

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

The Greater Miami Expressway Agency held a public meeting on Thursday, April 10, 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 9:00 a.m. by Chair Cancio.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board Member Pages 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 February 10, 2025**

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

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

REGULAR AGENDA

A) GMX Procurement/Contract No. RFP 25-02 Financial Auditing Services

- Approval of the Evaluation Committee's Recommendation to select and award the Financial Auditing Services Contract to the highest-ranked Proposer CBIZ CPAs P.C.

Mr. Garcia introduced the item and asked Ms. Bridgeman to provide an overview. Ms. Bridgeman explained the evaluation process and the selection of the highest-ranked proposer, CBIZ, CPAs, PC, based on their experience.

Board Member Pidermann asked if the price was considered when evaluating the proposals. Ms. Bridgeman clarified that the proposals were evaluated based on experience and professionalism criteria.

Ms. Bridgeman entertained questions from Members.

Board Member Pidermann moved to approve the evaluation committee recommendation to award the Financial Auditing Services contract to the highest ranked proposer, CBIZ CPAs, PA. Treasurer Pages seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B) GMX Procurement/Contract No. RFQ 25-05 – Miscellaneous Construction Engineering and Inspection (CE&I) Services

- Approval of the Evaluation Committee's Recommendation to select and award a Contract to the three highest-ranked Proposers

1. A2 Group, Inc.
2. Pinnacle Consulting Enterprises, Inc.
3. E Plus Engineering and Construction, LLC.

Mr. Garcia introduced the item. Mr. Diaferia provided an overview of the selection process for Miscellaneous Construction Engineering and Inspection CE&I Services. He informed members that eleven proposals were received in response to the RFQ. The Technical Evaluation Committee selected the following top three firms to provide Construction, Engineering, and Inspection Services in connection with construction projects associated with the GMX Capital Improvements Program, Transportation Improvement Program, and the Renewal and Replacement Program.

- Highest Ranked - A2 Group, Inc.
- 2nd Highest Ranked – Pinnacle Consulting Enterprises, Inc.
- 3rd Highest Ranked - E Plus Engineering and Construction, LLC

Mr. Diaferia entertained questions from Members.

Board Member Blanco moved to approve the evaluation Committee's recommendation to select and award a contract to the highest three firms.

1. A2 Group, Inc.
2. Pinnacle Consulting Enterprises, Inc.
3. E Plus Engineering and Construction, LLC.

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Traffic Management Center Co-Location (\$352,790.00)

Mr. Garcia introduced the item and asked Mr. Diaferia to give a brief history of the MOU with FDOT for the TMC co-location. Mr. Diaferia explained that the existing MOU for the co-location of GMX's Traffic Management Center (TMC) at the FDOT District 6 SunGuide Center will expire on July 1, 2025. Co-location has greatly benefited GMX travelers by providing the efficiencies of a comprehensive public safety, mobility, and travel information system. This allows GMX to detect, respond to, and clear roadway incidents more effectively.

He further explained that staff are requesting the execution of a new MOU for a ten (10) year term, beginning on July 1, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2035. Annual operations and maintenance costs will be allocated based on the proportion of office floor space occupied by each party in the TCM. The SunGuide Center has a total office floor space of 14,578 square feet. GMX currently occupies 1/8 of Room #123.

The total annual cost for the new ten-year MOU is \$352,790.00, which is \$87,869 less than the current MOU of \$440,659.00. Payments will be made annually on September 1st of each fiscal year.

Board Member Pidermann moved to approve the MOU with FDOT for the Traffic Management Center co-location. Board Member Blanco seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

D) Approval of the Individual Sale of Parcel Numbers 112, 115A-D, 119, 120, 169A&B, 193, and 216 to Proposers with the Highest Purchase Price

Mr. Garcia introduced the item and informed Members that the sale of the properties is in accordance with GMX Policy.

Mr. Diaferia gave a brief overview of the item and informed members that in March 2025, the GMX listed Parcel Numbers 112, 115A-D, 119, 120, 169A&B, 193, and 216 "For Sale" on the Miami Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service (MLS) at the GMX Listed Price equal to the Appraised Market Value as determined by an Independent Appraiser and reviewed for compliance with the Standards of Appraisal Practice by a second Independent Appraiser. He stated that bids were received at or above the appraised value for all the parcels, except for the grouping. Three of these partials were bid by the Miami Aviation Department, parcels 169, 193, and 216; the parcels were purchased for the 112-connector project, which is no longer a feasible project.

