

MPO
Newsletter/Action Sheet
May 13, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilmember Rice 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 April 8, 2015 MPO meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale-Oliver and Associates, PSTA, and the May risk allocation; certification statement; and the appointments of Tammy Vrana as an At Large representative and the reappointment of Neil McMullen as a Clearwater representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee, Michael Hill as the Veterans Services representative on the Local Coordinating Board, and Commissioner John Tornga as an MPO board representative on the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force.

V. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. Hillsborough County Ferry Study (Presentation)

Following a presentation by Ed Turanchik and discussion by board members, the MPO directed staff to work with Mr. Turanchik to bring back additional information regarding potential ferry connections to Pinellas County's coastal communities. The board requested that consideration be given to how ferry service could fit into the overall transportation plan for Pinellas County, considering all aspects of transportation and potential impacts to other projects. In addition, the MPO asked Mr. Turanchik to work with the MPO staff, PSTA, the BIG-C, and other entities including beach hotels, as appropriate. Board members also asked about MacDill employees who live in Pinellas County and other employment-related travel between Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. Mr. Turanchik indicated that he did not have that type of origin and destination data and that the MPOs and FDOT would be better sources. Mr. Turanchik only had data on Hillsborough County residents who commute to MacDill.

B. San Martin Boulevard Over Riviera Bay Bridge Project Development and Environmental (PD&E) Study (Presentation)

Following a presentation by Marlin Register, HDR consultant, the MPO suggested that there be consideration of sea level rise and the width of the bridge to allow for better tidal flow. The board also emphasized the need to ensure the community is aware of potential impacts associated with the higher level bridge options. The MPO requested they be apprised of changes to the scheduled public meeting date, tentatively scheduled for June 29.

C. TBARTA Master Plan Update (Presentation)

The MPO received a presentation by Ray Chiamonte, TBARTA Executive Director. Following the presentation, the MPO asked that he bring to the TBARTA Board the desire for express lanes on I-275 into downtown St. Petersburg. Mr. Chiamonte indicated this could be brought forward at the Chairs Coordinating Committee public hearing at their meeting on Friday.

In response to board members questions about the Gateway Express Project, FDOT provided brief information and the MPO staff agreed to provide a link to the video.

D. Partnerships to Improve Community Health Grant Agreement (Action)

Following a brief overview by MPO staff, the MPO approved the Community Health Grant Agreement.

E. Support of TIGER VII Grant Applications (Action)

1. Pinellas County Trail (Duke Energy) Loop Completion

The MPO approved their resolution of support for the TIGER application for the Pinellas Trail Loop completion.

2. HART – Regional Fare Collection

Following an in depth discussion, the MPO voiced their support but did not take action to approve a letter of support for the TIGER application for the HART regional fare collection. The MPO noted that regional fare collection system is a good project but, in light of the fact that the Trail Loop received a highly recommended rating during the last TIGER grant submittal, the board felt it should put its support behind that project only. In response to questions about the emphasis areas for TIGER VII grants, MPO staff agreed to forward the notice of funding availability information.

F. Transportation Alternatives Program – Project Ranking Criteria and Completion of Current Applications (Follow-UP and Action)

The MPO approved the Technical Coordinating Committee recommendations to set a May 31 deadline for completion of outstanding TA Program applications, allowing additional time for jurisdictions continuing to work with FDOT in good faith to provide the required documentation; ranking of the 2014 TA Program applications when the next group of applications are reviewed and evaluated by the MPO advisory committees (none of the 2014 projects shall be ranked ahead of those with applications submitted in prior years); and not allow the substitution of TA Program priority projects by sponsoring jurisdictions for completion of the TA project applications.

VI. REPORTS/UPDATES

A. Legislative Report

The legislative session will reconvene in June. MPO staff agreed to forward an email from Senator Nelson's office with a letter attached that supports bicycle and pedestrian projects as part of the Reauthorization Bill. The MPO requested the letter be included in the TIGER VII grant submittal package for the Pinellas Trail loop completion, if appropriate.

B. PSTA Activities Report

Brad Miller, PSTA CEO, indicated the PSTA revised the request to the MPO seeking Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.

C. Director's Report

The MPO Executive Director indicated the MPO staff is working on the earlier request by the MPO for data on traffic counts for Hillsborough and Pasco Counties and that the August MPO meeting will be cancelled.

Chairman Kennedy announced the scheduled MPO Board workshop for Monday, September 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with the new Executive Director.

VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

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

B. Correspondence

C. Other

The MPO congratulated the Tampa Bay Lightning Team on their win.