

**GREATER MIAMI EXPRESSWAY AGENCY (GMX)  
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES**

**MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025  
9:00 AM**

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The Greater Miami Expressway Agency held a public meeting on Monday, June 9, 2025. The following were present:

**Board Members Present:**

- Richard Blanco, Board Member (Secretary)
- Mariana “Marili” Cancio, Board Member (Chair)
- Daniel Iglesias, P.E.
- Rodolfo Pages, Board Member (Treasurer)
- Fatima Perez, Board Member (Vice-Chair)
- Edward Pidermann, Board Member
- Stanley Rigaud, Board Member

**Staff:**

- Rafael S. Garcia, Interim Executive Director/CEO
- Claudio Diaferia, Chief Operating Officer
- Sandra Bridgeman, Director of Administration, Budget, Finance & Accounting/CFO
- Maria Luisa Navia Lobo, Board/Executive Secretary

**Contracted Legal Counsel:**

- Jason Gonzalez, Lawson Huck Gonzalez

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Chair Cancio.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board Member Pidermann led Members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Board Secretary Navia Lobo called the roll and announced that a quorum of the GMX Board was present.

**DECLARATION OF VOTING CONFLICTS**

No conflicts were declared

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

- Board Meeting of April 10, 2025

Board Member Pidermann moved to approve the summary minutes of April 10, 2025, Governing Board Meeting. Treasurer Pages seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### A) Approval of Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget and Five-Year Work Program FY 2026-2030

Chair Cancio opened the Public Hearing for the approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget and Five-Year Work Program.

Ms. Bridgeman presented the FY 2026 Annual Budget, referencing the Budget Workshop previously held. She highlighted that the FY 2026 Budget includes forecasted revenues of \$268.9 million and projected expenditures of \$290.8 million.

Mr. Diaferia noted that only minimal changes have been made since the Workshop, specifically mentioning a slight decrease of 0.01% in the coverage ratio.

Chair Cancio then invited public comment on the Budget and Work Program. No public comments were received, and Chair Cancio subsequently closed the Public Hearing.

Board Member Pidermann moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Budget and Five-Year Work Program FY 2026-2030. Treasurer Pages seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### A) GMX Work Program Work No. 11205, Interconnector Ramps from MIA to SR 112

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-01 transferring property ownership to the Greater Miami Expressway Agency for parcels acquired under the project.

### B) GMX Work Program No. 83611-001, SR 836 / I-95 Interchange Improvements

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-02 transferring property ownership to the Greater Miami Expressway Agency for parcels acquired under the project.

### C) GMX Work Program No. 87410-001, SR 874 Ramp Connector to SW 128th Street

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-03 transferring property ownership to the Greater Miami Expressway Agency for parcels acquired under the project along SW 128th Street from east of SW 137th Avenue to west of SW 122nd Avenue.

### D) GMX Work Program No. 87410-001, SR 874 Ramp Connector to SW 128th Street

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-04 transferring property ownership to the Greater Miami Expressway Agency for Right-of-Way along SW 128th Street and parcels acquired under the project from east of SW 122nd Avenue to west of the Homestead Extension of the Florida Turnpike (HEFT).

### E) GMX Work Program No. 92404-001, SR 924 Extension West to the Homestead Extension of the Florida Turnpike (HEFT)

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-05 transferring property ownership to the Greater Miami Expressway Agency for parcels acquired under the project.

F) GMX Work Program No. 92404-001, SR 924 Extension West to the Homestead Extension of the Florida Turnpike (HEFT)

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-06 transferring property ownership to the Greater Miami Expressway Agency for Right-of-Way along NW 138th Street from Okeechobee Road to east of NW 97th Avenue.

G) State of Florida Retirement System Senior Management Service (SMS) Class Reinstatement

- Approval of Resolution No. 25-09 - Authorize the Greater Miami Expressway Agency (GMX) to pursue the inclusion of designated Senior Management Positions in the Florida Retirement System's Senior Management Service (SMS) Class. as further described in the attached Resolution.