Mr. Diaferia entertained questions from Members.

Treasurer Pages move to approve the individual sale of Parcel Numbers 112, 115A-D, 119, 120, 169A&B, 193 and 216. Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

E) Executive Director Search

- Approval of Executive Director/CEO Search
- Approval of Search Committee

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

Mr. Garcia introduced the final item on the regular agenda: the approval of a national search for the position of Executive Director and CEO in accordance with the Florida Statute. He also proposed the establishment of a Search Committee as stipulated in the GMX Bylaws. The committee is to be composed of three GMX Board Members, with one member appointed to serve as Chair of the committee.

Ms. Bridgeman informed the Board of the estimated cost associated with retaining an external headhunting firm, approximately \$130,000. She noted that the search process could alternatively be conducted in-house, potentially reducing costs.

Board Member Blanco expressed his initial preference for a cost-conscious approach, noting that the previous Executive Director and CEO search had been conducted in-house successfully. He volunteered to serve on the Search Committee.

Treasurer Pagés agreed with the in-house approach and volunteered to serve on the search committee. Vice Chair Perez, participating via Zoom, expressed support for the internal search and volunteered to join the committee. Board Member Pidermann also volunteered to serve on the Search Committee.

Chair Cancio confirmed the composition of the Search Committee as follows: Treasurer Pages will serve as Chair; Vice Chair Perez and Board Member Blanco will serve as members. In addition, Board Member Pidermann will participate in the committee's activities. It was further confirmed that the Executive Director/CEO search will be a national search conducted in-house.

Treasurer Pages moved to approve the composition of the Executive Director Search Committee and confirmed that the search will be conducted in-house. Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Job description for the Executive Director position was distributed. Board member Pidermann moved to approve the document. Treasurer Pages seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Garcia reported that operations have proceeded smoothly over the past month and a half since assuming his role, with no emergencies or crises. He noted that regular internal meetings are being held with staff and that he has engaged with several of our transportation partners.

Additionally, there have been productive discussions with the Miami Freedom Park (MFP) project leadership. In response and under the direction of the Board Chair, GMX has maintained consistent communication with MFP leadership. A formal letter was sent outlining our concerns, specifically regarding site access, the traffic study, and the methodology employed.

Mr. Garcia informed members that he had a productive introductory meeting with Eileen Bouclé, Executive Director of the TPO. It was essentially a "get-to-know-you" session, and he looks forward to building on that relationship.

Mr. Garcia also participated in two monthly meetings with the other tolling authorities, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, THEA, and CFX, to discuss shared challenges and opportunities. GMX is monitoring several bills filed in Tallahassee, though none pose immediate concern.

Mr. Garcia further informed Members that GMX currently has five staff vacancies:

- Executive Director

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

- Director of Engineering and Emergency Management
- Assistant Director of Engineering
- Procurement Agent
- Operations and Maintenance Manager

Staff are working with HR and Administration to assess and prioritize the positions for recruitment.

Mr. Garcia informed members that GMX's Moody's credit rating remains stable at A3, which is a positive indicator of the agency's financial health.

Finally, regarding the Plan of Transfer Agreement and related litigation, Mr. Garcia deferred to General Counsel, Mr. Gonzalez, to provide an update.

Mr. Gonzalez informed Members that several weeks ago, the County withdrew their motion with the trial court to reconsider the ruling in GMX's favor and withdrew their appeal to the Third District Court of Appeal. Additionally, MDX Counsel withdrew their notice of appeal to the Third District. As a result, the litigation is now final and concluded in GMX's favor, with Judge Walsh's ruling remaining in place. This conclusion is expected to have a very positive impact on GMX's financial outlook and bond ratings.

Regarding the transfer agreement,

Mr. Gonzalez informed Members that bond counsel had provided the final comments which should be in final form.

Board Member Pidermann asked if all the accounts controlled by MDX had already been transferred to GMX.

