

**INDEPENDENT SURTAX OVERSIGHT BOARD**

**APPOINTING AUTHORITY MEETING**

**September 18, 2024**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Randall Vitale, designee of the Broward Workshop, Chair

Mr. Sidney Calloway, designee of the Urban League of Broward County

Dr. Colin Polsky, FAU Center for Environmental Studies

Mr. Dan Lindblade, designee of the Broward County Council of Chambers

Ms. Monica Cepero, County Administrator

The Honorable Jack Seiler, designee of the Broward League of Cities

Mr. Felipe Pinzon, designee of Hispanic Unity, via Zoom

**Members Absent:**

**Also Present:**

Gretchen Cassini, Assistant County Administrator, Board Coordinator, MAP

Broward

Nathaniel Klitsberg, County Attorney's Office

Roy Burnett, Administrative Coordinator, MAP Broward

Tashauna Wilson, Public Information Specialist

A meeting of the Independent Surtax Oversight Committee Appointing Authority was held in Room 422, Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida at 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 18, 2024.

(The following is a near-verbatim transcript of the meeting.)

**CALL TO ORDER - CHAIR, RANDALL VITALE**

CHAIR VITALE: It is 3:09, Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll call the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL - ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR, ROY BURNETT**

CHAIR VITALE: Roy, if you would not mind with the roll call vote, please.

MR. BURNETT: No problem. Thank you.

Randall Vitale?

CHAIR VITALE: Sorry. I'm here. I was saying hello.

(Laughter.)

MR. BURNETT: Monica Cepero.

MS. CEPERO: Present.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you.

Sidney Calloway.

MR. CALLOWAY: Present.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you.

Dan Lindblade.

MR. LINDBLADE: Here.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you.

Dr. Colin Polsky?

DR. POLSKY: Here.

MR. BURNETT: Jack Seiler?

MR. SEILER: Here.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you.

And Felipe Pinzon is on Zoom.

MR. PINZON: Yeah.

MR. BURNETT: Thank you, sir.

You have a quorum.

CHAIR VITALE: Looking good, Felipe. Good to see you.

MR. PINZON: Hey, good to see you, too.

### **NON-ACTION AGENDA**

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NATHANIEL KLITSBERG, TRANSPORTATION SURTAX GENERAL COUNSEL**

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. First item to discuss here on the Non-Action Agenda is to welcome Nathaniel Klitsberg. And he is our new Transportation Surtax General Counsel.

So just welcome to the team.

Maybe you can tell us a -- I know we've had a chance to visit personally, but with the rest of the group here, maybe you can tell us a little bit about yourself.

MR. KLITSBERG: Okay. Thank you. And I appreciate being here with you all today.

Again, my name's Nathaniel Klitsberg. I've been an attorney in Florida for the past 24 and a half years. I've been working for Broward County since

the summer of 2018.

Started out representing the Broward County Supervisor of Elections, so it was a very easy transition into government here in Broward County.

Then representing our Convention and Visitors Bureau, Park and Recreation Division, a number of different agencies within the County.

And have been with the Transportation Surtax group since this past December. And it's been -- I can't believe it's been almost a year at this point. It's been a very eventful year.

Looking forward to continuing to work with Gretchen, MAP Administration, County Administration, and the Oversight Board.

So thanks very much.

CHAIR VITALE: Great. Thank you.

I know all the feedback I've received has been very positive. We're really happy to have you on the team. And we've got a great group here that, if you need anything, don't hesitate to reach out.

MR. KLITSBERG: I appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. SEILER: Let me just weigh in for one second. I have known Nate for a number of years, both in the private side and the public side. And I just think he's outstanding. So I'll leave it at that.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Thank you, Jack.

## **GENERAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

CHAIR VITALE: Next, we have General Public Participation on Non-

Agenda items.

We have two speakers that have signed up.

I'm just going to read this briefly.

Public participation at the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting of the Appointing Authority is welcomed.

Members of the public may address the Appointing Authority on any topic not on the agenda that relates to the activities of the Surtax Appointing Authority for two minutes by pre-registering, which they've done.

Groups of individuals -- groups of individuals wishing to speak on the same topic may be requested by the Chair to limit their remarks to one minute each.

No audio/visual presentations are permitted but may be scheduled with prior approval.

And I think that's it.

So first up I have Raymond McElroy. Thank you for joining us, Raymond.

MR. MCELROY: Thank you. My name's Raymond McElroy. I want to thank you guys all for being here. It's pretty cool to see the board that elects the board. It's like the godfathers.

(Laughter.)

MR. MCELROY: I -- I -- I applied, put my application in for this position to sit on the Surtax Board.

I just wanted to come here -- in here and introduce myself to you guys personally.

You guys saw my resume and then my cover. If you had any questions, please let me know.

I'll tell you why I got into this, kind of like this urbanist thing and how I eventually am standing at this podium right now.

When I moved to my neighborhood in Riverside Park in 2020, it's by Stranahan High School, we didn't have sidewalks. And I was kind of frustrated by it.

