![Southeast Corridor logo](SE CORRIDOR)

Southeast Corridor Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Roll Call

Julie White conducted a roll call at 10:30 AM on July 14, 2021.

Present

Committee			
State	**Commission Member / Proxy**	**Technical Committee Member**	**Others**
DC	*Not Present*	Jim Benton	-
Virginia	Jennifer Mitchell	Emily Stock	Mike McLaughlin
North Carolina	Julie White	Eddie McFalls	Jason Orthner
South Carolina	Brent Rewis	Doug Frate	-
Tennessee	Dan Pallme	Amy Kasonovic	-
Georgia	Meg Pirkle	Ashley Finch	-
Florida	Brad Thoburn	Holly Cohen	-

Non-Voting / Advisory	
FRA	Randy Brown, Jessie Samwel, Natalie Williford
Consultants	Marston Raue (Mott MacDonald), Corey Hill (Kimley Horn), Emily Grenzke (Kimley Horn)

Old Business

Julie White welcomed everyone and asked for any comments. Julie asked for a motion to approve the July Commission meeting minutes. Motion was moved by Meg Pirkle, seconded by Jennifer Mitchell. Ayes from VA, NC, SC, TN, GA, FL.

New Business

Emily Grenzke presented on the SEC Implementation Plan scope and next steps. The scope includes a review of the current service and infrastructure synthesis, a project delivery plan, right of way acquisition strategies, and a final report. Goal for project database to be updated by the end of July. To complete ROW acquisition needs, team has requested GIS or data file that show ROW ownership or needs, focused on the backbone corridor, from states to better understanding of acquisition needs. As infrastructure bill continues to advance, details will be weaved into Plan.

Marston Raue presented on the draft SEC Communications Plan. The Plan identifies objectives, goals, key audience, key messages, and engagement activities for increasing awareness and support for the Southeast Corridor and Commission.

Marston Raue presented on the draft language discussing the justification and reasoning for federal authorization. Request to include how it has become a priority at the federal level to develop a national passenger rail network. States engaging in type of forum is critical part of achieving that vision.

Sophy Chen presented on future governance options for the SEC Commission. Sophy discussed the goals of the organization, which include consistent funding to continue operating as a group and a path to becoming federally

authorized. Sophy discussed potential funding options that the SEC Commission would and would not qualify for based its federal authorization status. Sophy discussed potential options to formally organize. Conversations will continue in the future based on pending infrastructure bill.

Eddie McFalls presented on the draft state match funding formula to pursue future federal grant opportunities.

State Updates

Due to time constraints, state updates were done via email.

- **Washington, DC:** N/A
- **Virginia**:
  - Transforming Rail in Virginia Initiative - Corridor-wide agreements are currently being developed in order to advance capital projects in the Washington, D.C. corridor. S-line survey work is currently going through procurement.
  - The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) continues negotiations with NS on the Virginia Western Rail Initiative for an additional frequency and new service to the New River Valley.
  - Michael McLaughlin, former Virginia Department of Rail and Transportation (DRPT) Rail Chief was named Operating Officer of VPRA. VPRA will continue to hire additional positions through jobs.virginia.gov.
  - DRPT is currently developing the 2022 Virginia Statewide Rail Plan. DRPT will reach out to border states for input in the coming weeks. In addition to FRA requirements and documenting VPRA/DRPT roles, the plan will assess the potential for a cross-Virginia passenger rail corridor, known as the Commonwealth Rail Corridor.
- **North Carolina**:
  - Kicked off a project through an FTA grant that focuses on the potential for TOD along the S-Line corridor
  - Continuing to work on acquiring the S-Line through a CRISI grant awarded in 2019
  - Identifying incremental projects along the Raleigh to Richmond corridor through the ISDP
  - Coordinating and working toward obligation of the SOGR grants to acquire new equipment
  - Working with CSX as they continue to construct the CCX Intermodal Facility
  - Working to finalize our State Rail Plan
- **South Carolina**: N/A
- **Tennessee**: N/A
- **Georgia**:
  - GDOT received the approval letter from FRA for the State Rail Plan, so the version on the website is now considered to be final. We are in the process of uploading the new Executive Summary video, so be sure to check it out
  - The most exciting news is that the FEIS/ROD for Atlanta to Charlotte is now signed and was posted in the Federal Register. The FEIS/ROD is up on our website, and there has been some media coverage. We are very excited to reach this milestone and grateful to North Carolina and South Carolina for all of their help to get us to this point.
- **Florida**:
  - Wrapping up work on Statewide Passenger Rail Work Group
    - Will provide Passenger Rail Strategy that addresses
      - Lessons learn and future vision
      - FDOT role and organizational framework needed to support
      - Potential project opportunities
      - Partnership (e.g., SEC Commission) and Funding Opportunities
  - Beginning update of state rail plan

- o   Continuing lease negotiations with Brightline for the Tampa to Orlando intercity service
- o   Submitted Raise Grant for MR MICCI on South Florida Rail Corridor
- o   Working with Brightline to secure additional funding for the Indian River County Emerging High Speed Rail Safety Pilot

Scheduling of Next Meeting
The October 14, 10:30 AM meeting date/time was approved.

Additional Agenda Items
N/A

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned by Julie White.

Minutes prepared by: Marston Raue
Minutes submitted by: Meg Pirkle
Approved on: XXX

These minutes will be circulated to Commission nominees, Proxies, Technical Committee members, and other attendees for comments. Any comments received within ten days of distribution will be incorporated into a final version. These meeting minutes will be formally approved at the subsequent Commission meeting.