Mr. Gonzalez, GMX General Counsel, read the Consent agenda items on the record. Chair Cancio referred to Resolution 25-09 regarding the Senior Management Services reinstatement for executive level employees. Vice Chair Perez inquired about the process, whether it would be a standalone bill or maybe into a legislative package. Members discussed the item

Mr. Gonzalez informed members that it is still to be determined, a full report will be presented at the next Board Meeting with recommendations and options.

Board Member Iglesias moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Board Member Rigaud seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

A) Approval of the Combined Sale of Parcel Numbers 136, 137, 138, 139B and 499W (Group 2 Parcels) to the Proposer with the Highest Purchase Price

Mr. Garcia read the item into the record and informed the Members that the parcels were listed for sale on March 7, 2025, and the Agency received an offer in the amount of \$1,785,000, which matches the GMX listed price. He noted that staff are seeking Board approval to negotiate final terms and enter into a contract to convey the parcels in accordance with GMX policy.

He then asked Mr. Diaferia to provide an overview of the item. Mr. Diaferia explained that the parcels had previously been approved by the Board but did not receive bids during the initial offering. He stated that Parcels 136, 137, 138, 139B, and 499W, collectively referred to as Group 2 Parcels, have now received a bid at the appraised value.

Treasurer Pages moved to approve the combined sale of Group 2 Parcels Nos. 136, 137, 138, 139B, and 499W, with authorization to negotiate final terms and enter into a vacant land contract. Mr. Blanco seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B) GMX Work Program No. 83611-001, SR 836 / I-95 Interchange Improvements

- Approval of Condemnation Resolution No. 25-07 for Parcel No. 739 for ramp repairs.

Mr. Garcia read the item into the record and informed Members that the item pertains to GMX Work Program No. 836-11, interchange improvement project at SR 836 and I-95. Staff presented the item for approval of Condemnation Resolution No. 25-07, concerning Parcel No. 739, for the purpose of facilitating ramp repairs. The resolution seeks to secure a temporary aerial easement necessary to complete improvements to the ramp from southbound I-95 to the NW 14th Street exit.

Mr. Garcia explained that GMX staff have made repeated efforts to negotiate a license agreement with the owner of Parcel 739 for over a year. However, due to the owner's lack of response, GMX must now proceed with condemnation proceedings in order to ensure timely completion of the required improvements. He asked Mr. Diaferia to provide additional context.

Mr. Diaferia informed Members that without an executed license agreement, GMX's only legal option is to file a condemnation lawsuit in Miami-Dade Circuit Court. The lawsuit would seek an Order of Taking, granting GMX the Aerial Temporary Easement, and/or a mandatory injunction to permit construction to move forward.

He emphasized that GMX continues to pursue an amicable resolution and hopes to report back to the Board by August with a finalized license agreement. Nonetheless, in order to preserve GMX's legal rights and maintain the project schedule, initiating condemnation proceedings is necessary at this time.

Mr. Diaferia also noted that GMX will incur litigation expenses and as required by statute, GMX will be responsible for the property owner's reasonable attorney's fees, legal costs, and compensation for the easement's full appraised value of the Aerial Temporary Easement is \$26,280.00.

Treasurer Pages moved to approve Resolution No. 25-07, authorizing the condemnation of an Aerial Temporary Easement on Parcel 739 for the public purpose of constructing improvements to the southbound I-95 ramp at the NW 14th Street exit. Board member Iglesias seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C) GMX Procurement/Contract No. GMX 16-01 -Work Program Number 83611.101 Design-Build Services for the Reconstruction of SR 836/I-395 from West of NW 17th Avenue to I-95/Midtown Interchange in Miami-Dade County (\$1,475,651.43)

- Approval of Supplemental Agreement No. 12 of the Design-Build Contract with Archer Western-DeMoya Joint Venture (AWdMJV) in the amount of \$1,475,651.43.