And I reached out to the city to try to understand how we could get some sidewalks, because I didn't understand why all these kids were leaving the school but it was like a really busy road.

I was patient. We talked to the City Commissioners, and then eventually I got in touch with Karen Wolf from the city, and she showed me, hey, this is how municipal budgets work. You just don't have a huge sidewalk budget. We are applying for it.

Later on, I was kind of heartbroken because Karen Wolf got back to me and she let me know that, hey, it actually got scratched because the then-sitting attorney, I guess, said that sidewalks that weren't in conjunction with new road building didn't count.

So it's kind of frustrating for me to see that happen. And I did like what any sane person did, I reached out to elected representative Derrick

Campbell and then Senator Farmer to see if we could amend the Florida Statute language to include sidewalks and bike lanes.

And then as I was working on with them, fast forward some time, I had been able to meet Gretchen, and I was informed that the attorney was now different, and we could fund these kind of safety improvements standalone.

The advocacies that I do didn't just start there. The sidewalk thing kind of opened my eyes to, like, pedestrian safety and bicycle safety throughout the County and country.

And then after the sidewalk thing, I started kind of learning more that people get hit -- okay.

Hurry up? Sorry.

CHAIR VITALE: You're at two minutes, so go ahead and wrap it up, please.

MR. MCELROY: Okay. So I started going to FDOT meetings, and I'll challenge the professional engineers at a level and ask them to improve their projects.

It was hard to get them to make changes, but as the years went on, I got better, and I've been able to implement personal changes through multiple corridors.

From the Sunrise Boulevard Interchange, I was able to get some safety improvements, et cetera.

And, yeah.



CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Thank you for being here and thank you for your comments.

Next up, Elijah --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Manley.

CHAIR VITALE: -- Manley. Elijah Manley.

MR. MANLEY: Good afternoon. Elijah Manley.

CHAIR VITALE: You have two minutes.

MR. MALNEY: Thank you. Resident of downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Is anyone else freezing in here? I think every time I come in this building, I'm freezing to death. It's an ice freezer in here.

I've been a life-long resident of Broward County and -- and, like my friend over here, applied for the position on the Transportation Surtax Oversight Board because I ride public transit every day. That's how I get around from -- to and from school and work.

And I'm really interested in seeing some new things happen in Broward County regarding our transportation.

I'm always a thorn in the side to the Broward County Transit. They do a good job, but I would like to see more rapid mass transit, more sidewalks, of course, and more bike-friendly/pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.

I ride my bike around a lot, too. And one day I got hit right -- not far from here, actually, by a car. Luckily, it wasn't, you know, damaging and I didn't get injured.

But it just underscores the importance for us to make sure that we use taxpayer dollars to make sure that those of us who don't have a car or who get around through Broward County Transit or who bicycle to and from work or entertainment, and as well as our visitors and the tourists that come to Broward County and that spend their money here, you know, they need a way to get around.

And so I have a lot of ideas. I wrote some of them in in my personal interest statement about how I want to see maybe moving towards 24/7 mass transit for folks who might get off of work at 10:00 p.m. and they need to get home.

More rail. I know there's a big discussion and debate happening around that in the downtown community. I serve on the board for the Downtown Fort Lauderdale Civic Association, so I'm pretty familiar with the conversations regarding that.

So I -- if you have any questions, I'm here and hopefully you'll vote for me or this guy.

Thank you.

CHAIR VITALE: Thank you very much, Elijah.

Seeing no other registered, we'll close the general public participation.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA: DISCUSSION OF APPLICANTS FOR THE  
INDEPENDENT SURTAX OVERSIGHT BOARD IN THE VACANT  
CATEGORY "RESIDENT CONSUMER OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION"**

CHAIR VITALE: Next on the agenda is discussion.

All of you received -- oh, excuse me. Minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, no. Discussion.

CHAIR VITALE: Discussion first? Okay. Okay. Okay, great.

So Discussion Agenda item is that we have an opening, that everyone is aware, for the Resident Consumer of Public Transportation.

And, as a reminder, this is defined as a person who resides in Broward County and is a user of the multi-modal transportation system, per the Broward County ordinance.

And we've had seven applicants that have been vetted and approved by the team.

And I'd like to open it up for discussion at this time.

Go ahead, Jack.

MR. SEILER: I mean, I'll start.

One, I -- I'm thoroughly impressed we got this many applicants. I'm actually pleasantly surprised by it, but -- but very impressed.

So I think credit's got to go out to staff for getting out there and making sure the word got out that we were looking for, you know, individuals to serve in this capacity.

Secondly, it -- it's a good group to look at. I mean, there's -- you know, I think all of them would be qualified to serve. So I think we've got to just make the best selection.

But I am -- as impressed as I was with the number, I think not just the quantity, we have the quality. So it's a good group of candidates.

So I just want to commend staff on that.

CHAIR VITALE: I agree. Thank you, Jack.

Other opening comments or discussion?

So I will read the applicants by number and name, which are on the agenda.

Applicant 1 is Shackera Scott.

Applicant 2 is Raymond McElroy.

Applicant 3 is Bailey Bender.

