

1st Annual Emerald Coast

Transportation Symposium



Wednesday January 16, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Emerald Coast Convention Center

1250 Miracle Strip Parkway, SE

Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548

Hosted by:



Staffed by:



Hosted By



Commissioner **Gene Valentino** Chairman
Northwest Florida Regional TPO

Local businessman and community leader Gene Valentino has served on the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners since 2006 and is the current Board Chairman. He is also the current vice Chairman of the Florida-Alabama TPO.

In 1988, Commissioner Valentino obtained one of the first rural cellular telephone company licenses from the FCC. He became president of a cellular telephone service company, Cellular 2000 Telephone Company (known as "CellularOne") in central California. The company was acquired in 1998 for more than \$120 million. He served as the point man on the negotiations of the sale and remained in a managerial position after the sale to ensure the proper distribution of funds and the smooth transitioning of the company.

Commissioner Valentino created CollectorSolutions, Inc. in 1999. This internet-based online payment concept processes over \$4 billion per year in internet transactions, has county and state governments and utility authority clients in 38 states and employs 14 people in Escambia County with a payroll of over \$1.7 million per year.

Commissioner Valentino has also been a private pilot since 1975, is a Senior member of the Civil Air Patrol and is a member of the Perdido Bay United Methodist Church. Gene has been married to wife, Maureen, since 1984. They have one son, Alexander.





Mary Bo Robinson

WFRPC Director of Transportation Planning

Mrs. Robinson is the Director of Transportation Planning at the West Florida Regional Planning Council. Prior to being named Transportation Director in May 2008, she worked primarily in public transportation including fixed-route bus service, door-to-door paratransit service, and commuter services. Working at the Council since 1986 has allowed her to see many plans actually come to fruition, such as the success of the Bay Town Trolley in Bay County, Florida, and the completion of numerous road, sidewalk, and bicycle projects.

Mrs. Robinson is active with the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) and is the current Chairman of the MPOAC staff directors. She has also served on the Policy Subcommittee for the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO).

Mrs. Robinson graduated from the University of West Florida with a Master of Public Administration and from the University of Northern Colorado with a Bachelor of Arts in Special Education, Hearing Impaired and Elementary Education.



Mission Statement

The purpose of this symposium is to discuss financing the transportation network in the Florida Panhandle. This event will provide a unique opportunity to reach across multiple organizations and bring together a variety of individuals involved with transportation.

Symposium Schedule

- 9:00 a.m.** **Check In**
- 10:00 a.m.** **Welcome to Symposium**
Commissioner **Don Amunds**, Chairman
Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners
- 10:05 a.m.** **Call to Order & Introduction**
Commissioner **Gene Valentino**, Chairman
Northwest Florida Regional TPO
- 10:15 a.m.** **Transportation: Driving Northwest Florida's Economy**
Panel Discussion
- Moderated by
Commissioner **Don Salter**, Santa Rosa County
- Panel Members
Jason Peters, P.E. Director of Development
Florida Department Of Transportation District 3
- Chris Long**, President
Pensacola Shipyard
- Jorge Gonzalez**, Sr. Vice President of Development
St. Joe Company
- 11:00 a.m.** **Florida's Vision**
Ananth Prasad, Secretary
Florida Department Of Transportation
- 11:30 a.m.** **Break for Catering Setup**
- 12:00 p.m.** **Lunch**

12:30 p.m. Building Regional Partnerships

Panel Discussion

Moderated by
Councilman **Jim Wood**, Destin, FL

Panel Members
Lisa Bacot, Executive Director
Florida Public Transit Association

Bob Montgomery, Chairman
Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority

Christopher “Rod” Lewis, PhD, Director
University of West Florida Haas Center

Bill Williams
SCG Governmental Affairs

1:20 p.m. The Role of a TPO

Mary Robinson, Director of Transportation
West Florida Regional Planning Council

1:45 p.m. Financing Tomorrow’s Infrastructure

Panel Discussion

Moderated by
Commissioner **Lane Lynchard**, Santa Rosa County

Panel Members
Steven Reich, Program Director
Center for Urban Transportation Research

Ron Howse, Chairman
Florida Transportation Commission

Jim Vest, Executive Director
Mid-Bay Bridge Authority

2:30 p.m. Concluding Remarks

Special Guest Speaker



Ananth Prasad P.E. Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation

Ananth Prasad was named Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in April 2011 by Governor Rick Scott. Secretary Prasad rejoined FDOT in July 2010 after being with a consultant firm for two years as their Vice President responsible for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services.

