

MPO
Newsletter/Action Sheet
February 10, 2016

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 January 13, 2016 meeting minutes, Gannett Fleming invoice, CAC bylaws modification, and appointments of Mimi Jefferson as an education representative on the LCB and Karen Cunningham as a Clearwater representative on the CAC.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

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

Following an FDOT review and public hearing, the MPO approved the TIP amendments for a Bus Facilities Section 5337 Program Grant and intersection improvements on S.R. 686/Roosevelt Boulevard at Lake Carillon Drive by roll call vote.

B. Amendment to the Surface Transportation Program Project Priorities List

Following an MPO staff review and public hearing, the MPO approved the STP Priority List amendment to add the I-175/4th Street interchange to the bottom of the list by roll call vote.

C. Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

Following an MPO staff review and public hearing, the MPO approved the LRTP amendment to add the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project by roll call vote.

D. Public Participation Plan Update – Action

Following an MPO staff review and public hearing, the MPO approved the amended Public Participation Plan. MPO staff indicated a potential change to the appointment process for Citizens Advisory Committee members will be coming forward in the future.

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. FY 2014/15 MPO Audit – Action

Representatives of Cherry Bekaert, the MPO auditors, presented the FY 2014/15 MPO audit. The auditors reported that they will be modifying the report regarding the amount due to the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) based on recent communications with the PPC's accountant. The final audit report will come back to the MPO at their March meeting for action.

B. Bike Share Feasibility Study – Action

MPO staff provided an overview of the Bike Share Feasibility Study. After a lengthy discussion, the MPO directed staff to move forward as quickly as possible with an action plan as outlined in the report's recommendations. The recommendations include advanced feasibility planning (e.g. engaging potential sponsors, continuing to monitor the launch of St. Petersburg's bike share system, outreach to local governments, etc). Board members indicated their preference for a countywide approach with an initial focus on the gulf beaches, areas adjacent to the trail such as downtown Clearwater, areas that have parking issues, etc.

C. Committee Recommendations

1. Courtney Campbell Trail Amenities (BPAC) – Action

The MPO deferred action on the BPAC recommendation to request that the MPO recommend the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners provide funding for amenities along Pinellas County's portion of the Courtney Campbell Trail.

2. Safety Improvements to Rosery Road in Largo (BPAC) – Action

The MPO approved the BPAC recommendation to send a letter to the City of Largo thanking them for their efforts to improve vulnerable user safety along Rosery Road and Missouri Avenue.

3. Staffing Needs for Pinellas Trail User Safety and Security (PTSTF) – Deferral

The MPO deferred action on the PTSTF recommendation regarding staffing needs for the Pinellas Trail.

D. Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Meeting of February 5, 2016

The MPO staff provided a summary of the February 5 TMA Leadership Group meeting.

E. Vision Zero – Presentation

Julie Bond, Program Director of Bike/Walk Tampa Bay and senior research associate with the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) at the University of South Florida, provided an overview of Vision Zero and the efforts of Bike/Walk Tampa Bay to create a safer transportation network for all users.

F. SPOTlight Update

1. Gateway – Update

MPO staff provided an update on the Gateway emphasis area.

2. U.S. 19 – Update

MPO staff provided an update on the U.S. 19 emphasis area including a recent meeting with FDOT staff. Staff reported that, as a result of the current pedestrian transit access study, FDOT is incorporating safety measures into the design of the interchanges at Curlew and Tampa Roads and has identified pedestrian crossing improvements for U.S. 19 and Harn Boulevard. A follow-up presentation on the current initiatives will be provided to the MPO at a later meeting. Staff indicated that FDOT was asked to delay the design work for the next two intersections on U.S. 19 to allow the MPO and local governments to complete a land use plan and a vision for the corridor, including re-evaluating the projected travel demand. Staff also requested that FDOT include Value Engineering in the assessment of interchange needs, and will follow up with a written request to the Department.

3. Beach Access – Update

MPO staff provided an update on the beach access emphasis area.

MPO staff indicated the three listening sessions are scheduled for March 23, April 11, and May 16 and asked whether the board desired to hold separate listening sessions for the northern and southern sections of U.S. 19 on the same day or two different days. Based on the discussion and noting that March 23 is during spring break, the board asked staff to look at a different date but felt that the two listening sessions for U.S. 19 should be on the same day.

G. PSTA – Update

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Mayor Bujalski as the PSTA representative indicated she will email her update to the staff for forwarding to the board members.

VII. REPORTS/UPDATES

A. Director's Report

The MPO Executive Director provided information on items of interest to the MPO. He noted the joint MPO/PSTA workshop was a good starting point to begin discussions of how the agencies might enhance their coordination. A follow-up workshop is scheduled for July 29. Mr. Blanton reported that staff attended a Greenways and Trails Foundation meeting last week in Tampa and that Pinellas County won an award for its leadership in trail planning activities. A meeting of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council will be held in Gainesville to discuss the SUNtrail funding on February 29. Sarah Ward and other MPO staff from this area will attend that meeting. The Greenways and Trails Council will make a decision as to funding the next round of projects in March. Pinellas County projects included on the Greenways map from which projects will be selected include the Pinellas Trail Loop and the S.R. 60 overpass. Mr. Blanton also reported that Chairman Kennedy and Commissioner Cookie Kennedy signed a letter to Senator Nelson to highlight beach community access needs and the Vision Zero concept. He will email the letter to the board members.

B. Legislative Update

Other than the report on communications with Senator Nelson, there were no additional legislative matters.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

There is a beach vacancy on the BPAC.

B. Correspondence

C. Other