Applicant 4 is Mario Davis.

Applicant 5 is Yavocka Young-Smith.

Applicant 6 is James Joseph.

Applicant 7 is Elijah Manley.

I want to also just echo Jack's comments. I was very pleased to see the total number of applicants.

As most of you have served the entire time along with me, you know, sometimes that has not been the case.

And so I think there's a lot of positive momentum.

And, again, kudos to staff for getting the word out and for getting -- I know there were several applicants who applied that weren't qualified, so seven was the number that made it past the vetting.

Any other comments or discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, I also want to be on the record of really acknowledging the job that staff has done in this regard relative to the quality and the number of folks who are interested in these positions.

So I think that speaks well of the staff, but also the future of transportation as we keep the interest up.

CHAIR VITALE: Agreed. Thank you.

Jack, you kind of looked like you wanted to say something.

MR. SEILER: Well, I was going to ask a question of staff on -- as a follow up.

In terms of this open position, I know we -- you know, it's due to resignation, I believe. How active was the last person we had in there and maybe just give us a little feedback on that person's interaction with the board so I can --

MS. CASSINI: Thank you.

Mr. Chair, I -- I just want to share with all of you that the individual that resigned was very active, was a member of an advocacy group, Better Streets Broward, and was an avid user of bike and pedestrian facilities and also public transportation and transit.

He resigned due to conflicts with his work schedule and felt that he wasn't able to give the Oversight Board the attention that it required.

So that -- he was active from the time that he was appointed by you all

on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, I believe, of 2023 until he resigned last month.

MR. SEILER: Okay. Did any of the conflicts involve that Better Streets Broward? I mean, there was no conflict in relation to his volunteer work, right?

MS. CASSINI: No, sir. It was specific to a new job --

MR. SEILER: Got it.

MS. CASSINI: -- that he secured.

MR. SEILER: All right.

CHAIR VITALE: Any other questions or comments?

Okay. So we will close the discussion agenda and move on to the Regular Agenda.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1 - MOTION TO APPROVE APRIL 24, 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

CHAIR VITALE: And the first item here is the approval of the minutes from April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Those minutes were circulated to everybody in advance of the meeting. Hopefully, you all have had a chance to review them.

MR. SEILER: I'll move them.

MR. CALLOWAY: Second.

CHAIR VITALE: Moved and seconded.

Is there any discussion?

MR. PINZON: Second.

CHAIR VITALE: We'll give Felipe the second. What do you think, Sid? Is that okay?

(Laughter.)

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Any objection to accepting the minutes as presented?

Seeing none, they are approved and accepted.

**VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2 - MOTION TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR POSITION ON THE  
TRANSPORTATION SURTAX OVERSIGHT BOARD IN THE VACANT  
CATEGORY, RESIDENT CONSUMER OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

CHAIR VITALE: Next item is the motion to nominate.

And we have, as discussed, seven candidates for a position as the Resident Consumer of Public Transportation.

We can -- my understanding -- and I'm -- I'll be quickly corrected if I need to be -- is that we'll have the opportunity -- any one of the members will have the opportunity to nominate one of the seven applicants.

And, again, I would ask that if you nominate somebody to be considered, use the number and the name, just so we can make sure we're synced up, which are -- those names and numbers are on your agenda.

And if there is more than one applicant, then we will do ballots.

If there is only one applicant, then we'll go to a vote. And that vote needs the majority of our board.

So any questions on process?

I wasn't corrected, so it sounds like I did it right. Okay.

Okay. So I will sit here quietly until somebody nominates one of the members, one of the applicants.

Also, if there's discussion, we'll have an opportunity to do that.

MR. CALLOWAY: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR VITALE: Go ahead, Sidney.

MR. CALLOWAY: I'd like to move to nominate Raymond McElroy, Applicant Number 2.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Raymond Ackel -- excuse me -- Raymond McElroy has been nominated, Applicant Number 2.

That does require a second.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll second.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. There is a second.

Is there any discussion?

If --

MR. KLITSBERG: At this point, you can just call for a vote to affirm -- affirm the nomination, and then call for any additional potential nominees at this point.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. So we would affirm each one first.

MR. KLITSBERG: Yes.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. So -- got it. Thank you.



So we will vote to affirm the nomination of Raymond McElroy.

And if there's others that we would like to have considered, we'll -- we'll do that as many times as needed.

Okay. All those in favor of accepting the nomination of Raymond McElroy, please signify by saying aye.

Any opposed?

Okay. Seeing none, he is affirmed.

**VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

CHAIR VITALE: Any others to be nominated?

MR. PINZON: Mr. Chair, this is Felipe Pinzon.

CHAIR VITALE: Go ahead, Felipe.

MR. PINZON: I would like to nominate James Joseph, Applicant Number 6.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. James Joseph, Applicant Number 6, has been nominated.

Is there a second?

MR. SEILER: I'll second it for purposes of putting it up for discussion, yeah.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Second by Jack Seiler.

All those in favor of affirming the nomination, please signify by saying aye.

Any opposed?

Okay. Seeing none, applicant is affirmed.

**VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

CHAIR VITALE: Any others at this time?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, I move we close nominations.

MS. CEPERO: Actually, I was going to make a nomination, if that's okay.

CHAIR VITALE: Please.

MS. CEPERO: I'd like to nominate Bailey Bender, Applicant Number 3.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay.

MR. SEILER: I'll second that.

CHAIR VITALE: Applicant Number 3, Bailey Bender, has been nominated and seconded.

All those in favor --

MR. CALLOWAY: Excuse me, Mr. Chair.

MR. CALLOWAY: Point of information. Did you say that we're only allowed to make one nomination?

If -- if -- if not, I'd like to make another one.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I think --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We -- you'll be able to nominate as many as -- yeah.

MR. CALLOWAY: Mr. Chair, I'd like to move that --

CHAIR VITALE: One second. Let me close -- let me close -- let me close out Bailey.

MR. CALLOWAY: Okay.

CHAIR VITALE: Monica and Jack. Jack seconded.

All those in favor of accepting Applicant 3, Bailey Bender, please signify by saying aye.

Any opposed?

Okay. Affirmed. Thank you.

**VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

CHAIR VITALE: Sidney?

MR. CALLOWAY: Yes, Mr. Chair, I'd like to move that we nominate Elijah Manley, Applicant Number 7.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Applicant Number 7, Elijah Manley.

Is there a second?

DR. POLSKY: Second.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Thank you, Colin.

All those in favor of accepting Elijah Manley, please signify by saying aye.

Any opposed?

Okay. Seeing none, Applicant 7, Elijah Manley, is **affirmed**.

**VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

MR. SEILER: I would move to close the nominations now.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay.

MS. CEPERO: Yeah, second that.

CHAIR VITALE: And seconded. Thank you.

All those in favor of closing nominations, please signify by saying aye.

Opposed?

Okay. Great. So --

**VOTE PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.**

MS. CEPERO: Mr. Chair, there's -- staff would like to make a statement.

CHAIR VITALE: Please.

MS. CASSINI: I just wanted on the record to let Mr. Pinzon know that you -- because you aren't here physically, you will have to submit your vote by email to -- if you would please send that to Roy and I.

So we're going to distribute a series of ballots to each of you and have you write down your selection.

MR. PINZON: So doing it now via email?

CHAIR VITALE: His question is do it now by email.

MR. KLITSBERG: Yes, you could submit you ballot via email to Roy now.

And, again, just for everybody's information, under the Administrative Code, it requires a -- a majority of the board for a vote. It's not first past the post, so it's going to require four.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Four.

CHAIR VITALE: Is -- is there a process you would recommend to -- thank you -- to handle four applicants and getting the majority?

MR. KLITSBERG: Well --

CHAIR VITALE: Is it top three and then the bottom -- the next two? Is it the next one?

MR. KLITSBERG: So at this point, I think that it's fine to just select your -- select the candidate that you wish to have appointed.

We'll see whether or not there is a majority of the board in favor of one particular candidate.

Afterwards, we can make a determination at the board's discretion about whether or not you want to utilize --

CHAIR VITALE: (Inaudible.)

MR. KLITSBERG: -- another method to remove the last person and then make a selection.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay.

MR. LINDBLADE: Mr. Chair?

CHAIR VITALE: Yes, Dan.

MR. LINDBLADE: It says here I'm Tim Ryan, so I'm kind of -- kind of freaked out, but --

(Laughter.)

MR. LINDBLADE: -- can we hear from the folks who nominated the

individuals why they nominated the individuals, or is that -- are we just going to go straight to vote?

CHAIR VITALE: I think we can have a discussion about any and all of the applicants. So it can be the -- the person who nominated or if somebody would like to speak on any of the applicants that have been affirmed, so Applicant 2, 3, 6, or 7, I think this is the time to do that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

CHAIR VITALE: Is that correct? Okay.

MR. SEILER: Mr. Chair, just to get it started, I -- you know, I am glad two of the applicants came here to speak. They happened to be the two that I knew going in to -- today, so I already had some experience with both of them.

And I don't have experience with the other two that were nominated, and I'd love to hear about them because, like I said, I -- we got to hear from these two and we got -- you know, I previously, in my role as Mayor, had dealt with some of these individuals and some of these organizations.

That's why I earlier asked you about the -- the Better Broward issue, because I think it's a good group. I just wanted to make sure that didn't present any conflicts or -- and now hearing that it did not, because I happen to remember that the other person we appointed was a member of that, and that's why I wanted to make sure.

CHAIR VITALE: Uh-huh.

MR. SEILER: So I'm, like I said, pleased with the applicants, but I'd love to hear about the other two that I didn't get a chance to hear from today.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay.

MR. SEILER: Does anybody know them individually or no?

MS. CEPERO: If it's appropriate, Mr. Chair --

CHAIR VITALE: Yeah.

MS. CEPERO: -- at this time to make some comments.

I'll -- I'll speak personally for the individual that I nominated. I have no -- no personal knowledge of who this individual is. I don't know if it's a male, female, nothing.

