

MPO
Newsletter/Action Sheet
November 18, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Tornnga 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 October 14, 2015 meeting minutes; agreement with TBARTA for CCC services (amendment No. 3), and appointments of Anthony Matonti as the TBARTA representative with alternates of Michael Case and Ramond Chiamonte, Spencer Curtis as the County Parks and Conservation Resources alternate on the BPAC, Anthony Matonti as the TBARTA representative with alternates of Michael Case and Ramond Chiamonte, and Michael Schoderbock as the Safety Harbor representative with an alternate of Marcie Stenmark on the TCC.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Proposed Amendments to the FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 Transportation Improvement Program

Following a brief description and public hearing, the MPO approved the four TIP amendments by roll call vote. The TIP amendments include a bus and bus facilities Section 5339 Program for Pasco County Public Transportation, Dunedin Causeway Bridge replacement study, San Martin Bridge replacement study, and Courtney Campbell Trail pedestrian overpass feasibility study.

B. Fall Update of the FY 2015/16 Through 2019/20 Transportation Improvement Program

Following a summary and public hearing, the MPO approved the fall update of the FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 TIP by roll call vote.

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. I-275 Project Development and Environment Study – Update

FDOT presented the I-275 Project Development and Environment Study for the segment from 54th Avenue South to north of 4th Street, including a summary of the public comments received.

B. FDOT Tentative Work Program – Comment and Action

Following an FDOT presentation of their Tentative Work Program, the board asked for information regarding the Tierra Verde bridge design-build project, interim safety options for U.S. 19 at Tampa Road to help alleviate crashes, and completion date for the Ulmerton Road improvements. Following board comment, the MPO approved the FDOT Tentative Work Program.

C. PSTA – Update

Councilmember Rice, on behalf of the PSTA, provided an update on recent PSTA activities, noting PSTA set record ridership for 2015. She also provided information on PSTA's Lo-No grant application, the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, and the downtown St. Petersburg route changes that become effective February 14, 2016. Councilmember Rice reported that PSTA will host the next Transportation Management Area Leadership Group meeting on December 11 at 9:00 a.m., and a PSTA/MPO joint meeting will be held on January 22 at 9:00 a.m.

D. Letters of Support for PSTA – Action

The MPO approved letters of support for PSTA's Lo-No grant application and the Central Avenue BRT request to the Federal Transit Administration to enter into project development.

E. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Modification – Transit Vision Map – Action

The MPO approved the modification to the LRTP for the transit vision map to add the alignment for the Central Avenue BRT project to connect to St. Pete Beach, include the regional express routes and location of park-and-ride lots. Staff indicated that an amendment to the LRTP and TIP will be necessary at a future date if PSTA receives funding for the Central Avenue BRT.

F. Downtown St. Petersburg Transit System Redesign – Information

Following a PSTA presentation, the MPO approved a letter of support for PSTA's redesign of bus service in the St. Petersburg downtown area from a hub-and-spoke system to a grid system that will begin February 14, 2016 and eliminates the transfer station at Williams Park, which allows Williams Park to be used for City events.

G. Committee Recommendations

1. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) – Status

• **Elfer's Spur Erosion Status Update**

MPO staff presented the status of the Elfer's Spur and the alternatives under consideration, working with Pinellas County and the city of Tarpon Springs.

2. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) – Status

• **Proposed Road Narrowing and Bicycle Lane Widening of Gulf Boulevard**

In response to the CAC recommendation, FDOT staff provided information on the status of the improvements underway for Gulf Boulevard in St. Pete Beach. Noting that the MPO is setting up a meeting to discuss beach access with its partners, FDOT staff indicated that they prefer to wait until after the meeting before providing a response back to the CAC. FDOT staff indicated that they are planning to conduct a comprehensive study of Gulf Boulevard since there are other areas that communities have asked be addressed. A follow-up report will be provided at a future meeting.

VII. PPC/MPO JOINT ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

A. Establishment of Nominating Committee for 2016 Election of Officers – Action

The MPO appointed Commissioner Karen Seel, Councilmember Darden Rice, and Commissioner John Tornga to the Nominating Committee and announced they would meet immediately after the PPC meeting adjourns.

VIII. REPORTS/UPDATES

A. Executive Director Report

Whit Blanton reported on a BPAC subcommittee that is looking at a countywide bike share program, noting that preliminary recommendations will be brought to the MPO next year. He announced that the next board workshop is December 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the County's Extension building and the PSTA/MPO joint meeting is January 22, 2016 at the PSTA building that will include FDOT. Staff plans to bring back an amendment to the CAC bylaws that elected officials shall not serve. Mr. Blanton reported there have been weekly MPO blogs and he encouraged any board member to contact him if they were interested in writing a blog. He provided information regarding the Transportation Leadership Academy and agreed to forward information to the board members. Regarding a countywide bike share program, it was suggested all 24 municipalities request a presentation on the bike share program, staff was asked to look into grant programs such as through US EPA and look for resources for start-up capital costs for the bikes for a countywide bike program. Staff will look at other programs such as Broward County and will encourage the chambers of commerce and other private entities to assist with funding a bike share program for a regional approach.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Tampa Bay TMA Meeting of November 6, 2015

Whit and the three board members who attended the recent TMA meeting provided highlights of that meeting, noting there is a special meeting set for December 11 at the PSTA building for further discussions of the two CSX rail lines. FDOT and the MPOs agreed to look at the possibility of being able to fund a system locally without federal funds and the use of federal funds when necessary.

B. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Meeting of November 13, 2015

Ray Chiaramonte, TBARTA, provided a brief summary of the recent CCC meeting, highlighting the proposed legislation to add FDOT District 1, incorporation of the CCC into TBARTA and the proposed name change, change the cycle for TBARTA's Master Plan from every two years to every five years to match the MPOs' LRTP cycle.

C. Alternate U.S. 19 Workshop Follow-Up

The next workshop for Alternate U.S. 19 in the Palm Harbor area is December 8 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Palm Harbor University High School to discuss residents' comments.

D. Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the CAC and BPAC.

E. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

F. Other

Commissioner Kennedy reported on three meetings she recently attended: a symposium in Ft Myers that included complete streets, a workshop at USF regarding a connection between cancer research and small businesses, and St. Pete Beach last week.

Commissioner Merz provided additional information on the workshops held at USF and indicated he would forward future announcements to the board members.