Secretary Prasad has a total of 21 years of experience in transportation; 19 years with FDOT where he previously held the positions of the Assistant Secretary for Engineering and Operations, Chief Engineer and Director of Construction. He was responsible for implementing various innovative contracting techniques, such as public-private partnerships (P3).

Secretary Prasad has a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Regional Engineering College in India and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from University of Florida. He is registered as a Professional Engineer in the State of Florida.



Moderators



Commissioner Don Salter

Santa Rosa County

Santa Rosa County County Commissioner Don Salter was initially elected in November 2000. He has served as Chairman of the Commission during 2004 and 2009 and has served as Chairman of the FL-AL TPO. During Commissioner Salter's term, he has been instrumental in economic development, agriculture, military issues, and has worked at protecting and enhancing military installations, particularly Whiting Field. Prior to being elected to the Commission, he was the District Manager of the Milton Gulf Power office. He retired in 2000 after a 32 year career. Commissioner Salter has a Master of Science degree in Management from Troy State University. He is a native of Santa Rosa County and is married to the former Kaye Matlock and has one son, Donnie.



Councilman Jim Wood

Destin, FL

Jim Wood retired from the U.S. Army having attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel following a 20 year military career. He currently serves as a City Councilman from Destin Florida. He was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012. He has served on the Okaloosa-Walton Transportation Planning Organization (O-W TPO) for four years, the last two as Chairman. He also serves on the Northwest Florida Regional Transportation Planning Organization and the MPOAC.



Commissioner Lane Lynchard

Santa Rosa County

Lane Lynchard grew up in Milton, Florida in Santa Rosa County, and now resides in Gulf Breeze. Commissioner Lynchard has practiced law in the Florida Panhandle since 1998, and is currently a managing partner with Lynchard & Greene, PL. He was first elected to the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners in 2008, and was re-elected for a second term in 2012. He has served on the FL-AL TPO since 2008, serving as Vice Chair prior to his appointment as Chairman for 2013. Commissioner Lynchard has taken a special interest in multi-modal transportation, and has worked to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety along the Highway 98 corridor in Santa Rosa County. He lives in the Tiger Point area with his wife Lori and son Bryan.

Speakers & Panelists



Commissioner Don Amunds Chairman
Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners

Don Amunds was re-elected as County Commissioner in 2010. In 2008 the Florida Association of Counties certified Don as a Certified County Commissioner. After spending four years in the US Army being stationed at Camp James Rudder and the 2nd Armored Division in Northern Germany, Don dedicated his energy toward public service. He served as a deputy sheriff and investigator for 17 years before running for County Commissioner in 2004. Don has a B.S. degree from Troy University. Don has lived in Okaloosa County since 1970 where he was raised and educated. Don lives with his wife Joanna, and two sons, Scott and Robbie, in Mary Esther. They worship at Trinity United Methodist Church.



Jason Peters P.E. Director of Transportation Development
Florida Department Of Transportation - District 3

Jason Peters is a 1988 graduate of Auburn University where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering. Mr. Peters has been employed with the Department of Transportation for 24 years and was appointed as the District 3 Director of Transportation Development in September 2011. He served 17 years in the Office of Roadway Design including serving as the District's Consultant Project Management Engineer. Prior to appointment as the Director of Transportation Development, he served 4½ years as the District's Intermodal Systems Development Manager while working with the area Transportation Planning Organizations, West Florida Regional Planning Council, and modal partners on various transportation issues within the region.



Chris Long President
Pensacola Shipyard

Chris Long is President of Pensacola Shipyard and has been involved with the company since its acquisition by the Long family in 1969. Mr. Long has over 30 years' experience in manufacturing and distribution. He was formerly President of Florida Drum Company, a major producer of industrial packaging for the chemical, petroleum, and food industries. Mr. Long is a resident of Memphis, Tennessee where he is involved with Newberry Tanks, a petroleum storage tank manufacturing business. He is a Mechanical Engineering graduate of Duke University and has an MBA from the Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management.



Jorge Gonzalez Senior Vice President of Development
The St. Joe Company

Jorge Gonzalez has been with the company since 2002. His major areas of responsibility are entitlements, land use, environmental, regulatory and public affairs. Immediately prior to joining St. Joe, Mr. Gonzalez was a consultant in private practice. Mr. Gonzalez holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Florida State University. He is a member of the Urban Land Institute and serves on various community boards and organizations including the FSU Panama City Campus Development Board and the Board of the Panama City Beach Chamber of Commerce.