I just -- based on what I read, I looked at -- I looked at, you know, what the -- the letter was short, but what I -- what I gleaned from the letter was they're a user of TOPS; they're a user of the fixed route system; and this person has identified themselves as a person with a disability.

And so when I looked back also at their -- you know, their -- the resume that they provided, you know, it just has a -- a little bit of a -- a different background than some of these other individuals that we've seen.

I just felt that, you know, they're -- I know -- if I -- my memory is correct, I believe the very first person has served in this position when it was first created, also was a member, you know, that had a disability or at least TOPS program participant.

And I just think, generally speaking, there's a different perspective to

the transit system that -- that someone from that -- that kind of deals with those types of challenges might bring a different perspective.

That's -- that's simply the only reason, for purpose of discussion, I thought might be worthy of bringing that forward.

That's it.

CHAIR VITALE: Thank you very much, Monica.

Anyone else? Felipe?

MR. PINZON: Yeah.

CHAIR VITALE: On yours?

MR. PINZON: Yes, I nominated James Joseph. I guess the same reason others were nominated, strong resume and interested in supporting this board.

But my main reason, actually, for nominating him was that I think that geographic diversity also matters, right?

We have few board members that actually live in Coral Springs (inaudible). I don't think that we have anyone that -- who lives in the south.

And being Hollywood, the -- the second largest city, you know, in -- in the County in -- in Broward County, I think that that matters as well, and it's important to be considered, you know, as part of this decision.

CHAIR VITALE: Great. Thank you very much, Felipe.

MR. CALLOWAY: Mr. Chair, I'd like to comment on the nominations that I made, as well.



And this -- my comments really relate to both Mr. McElroy as well as Mr. Manley.

First of all, they showed up. And that plus the quality of all of the resumes and the information, including theirs, I think was quite impressive to me, indicating, again, their real participation in this area.

And, you know, when we look at the Transportation Surtax Oversight Board members, which we have a copy of today for a reminder, I am also informed by Jack's question to staff for the departing member as to how active they were.

And so when I see both of the individuals who actually showed up today and looking again at the quality of our existing board members, we all know that -- I think this board, that we are responsible for making members is going to pick up a lot more of its responsibilities relative to spending the dollars that count.

And I'm saying to all of the folks here who we're considering, I think, again, the perspective that we get from this particular resident consumer of public transportation is very, very important.

And, again, I'm gratified by the -- both of the -- the applicants' willingness not only to serve but indicate their actual advocacy on these issues that they actually started with today, so -- by coming and -- and speaking before us.

So that, I think, supports my nomination for -- for both applicants.

CHAIR VITALE: Thank you very much, Sidney.

Any other comments or discussion?

Okay. Seeing none, I would like everyone, if you have not already, to put down your vote.

Again, it's Applicant 2, Raymond McElroy; Applicant 3, Bailey Bender; Applicant 6, James Joseph; or Applicant 7, Elijah Manley.

Once you have completed that, you can hand them to staff who's walking by.

MS. CEPERO: I have a question. And it doesn't necessarily impact our voting. But I do have a clarifying question. And I -- and I should have asked this of Gretchen earlier.

But did we, as a matter of information, share with all the applicants the -- kind of the -- the time commitment that was expected for this? Okay.

For the record, she is nodding yes.

Thank you.

CHAIR VITALE: Yes. It's a good question, because it's a --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR VITALE: -- it's a real commitment.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a big time commitment.

MR. LINDBLADE: Mr. Chair, the -- the only other thing I would ask is it our normal practice to select an alternate, too, should the primary person not be able to serve?

CHAIR VITALE: I don't believe it has been.

MR. LINDBLADE: I couldn't remember.

CHAIR VITALE: Yeah.

MR. LINDBLADE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR VITALE: Because I think we're basically making the decision at a point in time, and then --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh.

CHAIR VITALE: -- if that can't happen, then there'll be a new point in time.

MS. CEPERO: Yeah. I'm Beam Furr, if that helps.

CHAIR VITALE: It says County Mayor here. So I don't know what that --

MR. SEILER: I get Senator Geller's microphone. It's just --  
(Laughter.)

MS. CEPERO: Hi, Senator.

**(BALLOTS DISTRIBUTED, FILLED OUT, COLLECTED, AND  
TABULATED.)**

CHAIR VITALE: So, do you have the count?

MS. CASSINI: Mr. Chair, I don't have Felipe's because it was emailed to Roy. So I need that.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. So before -- I think it would maybe be instructive, if we don't have a majority, which -- do we not?

MR. KLITSBERG: I'll wait for Gretchen to announce the -- the vote for the candidates, and then we can have any --

CHAIR VITALE: Well --

MR. KLITSBERG: -- needed discussion thereafter.

CHAIR VITALE: -- can I -- can I suggest --

MS. CASSINI: Please.

CHAIR VITALE: -- that before -- if we can just say we do or don't have

--

MS. CASSINI: No.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. So maybe we can come up with the rules before we know who the applicants are -- or the -- those voting, so that it's not skewed.

