

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 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, November 14, 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 1:08 p.m.)
Jeff Danner – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Harriet Crozier – Commissioner, City of Largo
Jim Kennedy – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council
Jim Ronecker – Mayor, City of Oldsmar representing Oldsmar/Safety Harbor/Tarpon Springs
Ken Welch – Board of County Commissioners (arrived at 1:02 p.m.)
Ming Gao, non-voting advisory – (representing Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Neil Brickfield – Board of County Commissioners
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – Councilmember, City of Clearwater

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County MPO
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
Lee Royal – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Gary Thompson – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Heather Sobush – Pinellas County MPO
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Don Eastman – Eckerd College
Mary Gregory – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Seena Baker – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Martha Sweeny – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Jim Sweeny – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Edward Herman – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Halina Herman – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Bill Stickley – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Laila Petrou – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Lisa A. Mets – Eckerd College President's office
Bill Baker – Eckerd College
Julia Lewis – Eckerd College/ASPEC
William J McKenna, Jr – Eckerd College
Stanley Reimer – Eckerd College/ASPEC/Dolphin Cay
Jane McBride – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Ryan Jarrett – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Jesalyn Darling – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Ashoh Kalro – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Jim Horner – Eckerd College/ASPEC
Kathleen Peters – Florida House of Representatives
Jared Schneider – Tindale-Oliver and Associates

Ann Venables – EC Driver & Associates
Jim Phillips – EC Driver & Associates
Vivian Peters – Transit Advisory Committee (TAC)
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
Jim Green – CareRide
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Cassandra Borchers – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Smith Howard – Citizen
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 Bujalski performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Welch arrived at 1:02 p.m.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Upon call for public comment, Don Eastman (Eckerd College President), Bill Stickley (Eckerd College/ASPEC/Dolphin Cay), Ryan Jarrett (Eckerd College senior representing the student body and Eckerd College Ethics Bowl), and Representative Elect Kathleen Peters (House of Representatives District 69) came forward to speak on behalf of the numerous attendees, Eckerd College Board of Trustees, students, and faculties; nearby residents; and the Academy for Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC – a senior volunteer organization) requesting the MPO's support and FDOT's reconsideration of the need for the installation of a traffic signal at the entrance to Eckerd College. They spoke regarding the recent death of Bob Shepherd as the result of a tragic car accident at that entrance, who had been a strong advocate for a traffic signal. They emphasized the number of students and adults who attend that facility, as well as the number of faculty and others who are employed there. FDOT had performed 3 studies within 11 years regarding the need for a traffic signal at this location and denied a signal each time. The City of St. Petersburg is supportive of a traffic signal. It's a complicated entrance with bike paths, bike trails, and the entrance/exit is onto a busy multi-lane highway that leads to St. Pete Beach. Once the Bayway Bridge is complete, there will be less opportunities to exit the college and, in addition, there will be an increase in traffic. They requested the MPO's support in asking FDOT to re-evaluate the situation and look at all the issues and not just the numbers for the installation of a traffic signal.

During public comment, Commissioner Seel arrived at 1:08 p.m.

The MPO expressed their condolences to the Shepherd family and Eckerd College community for their loss.

Councilman Kennedy moved and Commissioner Welch seconded a motion that the MPO supports and requests FDOT re-evaluate the installation of a traffic signal at the entrance to Eckerd College.

The MPO noted this is a problem and dangerous intersection and they support the motion.

Mr. Gao, FDOT, expressed his condolences to the Shepherd's family and friends and the Eckerd College family on behalf of FDOT. He indicated that, immediately after FDOT heard about the tragic accident, they scheduled a re-evaluation of the intersection for a traffic signal and staff is out there today to look at the intersection, including looking at recent crash data. FDOT evaluated the intersection in 2009 and it did not meet warrants. At that time, FDOT looked at crashes that could be corrected with the installation of a traffic signal and found there was only one. FDOT looks at the

type of crashes to justify installation of a traffic signal and not just the warrants. FDOT will re-evaluate the intersection and bring the results of the study back as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Welch noted there are a number of trail projects in this vicinity that will increase the number of pedestrians and bicyclists. Mr. Gao responded that FDOT is committed to ensuring the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists and this will be part of the re-evaluation.

Following discussion, ***the motion was approved (Vote 8-0).***

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of October 10 , 2012**
- B. Approval of Invoices – Tindale-Oliver and Associates**
- C. Approval of Funds for MPOAC Legislative Advocacy Activities for FY 2012/13**
- D. Approval of Funds for the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)**
- E. Approval of Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Contract Amendments with Hillsborough – Extension of End date**
- F. Approval of Committee Appointments (Bicycle Advisory Committee)**
- G. Approval of Traffic Counter Repairs**
- H. Approval of Interlocal Agreement With PSTA (in folders)**

Mayor Ronecker moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented (Vote 8-0), which includes the October 10, 2012 MPO meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale-Oliver and Associates; funds for the MPOAC and TBARTA, contract amendments with Hillsborough for JARC funds, appointment of Barbara Hoffman as North County and Dr. Lynn Bosco and Steve Lasky as At Large representatives on the Bicycle Advisory Committee; traffic counter repairs; and an Interlocal Agreement with PSTA (included in member folders).

