Present Committee Members*

David Rice, Chair, Monroe County

Kimmeron Lisle, Vice-Chair, City of Key Colony Beach

Mary Lou Hoover, Commissioner, City of Key West (arrived after roll call)

Pete Bachelor, Vice-Mayor, Village of Islamorada

Bruce Halle, Mayor, City of Layton

Dan Zieg, Councilman, City of Marathon

#### *Absent Committee Members*

None

#### *Non-committee Members*

Emily Schemper, Sr. Director, Planning & Environmental Resources, Monroe County

Cheryl Cioffari, Assistant Director of Planning, Monroe County

Janene Sclafani, Transportation Planner, Monroe County

Bob Shillinger, County Attorney, Monroe County

Kimberly Matthews, Sr. Director Strategic Planning & Libraries, Monroe County

Alison Higgins, Sustainability Coordinator, City of Key West

Rita Irwin, Chair, Monroe County Tourist Development Council

Raymond Freeman, Public Transportation Manager, FDOT, District VI

Norman Wartman, Transportation Specialist

Tom Harding, Councilman, City of Key Colony Beach

Christina Miskis, Planner, South Florida Regional Planning Council

Tamara Lamarche, Executive Assistant, Commissioner David P. Rice, BOCC District 4

Members of the public (Commenters will be listed below in minutes)

Jill Zima, Reporter, Key West Citizen

#### *Presenter*

Paul Henjes, Flixbus, Inc.

### III. Approve agenda:

Motion to approve agenda, Dan Zieg, seconded by Bruce Halle. No objections, the Agenda was approved.

## **Meeting Summary:**

### **IV. Discussion of draft list of US1 improvements projects, and vote to approve for transmittal to the BOCC.**

Cheryl Cioffari introduced the issue and led review of 11 recommended projects for the committee review and discussion, going through the items one at a time. Committee edits to the list were completed immediately during the review via shared screen from Cheryl.

David Rice stated that the committee, and public, has full range to comment. A lot of opportunity in the future to add items. It is correct that we have initially focused on US1 traffic/congestion due to the travel studies that were in progress and are now complete. We can expand on that.

Added a new item #1: Request to consider pedestrian, bicycle, and other multi-modal uses in all projects for impacts and potential improvements. Items will be renumbered on final version accordingly. (Suggestion from Mary Lou Hoover)

Cheryl Cioffari commented that all the cities have been reached out to for their feedback to the Transportation Master Plan (TMP). This document will be presented to the BOCC at October 20, 2021. Asking BOCC to adopt “high level” plan and will come back to them to prioritize the project list.

Gerald Ward, member of the public, commented that item #1 was a good addition.

Item #2: David Rice commented that we had previously discussed at least one Level of Service (LOS) E segments. Revise statement to include segments with LOS D and E.

Item #3: It was noted that this location (High Point Rd.) is the access road for the new Plantation Key Government Center and courthouse. Traffic volume may increase when construction is complete.

Added a new item #13: Recommend removal of the weigh station at MM80 in Islamorada, utilize “weigh-in-motion” technology. (Suggestion by Jill Zima.) Norm Wartman commented that 15 years ago, a committee he participated in studied the weigh station issue with FDOT, and they reviewed an 18-item list of recommendations. The weigh-in-motion technology existed then and was recommended, but has never been put in place.

Change of all references to “Request a study” to “Request to evaluate” throughout the list. (Suggestion by Mary Lou Hoover).

Item #5 (will be #6 upon renumbering): Add “with appropriate pavement markings”, and signage on local roads. Note: Previous edition of draft list used as an example, Snapper Ave. & US1, which had drawn objections from the neighborhood. The Snapper Ave. reference was eliminated from the list presented to the committee for today’s consideration, but still drew some concerned speakers about the intersection.

Jacquie Bello addressed the committee with her concerns about the distance to the next available left-turn dedicated lane for Snapper Ave., which is located beyond the waterway bridge and is the left-turn into the hotel. Better to make adjustments to the median access and create a merge lane for left turns from Snapper Ave. to travel on southbound US1, than to make us all turn right and travel back over a ½ mile.

David Rice commented that we have edited the list already to generalize the request for FDOT evaluation of the entire Key Largo area to improve safety and efficiency of traffic interaction from streets connecting to US1.