Maybe we take the top three or the top two?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it depends on who (inaudible). I mean, there's -- if there's three twos, then --

MS. CEPERO: Right. Do we have --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- we've got two threes --

MS. CASSINI: So I can tell you without any candidate names, if you'd prefer, that we have three ties.

We have -- I'm sorry -- we have two candidates with two votes, and then one candidate with three votes, and one candidate with one vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So why don't we vote on the three --

MS. CEPERO: Just the three and the two.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- (inaudible).

MS. CEPERO: The three and the two.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The three and the two.

CHAIR VITALE: The three and the twos.

MS. CEPERO: Yeah.

CHAIR VITALE: Does that --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Narrow it down to those.

MS. CEPERO: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's fine.

CHAIR VITALE: Is that good with everybody?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

CHAIR VITALE: Well, we will have the names.

MS. CEPERO: We will in a minute.

MR. KLITSBERG: We will. We will momentarily.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

CHAIR VITALE: Yeah, set the process without -- without the names.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We don't want to set the process after we  
know the names --

CHAIR VITALE: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- because then it gets (inaudible).

MS. CEPERO: Politics? Nah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

MS. CASSINI: I -- I apologize. I misread it. We actually have a three-way tie.

So we have three candidates with two votes and one candidate with one vote.

MS. CEPERO: All right.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay.

MS. CEPERO: So then we do the three with twos. Is that --

CHAIR VITALE: Three with twos.

MR. KLITSBERG: So --

CHAIR VITALE: It's the same.

MR. KLITSBERG: -- you can announce the -- you can announce the -  
- all of the votes as they -- in terms of who had the one and who had the  
twos.

MS. CASSINI: Okay. (Inaudible.)

Two votes for Elijah Manley.

We have two votes for Bailey Bender.

And we have two votes for Raymond McElroy.

There was one vote for James Joseph.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. So what I have understood from our  
conversation, we will now re-vote.

Applicant 6, James Joseph, will not be considered.

And we will vote again between Applicant 2, Raymond McElroy;  
Applicant 3, Bailey Bender; and Applicant 7, Elijah Manley.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible) motion?

CHAIR VITALE: I think it was just clarifying.

MR. KLITSBERG: No need for a motion and vote to -- on the re-vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

CHAIR VITALE: Everybody, though, please put -- put your --

MS. CEPERO: Your name.

CHAIR VITALE: -- your name at the top, because all of the ballot  
sheets become a public record and -- and your votes are a public record.

MS. CEPERO: Do you want to put Vote Number 2, or does it matter?

CHAIR VITALE: Gretchen will keep them separate, so.

MS. CEPERO: Okay.

**(BALLOTS DISTRIBUTED, FILLED OUT, COLLECTED, AND  
TABULATED.)**

MS. CASSINI: Mr. Pinzon, could I please ask you to submit your vote  
by email, second round?

MR. PINZON: Doing that right now.

MS. CASSINI: Thank you.

MR. PINZON: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

MR. PINZON: I just did.

CHAIR VITALE: Well, the good news is I don't think we can have a three-way tie again, so --

MR. SEILER: We're going to have a three/three/one.

MS. CEPERO: Yeah, we'll have --

CHAIR VITALE: Well, then --

MS. CEPERO: -- one more round, I'm sure.

CHAIR VITALE: -- then we have one more round.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

MS. CASSINI: Mr. Chair, we have all of the votes in at this time, and we have three votes for Raymond McElroy, and then two votes for Bailey Bender and two votes for Elijah Manley.

CHAIR VITALE: Do we have to have a unanimous vote?

MS. CEPERO: You have to have four.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Majority.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Majority vote.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I switch my vote?

MS. CEPERO: We'll have to vote again.

CHAIR VITALE: We have to vote again.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Vote again.

CHAIR VITALE: So a majority is how many?

MS. CEPERO: You can switch it after we vote again.

MR. KLITSBERG: You -- you can -- again, if you want to change your



-- if you want to change your vote, you have the ability to make a motion to reconsider, and then --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MR. KLITSBERG: -- change your -- change your vote. Or we can have a third round of voting. Or we can -- eventually, if we were going to comply with Florida Election Code, we can eventually get around to drawing of lots, which is actually --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MR. KLITSBERG: -- the -- the way ties --

(Laughter.)

MR. KLITSBERG: -- are resolved under -- under the Florida Election Code.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

MR. KLITSBERG: Don't ask me what a lot is.

CHAIR VITALE: So it was three for Raymond McElroy, two for Bailey Bender, and two for Elijah?

MS. CASSINI: Yes, sir. If I could ask Mr. Pinzon to please submit your third round of votes.

MS. CEPERO: If I --

MR. PINZON: Okay.

MS. CEPERO: -- if -- if I -- if I could --

CHAIR VITALE: Please.

MS. CEPERO: -- for a moment. I mean, we could be here all day if we don't know maybe -- I mean, like maybe -- I don't know who you voted and you don't need to tell me, but if you voted for one person, you change your vote, then I change my vote, we can be back in the same situation all day.

So like I don't know if you guys want to talk about -- some more about some thoughts on this.