Mr. Garcia read the item into the record and asked Mr. Diaferia to provide additional information on the item. Mr. Diaferia explained that Supplemental Agreement No. 12 consist of two major items; The repair of the culvert for Wagner Creek, located just east of the Miami River Bridge, is the only structure in the GMX System not currently rated as "excellent" or better. While many drivers may not realize they are passing over this culvert, its condition has been a known concern. Anticipating this need, its inspection and potential repair were incorporated into the original project RFP. Following inspection, it has been determined that a full repair is necessary.

Staff have successfully negotiated a cost of \$812,000 for the full repair of the structure. Once completed, this will bring all structures up to an "excellent" or better rating, a significant milestone for the infrastructure System. It is critical that we address this now while crews are already mobilized in the area, in order to avoid future disruptions to the traveling public.

Additionally, staff are requesting approval to replenish the \$400,000 construction contingency fund. The contingency covers a variety of smaller, routine construction items issued through work orders, such as lighting repairs, sweeping, cleaning, and other incidental improvements. Currently the contingency balance is nearly depleted and replenishing it will ensure uninterrupted progress on these essential tasks. Members thoroughly discussed the item.

Board Member Blanco moved to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 12 of the Design-Build Contract with Archer Western-DeMoya Joint Venture in the amount of \$1,475,651.43. Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

D) GMX Procurement/Contract No. RFP 25-01 - Inspection and Reporting Services for GMX Structures.

- Approval of the Technical Evaluation Committee's Recommendation to select and enter into Contract with the two Highest Ranked Proposers; (\$2,820,000.00/Contract)
  - Highest Ranked - Marlin Engineering Inc.
  - 2nd Highest Ranked - Transsystems Corporation d/b/a Transsystems Corporation Consultants

Mr. Garcia read the item on the record and informed Members the Technical Evaluation Committee's recommendation is to select and enter into contract with the two highest-ranked proposers. GMX released a request for proposal on January 4, 2025, seeking proposals from qualified firms to provide inspection and reporting services for GMX structures. The selected firms will be responsible for inspecting various structures. The highest ranked proposer in this procurement was Marlin engineering, and the second highest ranked company was Trans Systems Corporation doing business as trans Systems Corporation consultants.

Mr. Diaferia informed Members the two highest ranked firms Marlin Engineering and Trans Systems are the current incumbents for this contract, which covers the inspection of all structural elements within the System—including culverts, bridges, overhead signs, and any assets involving structural members. Both firms have performed exceptionally well, consistently earning “Excellent” or higher ratings in their contractor performance evaluations.

Mr. Diaferia further explained that all structures are inspected biennially—every two years. The Agency intentionally engages two separate firms to ensure that no single firm inspects the same structure consecutively, and rotate individual inspectors as well, so the same person is not assigned to inspect the same structure in back-to-back cycles. This rotation adds an extra layer of objectivity and quality control to our inspection process. All firms must be pre-qualified by FDOT.

Members discussed the 15% Small Business and 15% Local Business participation requirements for this RFP, as well as potential incentives to generate greater interest in bidding on future projects.

Treasurer Pages recommended the Board review the Small Business and Local Business Policies at a future meeting.

Board Member Pidermann moved to approve the two highest ranked proposers, Marlin Engineering and Transsystems Corporation Consultants. Board Member Iglesias seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

E) Board Policy Review

- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy - New

Mr. Garcia read the agenda item into the record and informed Members that this is a new policy for the Agency. Mr. Diaferia explained that the policy had been previously circulated and revised to incorporate several comments and directives from Members.

Mr. Diaferia further noted that the Agency is still in the early stages of integrating artificial intelligence into its systems. He stated that the policy establishes a foundational framework to guide this process, with an emphasis on equity and the prevention of bias in AI applications. He also clarified that AI is not intended to replace human judgment, but rather to support and enhance the Agency's operational efficiency.

Board Member Iglesias informed the Board that FDOT initially established a general policy framework to set guardrails and define parameters for the use of AI tools. However, FDOT is currently evaluating which platform would be most appropriate for the agency's needs. He further noted that GMX should consider taking a similar step in its own policy development. He emphasized that platforms like ChatGPT, particularly free versions, require users to submit information into a public language model, which raises

the risk of exposing sensitive content if not handled properly. Therefore, the next logical step is to ensure that GMX's use of these tools is secure and aligned to protect the agency's interests.

