

**The Observer Corps: Report on Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority meeting - Aug. 26, 2009**

By Jean Siegfried

The executive director of the Florida Engineering Society congratulated board members on the toll increase and on their going ahead with the five-year work plan for 'ease of mobility' in Central Florida's future.

A former Wachovia banker encouraged the board to look to "middle bracket firms" as it reviews financial contracts (and not just stick with the 'big guys'). His reasoning was that many of the long term, experienced former 'big guys' are now working with 'middle bracket firms' and would bring their expertise and their contacts to the table.

A draft of the proposed five-year work plan was presented by Joe Berenis, deputy executive director of engineering & operations. He reviewed (or rather had CFO Nita Crowder) review the financing proposal for this plan. Interesting questions concerning 'design – build' versus 'design – bid-build' process, having to do with acquiring right of way ahead of time or during the process.

Crowder's report on the review of debt and interest rate risk management policies is available on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/ms7u79>. I went up following the meeting, thanked her for her presentation. She asked if our interest was just in the expressway authority, and I answered that our interest was in seeing long standing policies reviewed periodically.

Tanya Juarez proposed a 'performance review' for the Executive Director Mike Snyder, to be conducted by the chair and presented to the board on an annual basis. There is no performance evaluation included in the director's contract. Item was tabled until the next meeting.

Jean Siegfried is a former president of the LWVOC.