I mean, I'm happy to do whatever you guys want, but, you know, if -- if there was a thought that you were willing to share, Dan, about you were going to change your vote. I don't know if you think that would make a difference or -- if no one else changed their vote, it --

MR. LINDBLADE: Yeah, I was going to change my vote from Bailey Bender to Raymond McElroy. And I don't have extremely lucent reasons why I'm doing that other than to effectuate the process and move forward.

But I liked what you had to say about Bender and having disability, and that's why I was there.

But I'm more than happy with Mr. McElroy.

MS. CEPERO: Okay. All right.

CHAIR VITALE: Any other discussion?

MR. SEILER: Yeah, I'll just say, you know, I seconded Mr. McElroy as one of the first ones. I'm pleased with all three finalists.

CHAIR VITALE: Definitely.

MR. SEILER: I really am. It's a good choice here. But I kind of think Mr. McElroy has -- his level of experience is pretty significant. And, you know, I think if you were to switch that, I think that would be the majority that would be needed --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MR. SEILER: -- to put Mr. McElroy over -- over the hurdle.

But I've got to tell you, look, we can't go wrong with any one of the finalists, three --

MS. CEPERO: Yeah.

MR. SEILER: -- finalists. But I do think Mr. McElroy's got a very impressive background and a passion for it. It looks like he'll be good.

CHAIR VITALE: Thank you, Jack.

Any other comments?

Okay. Please make sure you write down your name, which I almost forgot to do, at the top of the ballot, and then write your candidate, as well.

**(BALLOTS DISTRIBUTED, FILLED OUT, COLLECTED, AND  
TABULATED.)**

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, while they're collecting those votes, are you going to be sending a letter or is someone going to be sending a letter to all the applicants?

CHAIR VITALE: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

MS. CASSINI: Mr. Chair, I'm happy to report that we have a unanimous vote for Raymond McElroy.

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Great.

**3 - MOTION TO APPOINT SURTAX OVERSIGHT BOARD MEMBER IN CATEGORY, RESIDENT CONSUMER OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18,2024, ENDING SEPTEMBER 17, 2028**

CHAIR VITALE: So Applicant 2, Raymond McElroy, is the nominee --

MR. KLITSBERG: Appointee, at this point.

CHAIR VITALE: We have to have a motion to appoint, right?

MR. KLITSBERG: You've -- you've --

CHAIR VITALE: Or would that --

MR. KLITSBERG: -- voted -- you've voted 7-nothing to appoint him.

CHAIR VITALE: That was our vote.

MR. KLITSBERG: That was --

CHAIR VITALE: Okay.

MR. KLITSBERG: -- the vote for (inaudible).

CHAIR VITALE: So that is who -- so that is our motion, then.

Thank you.

MR. KLITSBERG: So there's -- there's no need for a formal motion --

CHAIR VITALE: Great.

MR. KLITSBERG: -- (inaudible) that constitutes (inaudible).

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. So we have --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A new member.

CHAIR VITALE: -- a new member. We've appointed Raymond McElroy as our new member.

So congratulations.

MR. MCELROY: Thank you.

MR. SEILER: Congratulations.

MS. CEPERO: Congratulations.

(Applause.)

#### **APPOINTING AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS**

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Moving on on the agenda, does anyone have any comments or anything they'd like to discuss?

#### **BOARD COORDINATOR COMMENTS**

CHAIR VITALE: Gretchen, anything from you as the Board Coordinator?

MS. CASSINI: I just wanted to mention that for anyone that is watching that is used to finding verbatim minutes after the meetings, we did - the recorder did come a little bit later. I'm not sure when we're going to have the verbatim minutes available.

But if you have any questions, you can always feel free to reach out and we can provide you with a summary.

CHAIR VITALE: Great. Thank you.

Jack?

MR. SEILER: I'm sorry, I should have brought this up earlier.

The materials that are getting circulated in terms of the written materials, I think are excellent.

And I think when you have a chance to see that, see all that, you know, things are moving.

And this is what we're all excited about and enthused about.

Is there any way to do any type of video update? Do we put stuff out that is more geared towards, you know, social media, like -- because I love the written materials. When I get it, I can actually -- you know, you go through it and you're like, man, we're making progress. And looking back to where we started, it's huge.

But are we doing anything on social media that way where we give updates on what's being done? Because I've learned from, you know, 25 years in public office the -- the way people digest and learn about what's happening has changed so significantly.

And, you know, even if we're doing two-minute updates, three minutes, I don't mind if it's -- if it's done by the publicly elected officials, just talk about what's happening.

But I'd like to see -- are we doing something along those lines in terms of publicizing?

MS. CASSINI: Thank you for the question. And, yes, we are.

I'd like to give a shout out to our Marketing Manager and Public Relations Manager and our Public Information Specialist, who's also a licensed drone pilot.

We are -- we have increased our social media following from kind of our baseline to today by almost 2,000 percent.

We do video updates.

This annual report that we passed out is actually animated.

We have a 3D animated version of videos about congestion management strategies that actually won a national award and Best in Show nationally.