Mr. Diaferia stated that among all the policies, the AI Policy stands out as a living, breathing document—likely to be revised regularly.

Members thoroughly discussed the policy.

Board member Blanco move to approve the Artificial Intelligence Policy. Board Member Iglesias seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

F) Adoption of Resolution 25-08 approving Plan of Transfer Agreement with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, N.A. f/k/a The Bank of New York, as Trustee, and authorizing the execution and delivery thereof;

Mr. Garcia informed Members that Resolution 25-08 is the approval of a Plan of Transfer Agreement with The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, formerly known as The Bank of New York, as trustee, and authorizing the execution and delivery of said agreement. The Plan of Transfer Agreement formalizes the transition of all financial obligations under the existing Amended and Restated Trust Indenture, dated June 15, 2002. This action ensures that GMX will assume full responsibility under the Trust Indenture, including the collection of revenues and the repayment of bond debt. He asked Ms. Bridgeman to address the item in further detail.

Ms. Bridgman informed members that this marks the official transition from MDX to GMX, allowing the agency to finally move forward. For several years, GMX was unable to take any action regarding the bonds, and as a result, missed out on valuable opportunities. It formally recognizes GMX as the sole entity authorized to move forward.

Chair Cancio inquired what is the amount of fees that we have to pay the trustees for our sending costs and expenses Item nine on the resolution. Ms. Bridgeman informed Members the amount is \$5,000

Board Member Blanco moved to approve resolution No. 25-08. Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

G) GMX Governing Board Annual Election of Officers

Mr. Gonzalez, GMX General Counsel informed members that pursuant to Article Three, Section 3.2 of the GMX Bylaws, the Board will now proceed with the election of officers for the following positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

- All Board Members may nominate themselves or another Board Member for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair.
- For the positions of Secretary and Treasurer, nominees do not need to be Board Members to be eligible.
- Each nomination must be seconded to be considered valid.
- Prior to voting, members will have an opportunity to speak on behalf of their own candidacy or in support of another nominee.
- No member may be elected to the same office for more than two consecutive terms, with the exception of Secretary, which has no term limit.

### **Chair**

Mr. Gonzalez opened the nominations for the office of Chair.

Chair Cancio moved to nominate Vice Chair Perez for the Position of Chair. Board Member Pidermann seconded the nomination. Mr. Gonzalez closes the nominations. Vice Chair Perez was elected Chair by majority vote.

### **Vice Chair**

Mr. Gonzalez opened the nominations for the office of Vice Chair.

Vice Chair Perez moved to nominate Treasurer Pages for the position of Vice Chair. Board member Blanco seconded the nomination. Mr. Gonzalez closes the nominations. Treasurer Pages was elected Vice Chair by majority vote.

### **Treasurer**

Mr. Gonzalez opened the nominations for the office of Treasurer.

Board member Blanco moved to nominate Chair Cancio for the position of Treasurer. Vice Chair Perez seconded the nomination. Mr. Gonzalez closes the nominations. Treasurer Pages was elected Vice Chair by majority vote.

### **Secretary**

Board Member Pidermann moved to re-elect Richard Blanco, Jr. as Secretary. Treasurer Pages seconded the motion. Mr. Gonzalez closes the nominations. Secretary Blanco was re-elected Secretary by majority vote.

## **INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Garcia reported that the GMX team remains fully engaged in delivering safe, reliable, and efficient expressway services to the public, there are no operational concerns, and all core functions continue without disruption.

Mr. Garcia reported on the following topics of interest since the last board meeting

- Miami Freedom Park - thanks in large part to FDOT's coordination efforts, a traffic model has now been developed and is currently undergoing calibration and validation. This model was submitted on June 6 to GMX, FDOT, and Miami-Dade County for review.

Chair Cancio inquired on the status of the pedestrian walkway. Mr. Diaferia informed Members that they granted the project team access to the GMX property to conduct additional surveying. One of the key concerns previously identified as a fatal flaw was any proposal that would place a structural column within the right-of-way, particularly if it would impact parking availability. Staff have made it clear that such an option would not be acceptable.

