



**Round Table of Volusia County Elected Officials  
Transportation Subcommittee Minutes  
Meeting of January 27, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER 8:40 a.m.**

The Training Rooms of the Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Avenue, DeLand, Florida.

Round Table members attending included Doug Daniels, subcommittee chairman, Volusia County Council; Mayor Bob Apgar, City of DeLand; Mayor John Masiarczyk, City of Deltona; and Mayor Tom Laputka, City of Orange City.

Others attending were Mary Anne Connors, Volusia County Deputy County Manager; Deb Denys, Volusia County Council Member; John Angiulli, Volusia County Public Works Director; Gerald Brinton, Volusia County Engineer; Melissa Winsett, Volusia County Traffic Engineering Planner; Tracy Barlow, City Manager, City of Edgewater; Bliss Jamison, City of Edgewater Economic Development Board Member; Joyce Shanahan, City Manager, City of Ormond Beach; and Lois Bollenback, Executive Director, River 2 Sea Transportation Planning Organization. Taking minutes was Debbie Kelley with the County Manager's Office.

**WELCOME**

Doug Daniels, Transportation Subcommittee chairman and Volusia County Council Member, welcomed those attending. Everyone present introduced themselves.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Daniels said he thought the County and Volusia municipalities should develop a list of projects indicating the funding needed. Impact fees were not enough. Transportation needs had to be identified along with payments options. It should start with the County and then go to the cities. SunRail was not an option; it had to be paid for. Votran was an obligation and a necessity to help people be more productive.

Deputy County Manager Mary Anne Connors discussed the handout that had been provided to everyone, which was prepared 1½ years ago. Currently unfunded needs were at unreachable numbers. The private sector needed to get involved. Every community's wants and needs should be considered. She referenced how and what road improvements Seminole County had completed. Transportation improvements also included sidewalks and landscaping, not just roads. Arterial roads were the biggest expense. SunRail and Votran should be countywide.

River 2 Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) Executive Director Lois Bollenback said road conditions would be changing in the future. The TPO could try to work something into the plan. The last long-range transportation plan had

included SunRail, Voltran, and some road projects using a proposed half-cent sales tax. It was possible impact fees might increase and other funding sources might become available. Meetings with Team Volusia could help prioritize properties with road initiatives. The State supported commuter rail and expected counties to support it as well as pay for it, no matter where it was. The TPO had tried to get the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to develop statewide programs. The State was not interested in All Aboard Florida, but South Florida was very interested in a rail system.

City of DeLand Mayor Bob Apgar; City of Deltona Mayor John Masiarczyk and Mr. Daniels said they believed SunRail and Voltran should be kept because many residents depended on them. Voltran was utilized more on the east side of the County than on the west side. There was a definite need for SunRail in East Volusia.

SunRail was needed to provide transportation for people coming into Volusia County. More incentives were needed countywide to draw people to the area, even if it was just for day trips. A breakdown of the cost for each form of transportation was requested.

Discussion among Ms. Connors, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Apgar and Mr. Masiarczyk included the possibility of a transportation gas tax to help fund various transportation projects. Some cities were underfunded due to the use of a 25-year-old population number. West Volusia had been going in the past few years. A gas tax increase should be divided among SunRail and Voltran first, then used for trails. The remaining funds would be allocated for roads and improvements. The tax must be something voters would support, and all municipalities needed to feel the funds were distributed equally.

There was discussion among Ms. Connors, Mr. Daniels, Mr. Masiarczyk, City of Orange City Mayor Tom Laputka and County Engineer Gerald Brinton to promote a transportation gas tax as a form of economic development. Mr. Brinton briefly explained how Seminole County was successful at obtaining funding for road improvements. Seminole's effort had involved all of its municipalities, the Chambers of Commerce, civic organizations, and the news media. Ormond Crossings and property in the Deltona area owned by Consolidated Tomoka Land Company were discussed.

Condemnation of property and donation of lands were discussed. Due to state laws, it was difficult to condemn properties. Many of the older, long-term Volusia families who owned large tracts of land did not want to donate or sell all or part of their holdings.

City of Edgewater City Manager Tracey Barlow expressed the need to create better paying jobs along with creating job and industrial centers in Volusia County. He said there was a need to focus more on current existing priorities such as substandard roads.

Bliss Jamison, City of Edgewater Economic Development Board Member, questioned paying a gas tax when residents in the Edgewater area would not benefit from SunRail and currently did not benefit much from Votran. She briefly discussed the possibility of land donations in the Edgewater area.

Volusia County Council Member Deb Denys said East Volusia mayors should be involved as subcommittee members. SunRail was not going to be beneficial to the east side of the county, due to the added costs for extra run times (holidays, late hours). She felt All Aboard Florida's high speed rail would serve the area better and should have stops in Volusia County, especially on the east side. Mr. Daniels responded that East Volusia mayors were aware of the subcommittee, but none had volunteered. He thought high speed rail could be a great opportunity for Volusia County, but did not think it would work unless the system went as far north as Savannah, Georgia. East Volusia needed to come up with ideas and work with the TPO. They also needed to work with the FDOT about future rail development.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.