

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2012**

The Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, created by the State of Florida in accordance with Title 23 United States Code, Section 134 and Chapter 339.175 Florida Statutes, met in regular session on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Eggers – *Chairman* – Mayor, City of Dunedin Commission
Karen Seel – *Vice Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners (arrived at 1:06 p.m.)
Jeff Danner – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council
Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Neil Brickfield – Board of County Commissioners
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Harriet Crozier – Commissioner, City of Largo
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – Councilmember, City of Clearwater
Jim Kennedy – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council (arrived at 1:05 p.m.)
Jim Ronecker – Mayor, City of Oldsmar representing Oldsmar/Safety Harbor/Tarpon Springs
Ken Welch – Board of County Commissioners
Don Skelton, ex officio – Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
Ming Gao – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Lee Royal – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Heather Sobush – Pinellas County MPO
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
David M. Chase – City of Pinellas Park
George Kinney – City of St. Pete Beach
Dennis Hinebaugh – CUTR
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater
Smith Howard – Citizen
Vivian Peters – TAC
Jim Green – CareRiden
Jim Harpham – Dunedin Resident
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Welch performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Upon call for public comment, no citizens came forward.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of September 12 , 2012
- B. Approval of Invoices – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
- C. Approval of Committee Appointments

Councilman Danner moved, Mayor Ronecker seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Vote 11-0), which includes the September 12, 2012 MPO meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale-Oliver and Associates; and appointments of R. Lee Allen as a St. Petersburg representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee and Vivian Peters as an Over 60 Citizen representative on the Local Coordinating Board.

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Lee Royal, FDOT, reviewed the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment, which will add \$4,299 of federal funds for the environmental phase for the design of the Courtney Campbell Trail project. There would not be an impact to other projects.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward to speak.

Councilman Kennedy arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendment by roll call vote (Vote 10-0).

B. Pinellas Trailways Plan Amendments – Bicycle Advisory Committee Recommendation

Al Bartolotta reviewed the proposed amendments that have been reviewed and recommended for approval by the Bicycle Advisory Committee. These amendments are house-keeping in nature:

- Change of name from Clearwater Beach/Memorial Causeway Path to Clearwater Beach Connector Trail
- Change of name from Clearwater Beach Trail to Clearwater Beach Walk
- Change of color to green for the North Bay Trail
- Change of color to green for Downtown St. Petersburg Trail
- Change of color to green for the Pinellas Trail east of 34th Street
- Change of name from 62nd Avenue NE Trail to Island Loop Trail and extend the alignment for the loop
- Change of name from Booker Creek Trail to Historic Booker Creek Trail and modify the limits to extend a connection to the proposed Downtown Trail
- Merge specific sections of the trails on the Trailways Plan to be consistent with the City (St. Petersburg) Trails Master Plan for the Skyway Trail
- Removal of 37th Street Trail from the Trailways Plan
- Removal of Lake Maggiore Trail from the Trailways Plan
- Change of name from Courtney Campbell Recreation Trail to Courtney Campbell Trail
- Removal of bike path description for Gulf Beaches Bike Path to Gulf Beaches Bikeway; and
- Update the Pinellas Trailways Plan legend to indicate all segments of the Pinellas Trail Loop

During Mr. Bartolotta's review, Commissioner Seel arrived at 1:06 p.m.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward to speak.

Commissioner Welch moved and Councilman Kennedy seconded a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Pinellas Trailways Plan.

Upon query by Commissioner Welch, Mr. Bartolotta responded the City requested the removal of Lake Maggiore Trail because the plan is to install a sidewalk all the way around the lake.

Commissioner Brickfield asked about the name change for the Courtney Campbell Causeway since there had been earlier discussions to change the name to the Dolphin Trail. Ms. Ward responded that the Bicycle Committee's intent for the name change is to shorten the name and to recognize the corridor as a transportation alternative and not just for recreation. There are still ongoing discussions regarding the Dolphin Trail name since staff has not received clear indication as to who has the authority to make that name change.

The MPO asked Bill Jonson to come forward to speak on this matter. Mr. Jonson indicated, according to FDOT, there are two ways to designate a name for a Trail either through legislative action or concurrence by the governing organizations that have jurisdiction. The Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Highway Committee, which is part of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, proposed the name be shorted to the Courtney Campbell Trail. Their intent was to review the name change with Hillsborough, Tampa, and Clearwater prior to the MPO taking action.

The motion for approval was approved by roll call vote (Vote 11-0).

