

MPO
Newsletter/Action Sheet
April 8, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Kennedy conducted the invocation and led the Pledge for the MPO.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens who came forward to be heard.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The MPO approved the consent agenda, which included the March 11, 2015 MPO meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale-Oliver and Associates, Laughlin and Associates, MPO share of copier with the Pinellas Planning Council, TBARTA invoices for CCC services, and the April risk allocation (included in member folders); and the appointment of Danny Gorman as a citizen representative on the Local Coordinating Board.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

A. Proposed Amendments to the MPO's Bike/Pedestrian Plan

Following a brief presentation by the MPO staff and public hearing, the MPO approved the amendments to its Bike/Pedestrian Plan by roll call vote. The amendments include:

- **Oldsmar**
Addition of planned overpass at State Road 580 and St. Petersburg Drive; removal of a planned trail from Sheffield Park to Curlew Road; and removal of Forest Lakes Trail from the Pinellas/Hillsborough County Line to Pine Avenue.
- **Pinellas County (Unincorporated)**
Addition of Joe's Creek Trail from 34th Street to 54th Avenue North.
- **St. Petersburg**
Addition of bike lanes on 9th Avenue North from 66th Street to 58th Street; addition of bike or shared use lanes on Central Avenue from 34th Street to Park Street; and addition of bike or shared use lanes on 22nd Avenue South from 37th Street to 49th Street.

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. Review of Economic Development Symposium (Presentation)

The MPO received a presentation from Mike Meidel, the Director of Pinellas County's Economic Development Department.

B. Florida Transportation Plan/Strategic Intermodal System Update (Presentation)

The MPO received a presentation from FDOT on the update of the Florida Transportation Plan and Strategic Intermodal System.

C. Express Bus/Tampa Bay Express (Presentation)

Following a presentation by FDOT staff and Scott Pringle, FDOT/Hillsborough MPO consultant, regarding the Express Bus and Tampa Bay Express Studies, the MPO approved a motion to send a letter from the Chairman to FDOT requesting FDOT to reassess the traffic forecast for I-275 in St. Petersburg without the inclusion of the Greenlight Pinellas program. The board expressed strong support for express lanes to downtown St. Petersburg, noting that the Gateway area and downtown St. Petersburg are two of the County's largest activity centers and there is need for congestion relief from both Gateway and downtown St. Petersburg to Hillsborough County. The current plans calls for the express lanes to end at Gateway. The board cited information about projected population growth and the difficulty economic development officials face in attracting corporate headquarters and other major employers to relocate to the area due to traffic congestion on the Interstate System.

D. Policy on Priority List of Transportation Projects for State and Federal Funding (Action)

By consensus, the MPO tabled discussion on the priority list of transportation projects for state and federal funding until after the Board Workshop tentatively scheduled for September.

By consensus, the MPO tabled the TCC recommendation to form a subcommittee until after the Board Workshop. The MPO directed its staff to provide further information regarding the potential impacts to road projects in the Five Year Work Program and the long range plan if the MPO were to allocate STP funds to multimodal projects (e.g. transit and bike/ped). The board expressed a desire to look at all the revenue sources available for transportation projects. The board also asked how long the various roadway projects have been on the priority list. Staff agreed to provide the requested information prior to the workshop.

E. Prioritization of Roadway Projects – Follow-Up

MPO staff provided follow-up information regarding Gandy Boulevard and U.S. 19. In addition to crash rate data, the MPO directed staff to include the number of fatalities for those segments of Gandy Boulevard and U.S. 19 and to provide information about how long the projects have been on the priority list.

F. Transportation Alternatives Program Priority List (Review and Comment/Action)

The MPO approved CAC Motion #15-1 to establish a reasonable deadline for completion of the TA project applications.

G. Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendation (Action)

The MPO approved CAC Motion #15-2 that the MPO send a letter to the Legislature in support of revenues for trails as part of Constitutional Amendment 1 and support of funding for multi-modal projects under the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century legislation reauthorization.

VII. REPORTS/UPDATES

A. Legislative Report

A legislative report was provided in the agenda packet.

B. PSTA Activities Report

Mayor Bujalski provided a brief report on PSTA activities and asked the PSTA CEO to email a one-page summary to the MPO members.

C. Director's Report

The MPO Executive Director provided a report on the recent MPOAC meeting in Tallahassee and the meetings with Senator Latvala and Senator Lee's aide regarding the regional priorities. It was announced that Jeff Kramer was hired as the new MPOAC Executive Director upon the retirement of Howard Glassman at the end of May. It was announced that the next round of TIGER grant applications were being accepted and that the County's lobbyist is arranging a trip to Washington DC with the County and MPO to discuss the Duke Energy Trail completion. The MPO staff is working with Commissioner Kennedy to identify resources for the beach communities. The MPO appointed Councilmember Darden Rice to the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force. A North County appointment for the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force will occur at the May MPO meeting.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the Citizens Advisory and Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committees.

B. Correspondence

C. Other

The MPO asked that staff obtain copies of traffic count maps or other traffic data from both the Hillsborough and Pasco MPOs.