And we are now using augmented and virtual reality as outreach tools to try to help people learn what we're doing but also get excited about utilizing public transportation.

When it comes to just short videos with updates, they're very project-specific, but we've also done a few videos that are more program high level, 40,000-foot that I've trotted out to some of the business and professional associations over the years.

MR. SEILER: Great. Thank you.

CHAIR VITALE: What I heard Jack say is he wants to do some Tik Tok videos. That's what I heard.

(Laughter.)

MS. CASSINI: That's what I heard, too. Tashauna's going to be calling you, Mr. Mayor.

CHAIR VITALE: I think I speak for the board when we say you can do it for us, Jack.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: (Inaudible.)

(Laughter.)

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. Thank you, Jack, for your comments.

MS. CEPERO: If -- if I can chime in on that.

CHAIR VITALE: Sure.

MS. CEPERO: And thank you, Jack, for -- for sharing -- or for asking that question and to give Gretchen an opportunity to share the good work of our team.

So I just wanted to publicly acknowledge that, too, because while we all get to share in the successes, you know, I'm particularly proud of the level of sharing of information that we're able to do.

And, you know, there's always, you know, ways that we could reach more folks, and we're finding creative ways as a government to try to do that.

Because you -- you're right. The landscape has changed, and people are really interested in those quick, short, you know, learning opportunities that we see.

So I just want to commend our team. So thanks, guys.

CHAIR VITALE: Thank you very much, Monica.



## **BOARD COUNSEL COMMENTS**

CHAIR VITALE: Nate, any comments from you? I've got Board Counsel comments here on the agenda. Anything you'd like to share?

MR. KLITSBERG: Thank you for all being here today. And I look forward to seeing you in the near future, apparently.

CHAIR VITALE: Welcome to the team. Hopefully, we didn't haze you too bad here at your first meeting.

So thrilled to have you and look forward to working with you.

Does anyone else have anything they'd like to bring before the board before we adjourn?

MS. CASSINI: The only thing I wanted to ask, Mr. Chair, is we did, in our briefing, discuss the possibility of setting a meeting in the early 2025 timeframe just to discuss some attendance issues and just potentially have something on hold for a potential -- another vacancy that may or may not occur.

Did you still want to try to do that --

CHAIR VITALE: Yeah.

MS. CASSINI: -- with the group here?

CHAIR VITALE: Yes.

MS. CASSINI: Okay.

CHAIR VITALE: I don't think you -- did you want to get dates now?

Was that your question?

So the idea would be just for us to make sure that we're staying on top of any potential issues that might arise, either with openings or if there are attendance issues with individual board members of the Oversight Board.

And so having that discussion I think is important, just in case it is an issue. It hasn't come up in the past, and so, as a reminder, some of the things we're doing are new. And so just a matter of setting precedent for that as well.

So are you asking about getting calendar dates now or --

MS. CASSINI: Well, it's completely up to this group. You are very busy people, very difficult to schedule with. And I was just wondering if it would be beneficial to you to just have a hold. Let's say end of January, early February, just to have it there.

CHAIR VITALE: Sure.

MS. CASSINI: And if we need -- don't need it, we'll release you. We'll just release it, you know, a few --

CHAIR VITALE: Yeah.

MS. CASSINI: -- weeks ahead of time.

CHAIR VITALE: I think in the spirit of efficiency, if everyone would just -- we'll take 60 seconds here and look at calendars.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Throw out some dates.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.) End of January?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

CHAIR VITALE: I believe we probably have to consider County Commission schedule?

MS. CEPERO: Yeah. We don't have the January dates yet, but if we avoid Tuesdays, we're probably okay.

MS. CASSINI: Do you want to avoid Thursdays also, in case you're printing, or?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wednesdays are --

MS. CEPERO: Wednesdays are okay. We can do Wednesday afternoon, like the same time. I don't know if --

CHAIR VITALE: 29<sup>th</sup>?

MS. CASSINI: 29<sup>th</sup>.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm good.

CHAIR VITALE: 29<sup>th</sup>. January 29<sup>th</sup>.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm good.

CHAIR VITALE: Felipe?

MS. CEPERO: At 3:00 o'clock? You want to hold that?

Felipe, does that work for you?

MR. PINZON: I'm looking at it right now.

CHAIR VITALE: Jack?

MR. PINZON: That works for me, yeah. That works for me.

MR. SEILER: January 29<sup>th</sup> at what, 3:00 o'clock?

MS. CEPERO: 3:00.

CHAIR VITALE: 3:00? And we'll get a formal invite out to everybody,  
but --

MR. SEILER: Yeah, that works.

CHAIR VITALE: Sidney?

MR. CALLOWAY: Yes.

CHAIR VITALE: That was a lot easier than emails.

Okay. So January 29<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m., please hold and we'll have more  
information as we get closer to that.

And if we don't need to meet, we'll just release the meeting.

Thank you.

Any other questions or comments?

## **ADJOURN**

CHAIR VITALE: Okay. We are adjourned. 3:57. Enjoy the rest of  
your day.

(The meeting concluded at 3:57 p.m.)