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Regional Transportation Priority List

Ms. Ward indicated the priority list had been previously reviewed with the MPO at their July and September meetings. The MPOs are in the process of developing a ranked list of priorities to respond to comments by FDOT as part of the recertification process. The MPO previously provided comment and this list has been reviewed by the Citizens and Technical Committees, which recommended approval. This list was reviewed by the MPOs Chair's Coordinating Committee (CCC) at their September 14 meeting and they endorsed the list for circulation to the partner agencies for review and comment. The list is now before the MPO for final endorsement. This list was presented to the Tampa Bay Partnership's Transportation Task Force and they commented that they felt the Alternatives Analysis was not regional in nature. In reviewing the initial description for the project, staff had not included language regarding the connection across the Bay; therefore, staff has modified the language to make it clearer that the project includes a connection across the Bay to Hillsborough County. Modifications to the list will be shown either by strike-thru or underline in order to reflect the changes. The list will be brought back to the CCC for action at their December meeting. MPO staff recommends endorsement of the priority list.

Councilman Danner recommended the list indicate U.S. 19/118th Avenue connector that would include the Skyway to Sarasota and Manatee Counties to make it more regional.

Based on the above comment, ***Councilman Danner moved and Councilman Kennedy seconded a motion to approve the priority list with the U.S. 19/118th Avenue connector change.***

Commissioner Crozier recommended the description for the U.S. 19/118th Avenue connector be broadened to include Manatee County. Ms. Ward responded the description would be changed as appropriate.

Both Councilman Danner and Councilman Kennedy as makers of the motion agreed with the change.

Regarding Item 2 (I-4/I-275), the description indicates only I-4. Ms. Ward responded that she would recommend the description be modified to include the additional reference.

Regarding transit options for U.S. 19, Ms. Ward responded that additional language could be included that indicates they are looking at transit in the U.S. 19 corridor. Ms. Ward added that

transit is being looked at countywide through the PSTA transit bus study that is underway, as well as the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan in terms of transit enhancements. Mr. Skelton added clarification that the intent for improvements along U.S. 19 is to make it an express road that would benefit the implementation of express bus service along U.S. 19 since the bus wouldn't have to stop for signals. As FDOT continues improvements northward on U.S. 19, they will look at several options that could include express lanes.

Regarding Items 9 and 10, members noted that there are other communities along the CSX rail line, not just those included on the list, and that the description should not include specific technology since it should be the right technology, Ms. Ward responded language could be added regarding the need for further planning study.

Regarding Item 10, it was recommended the description be amended to include Pinellas County/St. Petersburg so that the objective is to cross the Bay and would include Pinellas County.

Following further discussion, it was directed to include Pinellas County in the description for Item 10 and include the other cities along the CSX rail line in the description for Item 9.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito recommended the description for Item 3 be changed to provide specific reference to the Howard Frankland Bridge.

Following further discussion, ***the motion was approved to endorse the Regional Transportation Priority List with the following changes (Vote 11-0):***

- ***#2 – include the description for I-275***
- ***#3 – specifically reference the Howard Frankland Bridge in the description***
- ***#4 – change to U.S. 19/118th Avenue Connector and change description to include Manatee County***
- ***#9 – include the cities of Safety Harbor, Clearwater, Largo, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg and add a note recognizing the need for additional planning study***
- ***#10 – add Pinellas County as a connection and add a note recognizing the need for additional planning study***

The MPO will receive an updated report regarding the other agencies' actions on the November agenda.

B. 2013-2017 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Ms. Ward indicated that there are minor changes to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan and those changes are included on the cover sheet. The Local Coordinating Board has reviewed the changes and recommended approval.

Councilman Danner moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the 2013-2017 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (Vote 11-0).

C. Annual Operating Report and Annual Expenditure Report

Ms. Ward reported that the 2011/12 Annual Operating Report and Annual Expenditure Report have been reviewed by the Local Coordinating Board and they recommended approval.

Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the Annual Operating and Expenditure Reports for 2011/12 (Vote 11-0).

D. Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee Recommendation – Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week Resolution

Ms. Ward reported the MPO previously adopted a resolution each year that designated the Monday following Daylight Savings Time as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day to provide a

focus on pedestrian safety. In conjunction with the resolution, the MPO provides brochures regarding safe walking and bicycling practices. The Pinellas County Communications Department is working on the brochure. This year, the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) is recommending extension from Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day to Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week to include Monday, October 29, to Friday, November 2, which would include Halloween in that time period.

Commissioner Seel moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve MPO Resolution #12-5 (Vote 11-0).

