



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

**Roll Call**

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

**Present**

<b>Committee</b>			
<b>State</b>	<b>Commission Member / Proxy</b>	<b>Technical Committee Member</b>	<b>Others</b>
DC	<i>Not Present</i>	Jim Benton	
Virginia	Jennifer Mitchell	Emily Stock	
North Carolina	Julie White	Eddie McFalls	
South Carolina	Brent Rewis	Doug Frate	
Tennessee	<i>Not Present</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
Georgia	Meg Pirkle	Joanna Campbell	
Florida	Brad Thoburn	Holly Cohen	

<b>Non-Voting / Advisory</b>	
FRA	<i>Not Present</i>
Consultants	Marston Raue (Mott MacDonald), Shane McCarthy (MottMac Donald), Corey Hill (Kimley Horn), Ben Chambers (Kimley Horn), Aaron Kozuki (Kimley Horn), Sophy Chen

**Old Business**

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

**New Business**

Ben Chambers presented an update on the SEC Implementation Plan. The team is on Task 2, including reviewing current plans, alignments, current statuses, and costs. Task 2 began in Summer 2021 with the first round of agency interviews, and an update to the project database. The next phase of Task 2 is to map the current status of the project, including the Core Express Network or “Backbone Network”, Regional Network, and Emerging Network, as well as the associated costs. A draft of the SEC Implementation Plan is proposed for early Winter 2022.

Marston Raue presented on the next steps for future governance and funding options. Next steps will focus on pursuing the Infrastructure Bill funding for Interstate Compacts, establishing an SEC Compact by developing legislation in each state, or pursuing CRISI planning grant funding to support SEC activities. Julie White asked if the team would prefer to pursue the 2021 CRISI planning grant cycle or wait until the 2022 grant cycle once the SEC Implementation Plan has been finalized. The team discussed the idea of pursuing planning grant applications and noted it would be more beneficial to focus on IIJA funding for the SEC Compact.

Eddie McFalls presented an update on the SEC Commission Grant Budget. Eddie noted the SEC Commission has completed various tasks utilizing the \$1 Million funding received from FRA. A total of \$21K has not been obligated from the budget and \$389K of remaining funding has not been spent, but is committed for other ongoing tasks.

**State Updates**

The States presented on the following new or existing rail initiatives:

- **Washington, DC:** N/A
- **Virginia:**
  - Pursuing preliminary engineering on the Long Bridge Project.
  - Pursuing engineering and design for the 4<sup>th</sup> track, and in the procurement stage for the Springfield flyover project.
  - Opening the Section 106 process for the DC to RVA project to review resource impacts in Richmond.
  - Reviewing CRISI grant opportunities for station improvements and a new station in southwestern VA.
  - Finalizing agreements with NS for additional frequencies to Roanoke and an extension to Christiansburg.
- **North Carolina:**
  - Opened the Carolina/CSX Intermodal Facility.
  - Passenger services on the *Carolinian* are operating above pre-COVID-19 ridership levels.
  - Charlotte Gateway Station project continues to advance with work scheduled to be completed in 2023.
  - Working with the City of Charlotte on a large public-private-partnership station development, which is scheduled to open in 2024.
  - Working with communities along the S-Line to further the property acquisition phase and TOD planning portion of the project.
  - Advancing the fleet procurement by meeting with internal and external stakeholders to expedite the procurement process.
- **South Carolina:**
  - Managing the Upstate Express Project on behalf of the SC Ports Authority and NS to expand additional capacity to the line between Columbia and the Inland Port Grier; scheduled to be completed by October 2023.
  - Managing the Assembly Street Railroad Corridor and Consolidation project in downtown Columbia, which addresses rail crossing issues between NS and CSX. Project has almost finalized the Environmental Assessment and conceptual engineering phase in order to preposition for additional funding for the Construction phase of the project.
  - Awarded a \$25 million INFRA grant to construct a 25-mile rail connection from Camp Hall to an industrial site north of Charleston, which allows access to CSX's rail line connecting the Port of Charleston with Port Dillion.
- **Tennessee:**
  - Governor awarded \$85 million over a 20-year period, with 17 contracts currently waiting to begin shortline and bridge rehabilitation work.
  - State of TN was selected for the Blue Oval development, which is an automobile and battery manufacturing facility scheduled to open in 2025; the facility will generate 6,000 new jobs in Haywood County in rural, West TN. CSX will have a direct connection to the facility.
  - Trolleys in Memphis have been shut down. One trolley line has reopened and currently in the process of re-certifying the additional lines.
  - Pursuing CRISI grant applications for the rehabilitation or replacement of a bridge bundle.
- **Georgia:**
  - GDOT is monitoring the Infrastructure Bill to pursue funding for a Tier II EIS for the Atlanta to Savannah project and for the Atlanta to Charlotte project.
  - Monitoring CRISI applications to develop the freight rail improvement projects on the shortlines; specifically, Class II upgrades.
  - Continuing to move forward on the Rail Bridge Inspections Program to identify rail bridge deficiencies and needs; developed a GIS database to collect and retain the information; working to

enhance the current database to maintain all rail information, including project location, project information, and condition reports.

- Working with the Legislative Freight Funding Commission to evaluate future options to advance freight enhancement projects across the state, including freight rail.
- **Florida:**
  - Meeting with Amtrak to discuss potential feasibility studies for various corridor projects to increase service frequency.
  - Extended the deadlines for lease negotiations with Brightline from Orlando to Tampa.
  - Continuing discussions in Orlando regarding alignments between Disneyworld and the airport.
  - Wrapping up work on Statewide Passenger Rail Work Group.
  - Ongoing commuter rail activities in Broward County and Miami-Dade County.
  - Beginning conversations on commuter rail services for Jacksonville and Tampa.

### **Scheduling of Next Meeting**

Marston Raue will coordinate a January 2022 meeting date/time and provide the details with the Committee.

### **Additional Agenda Items**

N/A

### **Action Items**

- A copy of the SEC Implementation Plan presentation update was requested and will be provided to all meeting participants.
- Julie White requested the Consulting Teams begin brainstorming ideas for a Service Planning scope.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned by Julie White.

*Minutes prepared by: Alexandria Sentilles*

*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.*