Ms. Bello also asked about the recent blockade of Loquat Street from State Rd. 905 vehicular access into the Garden Cove subdivision. Emily Schemper explained that traffic trying to bypass the traffic congestion at the 905/US1 intersection were going around it at Loquat through the Garden Cove residential area, hundreds of cars on busy weekends, causing safety concerns and complaints from residents. The BOCC is expected to prioritize the 905/US1 intersection as one of their top projects to recommend to FDOT for review and remediation.

Alison Higgins addressed the committee. She wanted to clarify the “big picture” aspects of the recommended list to for transmittal to the BOCC and ultimately to FDOT.

Megan Mac addressed the committee with Snapper Ave. concerns.

Pete Bachelor commented that Anne’s Beach in Islamorada needs a guardrail along US1 to stop cars from parking along the highway. Also needs a left-turn lane on southbound US1. David Rice requested that this issue be put in written form, and it can to future recommendations, we can discuss it at the next meeting.

Lisa, from the public, returned discussion to the Snapper Ave. issue stating that Snapper Ave. has a left turn break in the median right there. She called FDOT 15 years ago about the median. People do not know how to negotiate a median properly. Suggested dotted lines for vehicle travel paths to help them visually. David Rice requested that she email the planning staff for next meeting, suggest title of “enhance safety”, so staff can recognize it.

Dan Zieg commented that previous speaker (Lisa) had a good point, supports including the “appropriate pavement marking” addition to #6.

Item #9: Bruce Halle commented that he is against traffic circles in the US, no one knows how to use them. Flyover makes more sense. David Rice said he thinks we should transmit everything to FDOT and let them sort it out.

Item #10: Gerald Ward commented regarding the signal lights on Stock Island that “timing” of signals is last century technology. Cameras and other mechanisms are utilized now to trigger lights as needed. David Rice stated that to modernize the lights, they would have to install a whole new system, and would be a much bigger, more expensive project.

Gerald Ward commented that this committee process here is excellent. David Rice commented to Gerald that he shares a similar background with Norm Wartman, and welcomed his participation.

Vote for approval of list with revisions as noted: Bruce Halle commented the list is good, with additions as noted.

Motion to approve: Bruce Halle, seconded by Dan Zieg. Approved with no objections.

**V. Approval of a FKTCC Resolution providing recommendations to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners on traffic flow improvements that could alleviate congestion on US1 and assist in improving the Level of Service on US1.**

Motion to approve: Dan Zieg; seconded by Bruce Halle.

Roll call for vote:

Chair Rice:	Yes
Vice-Chair Lisle	Yes
Mary Lou Hoover	Yes
Dan Zieg	Yes
Bruce Halle	Yes
Pete Bacheler	Yes

Resolution approved 6-0

Mary Lou Hoover asked if the municipalities are supposed to bring a resolution to our boards for the TMP. Cheryl Cioffari said the cities could issue a resolution of support of certain projects for their area from the TMP if they wish. The TMP approval will be presented to the BOCC on our October 20, 2021.

**VI. Presentation by Paul Henjes, Flixbus, Inc.**

Paul presented the revised schedule for Flixbus in Monroe County, going into effect mid-October and answered questions. Paul noted that Flixbus is splitting the service, will be Orlando – Miami, and Miami – Key West. Flixbus is a hybrid service, offering long-distance transportation to mainland, connection to route to Orlando, and down to Key West, and locations in-between. The service can be used for worker commute within Monroe as well. There are some additional stops in process for Flixbus: Big Pine CVS bus stop on US1; Key Largo, MM99 at Greyhound stop; Homestead/FL City; Ft. Lauderdale Airport, and Miami locations. David Rice offered his assistance in communicating with Airport Manager for stops at airport facilities. Mary Lou Hoover advised that they increase their advertising of the service to raise public awareness.

**VII. Questions and Comments**

**VIII. Closing**

Chair Rice thanked everyone for their efforts and participation.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, Dan Zieg; seconded by Bruce Halle  
Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next general meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. on December 3, 2021.

For past meeting minutes, and additional information on FKTCC: <https://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/1163/Florida-Keys-Transportation-Coordination>

The video can be found at MCTV, Video on Demand by meeting date and committee name:  
<https://monroe-fl.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=587ae481-d20d-44df-aae6-5e5f0335653e&nav=recent>

Minutes submitted by: Tamara Lamarche, Executive Assistant, Commissioner David P. Rice, BOCC District 4 in coordination with Janene Sclafani, Transportation Planner, Monroe County, and Cheryl Cioffari, Assistant Planning Director.