VII. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Bus Rapid Transit Presentation – Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR)

Ms. Ward reported that, at the request of the MPO, staff has coordinated with Dennis Hinebaugh from the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) regarding a presentation on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). There will be a future presentation from a representative of a successful BRT.

****Commissioner Brickfield left at 1:45 p.m.****

Dennis Hinebaugh, CUTR, stated that Joe Calabrese, General Manager of the Cleveland Regional Transit Authority will be invited to make a presentation at the January MPO meeting. Mr. Hinebaugh reviewed a PowerPoint presentation.

****Commissioner Brickfield returned at 1:49 p.m.****

The presentation included the federal government's definition for BRT: "BRT is an enhanced bus system that operates on bus lanes or other transitways in order to combine the flexibility of buses with the efficiency of rail. BRT operates at faster speeds, provides greater service reliability, and greater customer convenience. BRT uses a combination of advanced technologies, infrastructure, and operational investments that provide significantly better service than traditional bus service." BRT is an integration of six elements: running ways, stations, vehicles, fare collection, intelligent transportation systems, service and operating plans, and branding and requires all elements to be successful. Dependability is important for any mode. Findings indicate that full-service BRT replicated the attributes normally associated with rail (travel time, reliability, safety, comfort, convenience) but in return for lower capital cost investments.

General discussion followed. It was commented that the most successful BRT requires a dedicated lane. It was suggested to hold a BRT workshop.

Jim Harpham, Dunedin resident, came forward and made a few comments.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Legislative Report

Ms. Ward noted that the various agencies are looking at the transportation alternative program and the eligibility and differences between the Transportation Enhancement Program and indicated that additional information will be brought back once they receive additional guidance.

B. PSTA Activities Report

Brad Miller, PSTA, indicated he would work on a BRT workshop. This Monday, the HART/PSTA subcommittee, comprised of six members each, will meet to discuss the consolidation study. The subcommittee will meet during October and November to receive updates on the study and the full HART and PSTA Boards will meet together in early December to receive and discuss the study. The full HART and PSTA Boards will meet again in early January and, hopefully, will have consensus on recommendations that can be submitted to the Legislature by February 2013. They are talking to other cities that have discussed the possibility of merging or have merged with another system and the implications of those communities.

They will discuss the three scenarios in more detail on Monday. The three scenarios include do nothing, full merger, or something in between that would consolidate functions. The PSTA bus study is underway and there is a PSTA Board workshop next week, Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. to define goals for the bus system. PSTA had a record ridership last FY of approximately 14.1 million riders. Route 52 mimics the Alternatives Analysis corridor and carried 4,300 passengers a day in August. They will begin a flex route on December 10. They are working with the City of St. Petersburg utilizing some of their funding and some of PSTA's capital funds, building upon the previous study performed for Central Avenue and building upon the success of the Central Avenue trolley service along that corridor to target investments where transit riders are for a successful transit corridor. They would like to leverage funding for the same area and use the success for St. Petersburg in other communities in Pinellas County.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs – 2012 Application Process Update

Ms. Ward noted the JARC/New Freedom grant application process is underway for next year. There is approximately \$1.2 million for JARC and \$900,000 for New Freedom. The process is complete with all the Local Coordinating Boards reviewing the projects. They are waiting on action from the Hillsborough and Pasco MPOs and then the projects will be brought to this MPO for action.

B. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting of September 14, 2012

Ms. Ward noted a summary of the last Chairs Coordinating Committee meeting is included in the agenda packet.

Staff changed the agenda format and will continue to look at the agenda to make the meetings more efficient.

C. Correspondence

D. Other

Commissioner Brickfield requested the MPO write a letter to the Governor recommending Ronnie Duncan be reappointed to TBARTA. ***Commissioner Welch moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to write a letter to the Governor on behalf of Ronnie Duncan.***

Commissioner Brickfield indicated there are a lot of bicyclists on 66th Street and Ulmerton Road and they cross the street counter to the way it was intended and asked if the Bicycle Advisory Committee could review this situation. The bicyclists indicate they feel it is unsafe to cross the other way. In addition, there is a dedicated lane turning right at the intersection of westbound Tampa Road at U.S. 19 heading northbound and motorists think they have to merge so they stop instead of continuing through and asked if this could be looked at to see how to improve this situation.

Ms. Ward indicated that the Technical Memorandum for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan will be presented to the MPO next month. It's currently being reviewed by the advisory committees.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Dave Eggers, Chairman