

October 19, 2020



AGENDA ITEM 9C

CORRESPONDENCE

TYPE OF ITEM: Information

The following electronic message has been received by the CRTPA since its last meeting:

TO	FROM	REGARDING	DATE
Bryan Desloge	Thornton Williams, CRTPA Attorney	Conflict of Interest Inquiry	October 12, 2020

From: Thornton Williams <twilliams@twalaw.com>
Date: October 12, 2020 at 7:06:36 PM EDT
To: Bryan Desloge <desloge.bryan@gmail.com>
Cc: "Slay, Greg" <Greg.Slay@talgov.com>
Subject: RE: MPO / CRTPA conflict

EXTERNAL EMAIL

Please report any suspicious attachments, links, or requests for sensitive information.

Commissioner,

Please see the attached memorandum.

Let me know if you have any additional questions on this matter.

Thanks,

Thornton

Williams Law Group, P.A.
P. O. Box 10109
Tallahassee, Florida 32302
T: 850-224-3999
F: 850-224-0099
M: 850-294-6514
E: twilliams@twalaw.com

W:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.twalaw.com;!!N4_s6dRKiShDng!O96Fbe_jYNAfiOh_GBG4aVpqnMAvqpBVGUfxIEI9ln7ZaoEV3Nm9TRmk38NiAMJV\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.twalaw.com;!!N4_s6dRKiShDng!O96Fbe_jYNAfiOh_GBG4aVpqnMAvqpBVGUfxIEI9ln7ZaoEV3Nm9TRmk38NiAMJV$)

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Sent from Mail for Windows 10

-----Original Message-----

From: Bryan Desloge [<mailto:desloge.bryan@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, October 9, 2020 10:11 AM
To: Thornton Williams
Subject: MPO / CRTPA conflict

Thornton -

Just wanted to confirm and memorialize my conversation with you last year regarding my consulting employment with Atkins.

As we discussed I was approached by Atkins to help run interference with local government in the Counties that would be involved with the MCORES SunCoast Connector Toll road. This would include primarily strategy on how to deal with these counties, introductions to elected officials as needed, and attending some of the Task Force meetings to understand the process. Your counsel was that there was no conflict, since Leon County was not in the corridor for the toll road, and that the CRTPA has no jurisdiction over this project. You also suggested that disclosing this relationship if we did have discussions regarding MCORES would be appropriate, which I have done. Finally you also counseled that in an abundance of caution, recusing myself if the CRTPA took a position on MCORES would be appropriate.

If you can confirm this conversation so I can keep in my files that would be great!

Have a great weekend!

Bryan Desloge

desloge.bryan@gmail.com / 850-841-9285 cell Leon County / deslogeb@leoncountyfl.gov / 850-606-5364

MEMORANDUM

October 12, 2020

To: Commissioner Bryan Desloge, Leon County Commission, in his capacity as a sitting member of the Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA)

From: Thornton Williams, General Counsel, CRTPA

Re: Whether a conflict of interest exists for Commissioner Desloge regarding sitting on the CRTPA board and he being employed by Atkins North America, Inc., who is responsible for assisting the Florida Department of Transportation for M-CORES and where the CRTPA has a representative on the M-Cores task force, even though the CRTPA has no formal role in the selection of the selection of the M-CORES alignment.

Answer: No. There is no conflict of interest.

I was provided the following background by you in an e-mail on October 9, 2020:

As we discussed I was approached by Atkins to help run interference with local government in the Counties that would be involved with the M-CORES SunCoast Connector Toll road. This would include primarily strategy on how to deal with these counties, introductions to elected officials as needed, and attending some of the Task Force meetings to understand the process. Your counsel was that there was no conflict, since Leon County was not in the corridor for the toll road, and that the CRTPA has no jurisdiction over this project. You also suggested that disclosing this relationship if we did have discussions regarding M-CORES would be appropriate, which I have done. Finally you also counseled that in an abundance of caution, recusing myself if the CRTPA took a position on M-CORES would be appropriate.

You and I have discussed this matter prior to your e-mail. The facts that you have outlined are consistent with our prior discussions and my analysis.

The CRTPA has no formal role in this matter. The only role that the CRTPA has had was the selection of a representative to be on the SunCoast task force. The CRTPA has not taken a position regarding any policy involving M-CORES.

To that end, there is no basis for a conflict of interest to exist. In order to avoid an appearance of a conflict, I have advised that a disclosure if this issue comes up at a

CRTPA meeting would be appropriate. I also advised that you should recuse yourself if a formal vote was considered by the CRTPA on any issues regarding the M-CORES.

Obviously, it would be appropriate to review this issue, again, if the M-CORES subject was presented to the CRTPA board at a duly call board meeting.