



**MPO**  
**Newsletter/Action Sheet**  
**October 14, 2015**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Merz 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 September 9, 2015 meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale-Oliver and Associates, URS, TBARTA (for CCC services, including two additional invoices in folders), MPO share of copier with the PPC, the October risk allocation, and Laughlin and Associates (MPO independent accountant invoice in folders); funds for MPOAC activities for FY 2015/16; Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan amendment; Unified Planning Work Program amendments; Partnerships to Improve Community Health (Health Department) Grant (final agreement in folders); Section 5305(d) JPA with FDOT and Section 5305(d) JPA with PSTA; and appointments of Michelle Orton as Tarpon Springs' representative with an alternate of Heather Urwiller and Brent Hall as Pinellas County Engineering representative with an alternate of Greg Cutrone to the Technical Coordinating Committee and Jake Stowers as an At Large representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

**V. RECOGNITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Community Planning Month – Proclamation**

Following a brief description of Community Planning Month by the Executive Director, the MPO approved the proclamation declaring October as Community Planning Month. The Director also provided a copy of *Start-Up City* by Gabe Klein to each board member. The MPO recognized international representatives of emerging democracies from Cambodia and Thailand and their host, who are taking part in the International City/County Management Association's International Ambassadors program.

**B. Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week – Proclamation**

Following a brief overview, the MPO approved the proclamation declaring October 26 thru October 30 as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week.

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

**A. PSTA – Update**

Mayor Bujalski, as the PSTA representative, provided an update on the PSTA and HART coordination activities and emphasized the importance of having a unified voice for legislative priorities to benefit the region. She also discussed the importance of evaluating the CSX rail line purchase opportunity from a technical transit perspective, as well as economic development. PSTA staff answered several questions from board members concerning the top legislative priorities for transit.

**B. Pinellas Trail Survey – Presentation and Action**

Following the staff presentation, the MPO approved the 2014 Pinellas Trail Users Survey Report.

Related comments from members included information that the TIGER grant project awards will be announced before the end of October, discussion of a countywide bike share program, and a request that staff look at the use of surveys for the planned beach access study.

**C. Follow-Up From September 21, 2015 Board Workshop – Update**

The MPO staff provided a summary of the September 21, 2015 board workshop, noting that several follow-up work products will be on future agendas for the board's direction.

**D. Alternate 19 Workshop – Update**

The MPO staff and Commissioner Eggers provided an update on the September 29 Alternate U.S. 19 workshop. It was indicated another workshop will be scheduled sometime in December.

**E. U.S. 19 Corridor Study – Update and Crash Analysis**

The MPO staff provided an update on the initial findings from the corridor study including preliminary crash data analysis. The next phase of the study will provide more in depth crash analysis and that information will be brought back to the MPO at a future meeting.

**VII. PPC/MPO JOINT ITEMS FOR APPROVAL**

**A. Internal Control Procedures Manual – Action**

Following a brief summary, the MPO/PPC approved the Internal Control Procedures Manual as verbally amended, which included:

- Concerns regarding the delegation of check signing during the Executive Director's absence (page 3). Such authority should be limited
- A reduction in the dollar amount from \$50,000 to \$25,000 for items the Executive Director may approve without Board action
- Modification of language on page 9 to ensure the board is made aware of Interlocal Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding for technical assistance to local governments.

**VIII. REPORTS/UPDATES**

**A. Executive Director Report**

Whit Blanton reported on a response letter from the Chairman to a recent "Tampa Bay Times" editorial on a lack of leadership in the region. The "Times" requires response letters to be no more than 300 words to be printed in the paper. As such, a shortened version has been drafted. The longer version will be placed on the website, distributed via Facebook, and distributed to other identified recipients. Mr. Blanton reported on the upcoming November 6 Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group meeting that will focus on the possibility of purchasing the CSX rail line that goes to Brooksville and through Pinellas County. He provided information from SunRail officials regarding the rail project in the Orlando area. He announced the establishment of a Nominating Committee at the November meeting, which will be held on November 18 because the MPO's regular meeting date is Veterans Day.

**IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Committee Vacancies**

There are vacancies on the CAC and BPAC. Following a request by the board to look at elected officials serving on the BPAC or CAC, the MPO staff requested the opportunity to discuss and bring back a recommendation at the next MPO meeting.

**B. Correspondence**

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

**C. Other**

There was no other business.