Lisa Bacot Executive Director
Florida Public Transportation Association

Prior to joining Florida Public Transportation Association (FPTA), Lisa Bacot was the Director of Business Development for TMS Management Group, Inc., a national transportation brokerage company. From 1996-2008, Ms. Bacot was employed by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged, a state agency legislatively charged with ensuring transportation services are provided to the disadvantaged citizens of Florida. She served as the Executive Director for 5 years. Ms. Bacot graduated from Florida State University in 1993 and has been appointed to numerous national human service transportation coordination panels, committees and advisory councils. She was elected by her transportation peers in 2006 to serve as the Florida Delegate to the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA).



Robert B. Montgomery Chairman
Northwest Florida Transportation Corridor Authority

Robert B. Montgomery was appointed to the Authority in September 2005 by Governor Jeb Bush and represents Escambia County. He attended Florida State University, School of Business and graduated in 1969 with a Bachelor of Science degree. Mr. Montgomery has owned Montgomery Realtors in Pensacola, Florida since 1971. He is currently active as a Board member of the Pensacola Junior College Foundation, the BB&T Bank Board of Directors, the Florida Alabama Strategic Task Force, Gateway Review Board in Pensacola, and the Gulf Breeze High School Advisory Committee, just to name a few.

Speakers & Panelists



Christopher "Rod" Lewis Ph.D Director
University of West Florida's Haas Center

Rod Lewis received his Ph.D in political science with a doctoral minor in methods (econometrics) from Florida State University in 2006, and joined the Center shortly thereafter. He served as Director of Research for Kile Consulting, a Tallahassee based firm, as a Leroy Collins fellow in the Department of Political Science and successively as a research associate in the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences during his graduate career at

FSU. Before returning as the Haas Center Director, he was President of Discover Analytics, Inc. He has participated in numerous local, regional, and statewide projects with the Center including industry cluster analyses, workforce competency studies, and economic impact analyses.



Bill Williams
SCG Governmental Affairs

Bill Williams was elected to serve as a Gulf County commisisoner in 2004, was re-elected in 2008 and served until the end of his term in 2012. In August 2012, he joined SCG Governmental Affairs, a full service governmental consulting firm, located in Tallahassee, FL. Mr. Williams holds a Master of Science Degree in Business Management from Troy State University. He has been recognized for his legislative and oil spill

response efforts receiving the President's Legislative Advocacy Award in 2007, 2009, and 2012. Mr. Williams was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to serve on the State Work Force Board, where Mr. Williams has brought tremendous experience and support to the Governor's work-force objectives.



Steven Reich Program Director
Center for Urban Transportation Research

Mr. Reich has been with the University of South Florida's, Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) since 2000. One of his assignments at CUTR was to lead the Tampa Hillsborough County Expressway Authority as its Interim Executive Director. Other projects at CUTR include assisting the largest transit agency in the state with revisions of their bus and rail fleet management procedures, staffing a legislatively

created board charged with making policy recommendations on cleaner transportation fuels, completing a statewide transportation revenue study effort, and helping develop performance monitoring processes for toll and transit agencies. Prior to joining CUTR, Mr. Reich held various positions with Breed Technologies inc, the Maryland Transportation Authority, and the Maryland Department of Transportation.



Ron Howse Chairman
Florida Transportation Commission

Mr. Howse is President of Real Deal Development Group, an Engineering and Land Planning company and is a licensed Civil Engineer. He was a Councilman for the City of St. Cloud, a Board Member of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, a Board Member of the Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce and the Assistant Director of Public Works for the City of Altamonte Springs. He has been involved with many civic organizations over the years.



Jim Vest Executive Director
Mid-Bay Bridge Authority

Mr. Vest joined the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority in 1991 during the construction of the Mid-Bay Bridge Project as the Authority's first Executive Director. He served as the on-site owner's representative during the construction of the bridge. Upon completion of the construction, he has continued as Executive Director, administering the operation of the toll facility and overseeing capital improvement projects. Prior to joining the Mid-Bay Bridge Authority, he worked 22 years in the heavy construction industry, managing heavy construction projects throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas with a BS and MS in Civil Engineering.

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