

**MPO**  
**Newsletter/Action Sheet**  
**September 9, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito 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 July 8, 2015 MPO meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale-Oliver and Associates, URS, PSTA, and the August and September risk allocations; amendments to various agreements (JARC – WorkNet Pinellas, New Freedom – Neighborly Care Network and Quality of Life Community Services, Inc., Section 5320 – Pinellas County, TBARTA – Section 5309, Section 5312, Section 5307); Surface Transportation Program supplemental agreement; renewal Option No. 1 for audit firm of Cherry Bekaert; Level of Service Report; Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan; and appointments of Rafael Cieslak with an alternate of Chuck Mura for Largo Engineering and Frances Leong with an alternate of Robert Klute for Largo Community Development on the Technical Coordinating Committee.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**A. Proposed Amendment to the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan**

Following the MPO staff presentation and public hearing, the MPO approved the amendment to the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan to add a planned community trail on Michigan Boulevard in Dunedin from the Pinellas Trail to the Dunedin Community Center, eastward to County Road 1 (by roll call vote).

**VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Commissioner Jim Sebesta, Florida Transportation Commission – Remarks**

This item was deferred until Commissioner Jim Sebesta could be in attendance.

**B. Overview and Approval of September 21, 2015 Workshop Agenda – Action**

Following the staff presentation, the MPO approved the workshop agenda. Board members identified others items, among them the MPO's role in public transportation and items from the City of Clearwater, they would like to discuss. Staff indicated that a second workshop is anticipated followed by a workshop between the MPO and PSTA boards, during which the other items will be addressed.

**C. U.S. 19 Corridor – Conditions, Trends, and Planning Activities – Information**

The MPO staff presented background information on the U.S. 19 corridor that will be discussed more in depth at the September 21, 2015 workshop.

**D. Overview of Transportation Funding sources to the MPO – Information**

The MPO staff presented an overview of the various revenue sources, including the Surface Transportation and Transportation Alternatives Programs, which will be discussed more in depth at the September 21, 2015 workshop. The MPO requested a one-page summary of the revenue sources that would include who can access the funds, who sets the priorities, and who determines the projects that receive funding (how, when, and where).

**E. BPAC Recommendations – Action**

• **Honeymoon Island State Park/Bike Pedestrian Facilities**

The MPO approved the BPAC recommendation to ask Senator Jack Latvala to provide assistance in procuring funding to be used to design and construct bicycle/pedestrian accommodations within Honeymoon Island State Park.

• **Safety Signage on School Buses**

Following an in depth discussion regarding the BPAC recommendation to request the Pinellas County School District to consider placing electronic message signs on the exterior of school buses that display safety information aimed at increasing motorist compliance, the MPO tabled any additional discussion. Several board members expressed a need for additional information but ultimately decided the matter did not warrant the allocation of additional staff resources. The item was tabled with no requirement for follow-up action.

**VII. REPORTS/UPDATES**

**A. PSTA Activities Report**

Cassandra Borchers, PSTA, reported on the budget and fare structure public hearings and the joint HART and PSTA Executive Committee meeting.

**B. Executive Director Report**

Whit Blanton reported that staff is working on a streamlined approach for the Board's operating procedures that will be on the October agenda and, in addition, staff is working on streamlining office procedures. He provided a report on a meeting with the Gateway business community leaders held August 26, noting he will continue to be involved in the discussions to look at transportation and community connectivity.

**VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Downtown Palm Harbor Workshop – Update**

The downtown Palm Harbor workshop has been rescheduled to September 29 at 6:30 p.m.

**B. MPOAC Meeting of July 23, 2015**

A brief summary of the July 23, 2015 MPOAC meeting was provided, with Whit Blanton indicating he was appointed to assist with the Strategic Plan for the MPOAC.

**C. July 10, 2015 Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Meeting and Joint Meeting With the Central Florida MPO Alliance**

A brief summary of the July 10, 2015 meetings was provided, noting Councilmember Hock-DiPolito was appointed as the CCC's representative on the TBARTA Board.

**D. Committee Vacancies**

There are vacancies on the CAC and BPAC.

**E. Correspondence**

The MPO staff reported on the letter from the City of Dunedin to FDOT requesting the PD&E study for Alternate 19 in north Pinellas County be moved up. Staff reported that FDOT will advance that study as well as the study planned for the southern segment of Alternate 19.

**F. Other**

The MPO asked staff to provide data on the nature of crashes on U.S. 19 at the intersections with Curlew Road and Tampa Road to determine short-term strategies or solutions to help reduce crashes. MPO staff agreed and noted that a presentation on the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan would be provided at a future meeting that identifies ongoing efforts to address pedestrian safety.

FDOT reported that the I-275 PD&E study public hearing will be held in Pinellas County on September 29 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in St. Petersburg.

The MPO received a summary of the September 4 Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group meeting and the actions that were taken. It was indicated the Leadership Group will participate in the Florida Transportation Commission meeting to be held in St. Petersburg on October 28 and 29; each MPO approved the TMA Priority Lists; the Leadership Group agreed to develop a legislative agenda to help advance the TMA priorities. Following a CSX presentation; the Leadership Group asked that a special meeting to discuss in depth the potential to purchase the Pinellas and Brooksville corridors be held in late September or early October. The Leadership Group also received an update on the Coast to Coast Trail and information on the SUNTrail gaps.

The MPO members asked that the September 21 workshop include all the necessary backup information to assist them in developing strategies.