The only concept potentially acceptable would be brought to the board for review, is an aerial easement that spans over the parking lot. The proposed alignment would pass directly over the western edge of the lot, adjacent to the Sheraton garage. Under that concept, one foundation would be located near the current sidewalk on 21st Street, and the other would be positioned on the canal bank. The pedestrian walkway would then span over the parking lot without any vertical intrusion.

Members thoroughly discussed the MFP traffic and March 2026 timeline.

Mr. Garcia informed Members of the ongoing issue regarding funds owed by the County to GMX, which are tied to the sale of parcels to the Miami-Dade Aviation Department. The \$8.2 million item is currently

on the Miami-Dade County Commission agenda for the June 26th meeting. However, the second item, totaling \$5 million, has not yet been added to the agenda.

Chair Cancio inquired on the monies owed to GMX from Miami Dade County and Water & Sewer Dept. Mr. Diaferia itemized the monies owed as follows

Members were informed of the recurring issue regarding outstanding payments owed by Miami-Dade County to GMX, connected to various projects:

- \$8.2 million for Dolphin Park and Ride
- \$5 million for the Bridge Ramp D1 for 83634 Project
- \$3.1 million for Water & Sewer leak claim for 83611 Project

The \$8.2 million item is currently on the Miami-Dade County Commission agenda for the June 26th meeting. However, the \$5 million bridge-related item has not yet been added to the agenda. We are expecting an update soon to confirm whether it will be included in an upcoming meeting.

Additionally, Mr. Diaferia informed Members that a meeting with the head of Miami-Dade Water & Sewer has been requested to discuss the \$3.1 million owed.

Treasurer Pages made a motion that payment of the \$8 million is not resolved by the end of the day on June 26, then on June 27 we initiate litigation on behalf of the county for the amount owed—whatever that final amount may be. Additionally, Board Member Pidermann amended the motion to include and establish a firm deadline for the sale of the properties involved, with that deadline being no later than September 30, 2025.

Members thoroughly discussed the monies owed to GMX. The motion was unanimously approved.

During the meeting, Mr. Gonzalez, GMX General Counsel made a formal request to schedule a Shade Meeting at the next Governing Board Meeting.

Board Member Pidermann asked for an update on the Executive Director search.

Ms. Bridgeman informed Members that over 900 individuals have applied, the HR department has been vetting the applications making sure the minimum requirements are met.

Treasurer Pages provided a brief update on the Executive Director search timeline.

The open enrollment period will close on June 20. By the time the Selection Committee meets on July 21, a shortlist of the top 10 to 15 candidates will be available for evaluation.

Additionally, Treasurer Pages stated that at a future meeting, it would be valuable for the Agency to review the executive management structure. Chair Cancio recommended scheduling a workshop.

Ms. Bridgeman presented the financial report, highlighting a stable and robust financial position, with revenues increasing and expenditure decreasing. She noted this positive trend contributes to the agency's overall fiscal health.

She also referred to page two of the report, which provides a financial performance history from 2021 through 2025, offering context and comparison across recent years.

[The Financial Report is filed with the Board Secretary]



Mr. Diaferia provided an update on the SR112 Repairs Project. He reported that, comparing FY 2024 and FY 2025, revenues have increased by 2.5%. This revenue increase, excluding the effects of normal growth would allow the project to pay for itself in approximately two and a half years. Looking ahead, he emphasized that the project is expected to continue delivering financial benefits to the agency.

### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** – No Board Action Required

- A) Strategic Plan
- B) Procurement Report

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next Governing Board Meeting: August 14, 2025, at 9:00 am

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am

*Summary Minutes are prepared by MariaLuisa Navia Lobo, Board Secretary. Minutes are in summary form. For an electronic video copy of the meeting recording, please visit [www.gmx-way.com](http://www.gmx-way.com) or contact [boardsecretary@gmx-way.com](mailto:boardsecretary@gmx-way.com)*