Mr. Gonzalez informed members that once GMX provided official word to Bank of America that the appeals were being withdrawn, the bank scheduled a meeting with staff to begin finalizing the process of changing the accounts.

Ms. Bridgman informed Members that the plan was to establish new accounts, though some are already in place and the next step will be to transfer the funds. However, the mechanics of the bonds portion still need to be worked out.

Mr. Gonzalez entertained questions from Members.

Members thoroughly discussed the staff vacancies.

Mr. Garcia informed members that he had been in contact with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to gain insight into their activities on the DOGE front and to explore practices or strategies that might be applicable to GMX.

He further stated that staff are in the process of forming a dedicated DOGE team, which will focus on the technological aspects to identify potential improvements. The kickoff meeting is scheduled for next week and will include discussions on tolling, technology enhancements, and staffing needs. These discussions will help assess GMX's current position and determine whether any adjustments are necessary.

Mr. Garcia further informed Members that one of the key concerns raised by the Board was the slight decline in our MRP scores. He was pleased to report that despite recent changes and the Agency operating in a leaner capacity, there has been a positive shift in this metric. The current MRP score has increased to **89.5**.

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

This improvement is a testament to the focused efforts of our team; he recognized Claudio Diaferia, who played a crucial role in driving this progress through detailed analysis and targeted action.

Secretary Iglesias informed Members that, as part of the Department's broader focus on operational efficiency, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has established a Government Efficiency Task Force, a statewide initiative that includes representation from each district as well as leadership from the central office. The task force's goal is not necessarily to consider staff reductions but to identify operational efficiencies within the agency. Specifically, it evaluates how technological innovations and existing processes can be streamlined or refined. The task force is reviewing several ideas and proposals aimed at optimizing FDOT's operations. He further stated that the Board should consider the Agency's operational efficiency and evaluate whether staff reductions might be appropriate.

Chair Cancio addressed the issue of outstanding funds owed by Miami-Dade County and emphasized that GMX should receive payment before proceeding with the approval of sale contracts for Parcels 216, 193, and 169 A & B.

Treasurer Pages proposed a motion stating that GMX should not proceed with any property transactions involving Miami-Dade County unless a minimum payment of \$5 million and the outstanding amount of \$8.5 million are received. Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

Treasurer Pages requested an update on the SR836 Miami River Bridge.

Mr. Diaferia informed members that they had encountered ongoing challenges with the current contractor and design team regarding the fender system for the Miami River Bridge, specifically on the 83611 project. As per the agreements with the U.S. Coast Guard and the Miami River Commission, we are required to perform a replacement in kind —meaning the new fender system must match the existing dimensions exactly. However, it must also meet significantly higher strength and capacity requirements.

Despite multiple iterations and discussions, the contractor's design team has been unable to develop a viable solution that satisfies both the dimensional constraints and the necessary structural enhancements.

Staff have identified another vendor who appears capable of delivering a design that meets all criteria.

He further stated that although the original schedule aimed for construction to begin this summer, the design delays now push the projected start to fall of this year. However, it's important to note that the fender system installation was always intended to occur toward the end of the project timeline, so this adjustment keeps us ahead of that contractual milestone.

Chair Cancio recommended scheduling a Budget Workshop to discuss the Budget and Work program in May 2025

Treasurer pages moved to schedule a Budget Workshop in May 2025. Board Member Pidermann seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:00 AM**

Ms. Bridgeman presents the treasurer's report, highlighting the financial stability and robustness of the organization.

[a copy of the Treasurers report is filed with the Board Secretary]

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS – No Board Action Required

A) Procurement Report

B) MFP Update

Mr. Diaferia provided the Miami Freedom Park update, mentioning progress after a series of meetings with leadership.

Secretary Iglesias stated that FDOT has taken the lead in coordinating workshops to address traffic modeling issues with all Agencies involved.

C) CITT Presentation

Mr. Javier Betancourt, Executive Director of the Citizens' Independent Transportation Trust presented the Peoples Transportation Plan to the GMX Board.

[a copy of the presentation is filed with the Board Secretary]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Governing Board Meeting: June 9th, 2025, at 9:00 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 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 or contact boardsecretary@gmx-way.com