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment, which will add \$50,000 from Section 5312 Veterans Transportation and Community Living Initiative grant that will be used by TBARTA for marketing, outreach efforts, and monitoring the effectiveness of the One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information Service.

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

Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendment by roll call vote (Vote 8-0).

B. Fall Update to the Transportation Improvement Program

Al Bartolotta reviewed the fall update of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that rolls in the recently-adopted Pinellas County and municipal Work Programs. He reviewed the differences table that indicates the changes from the last TIP. The Keystone Road and Bryan Dairy Road projects are under construction and will be completed soon. There are 14 intersection projects at a cost of \$11.2 million and 7 bridge projects at a cost of \$15.3 million. The Starkey Road six-lane and 102nd Avenue four-lane widening projects have been included but MPO staff is working with the County’s Department of Environmental and Infrastructure to look at other types of improvements that could be accomplished instead of adding lanes. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) had a concern with the potential impacts of improvements to the Bayside Bridge at the same time as U.S. 19 is under construction. In discussions with the County’s Department of Environmental and Infrastructure (DEI) staff, they have indicated there will only be lane closures during off-peak hours. The CAC also had a concern with the

continued slippage of the Progress Energy Trail and endorsed continuing to move forward with this project.

Commissioner Bujalski requested information regarding the Dunedin Causeway Bridge project moving out of the Work Program but adding in the bridge repairs. The study is to be done in 2016/17. Tony Hornick, County DEI, responded that repairs are necessary before replacement of the bridge occurs, which will be necessary in 10 to 12 years. The drawbridge needs frequent maintenance, the bridge is 50 years old, and there is contamination of the concrete. Regarding the determination that several years ago the bridge was considered functionally obsolete, Mr. Hornick responded the bridge has narrow lanes and other safety features that don't meet current design standards. Commissioner Bujalski asked for information regarding the decision-making process. Mr. Hornick added routine bridge inspections are performed and each element is rated and, based on those ratings, the bridge is given a structural efficiency rating based on deficiency, safety, and essentiality. Paul Belhorn, County DEI, provided additional comments that the cost to replace the bridge is very expensive; therefore from a programming standpoint, it was determined to replace a large number of smaller bridges and structures that are in need of replacement with funds from the current "Penny" sales tax and move forward with a Preliminary Engineering study for the Dunedin Causeway Bridge so that the bridge replacement could be funded with the next "Penny" sales tax. Revenues from the "Penny" sales tax continues to be reduced and adjustments are made accordingly. The bridge is functionally obsolete but it is not in bad condition compared to other structures. The County will continue to make repairs for the next several years until it can be replaced. Commissioner Bujalski requested additional information regarding the original study date for bridge replacement, as well as the problems and plans. Ms. Ward responded staff will get that information. Commissioner Bujalski stated she would like additional information regarding the process, original study date, and other such information before approving the two projects as part of the updated TIP.

Additional discussion ensued.

Commissioner Bujalski moved and Commissioner Welch seconded a motion to approve the updated TIP minus the two items related to the Dunedin Causeway project and bring those two items back for action at the next MPO meeting with additional information.

Councilman Kennedy asked how organizations can provide input to projects, noting there were two organizations interested in the San Martin Bridge (Page 245) project. Mr. Bartolotta responded a workshop will be held in the area and he will make sure interested groups are invited to participate.

Following a call for public comment (no one came forward to speak), ***the motion was approved by roll call vote (Vote 8-0).***

C. Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)/New Freedom Program of Projects

Ms. Ward indicated the proposed projects for the 2012 Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom Programs are included in the backup material. There is approximately \$1.2 million available for JARC and \$900,000 for New Freedom. Both of these programs have been eliminated under the new federal legislation, MAP-21, and rolled into other programs (this will be covered later on the agenda). The Local Coordinating Boards (LCB) in Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas have reviewed the projects and approved the priority ranking. In addition, both the Hillsborough and Pasco MPOs have approved the projects. The projects are now before the Pinellas MPO for approval.

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

Commissioner Welch moved, Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to approve the JARC and New Freedom Program of Projects for FY 2012 by roll call vote (Vote 8-0).

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of New Freedom Contract Amendment With Quality of Life – Extension of End Date (Including Financial Management Oversight Update)

Ms. Ward indicated, as a result of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Financial Management Oversight (FMO) review of Quality of Life and the MPO and the MPO's response to FTA regarding the recommendations, MPO staff is requesting a release of the 2011 funds (approximately \$309,000) to Quality of Life that had been held in abeyance awaiting the outcome of the FMO review, with those funds to be amended into the 2011 agreement. MPO staff will request a budget revision from FTA to move the \$309,000 from contingency so that Quality of Life can access those funds to continue to provide services. There are a few other minor amendments, including the addition of "e-verify" to the contract.

Councilman Danner moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the Amendment No 1 to the 2010 agreement between the Pinellas County MPO and Quality of Life Community Services, Inc. (Vote 8-0).

B. Committee Recommendations

1. Bicycle Advisory Committee

a. Motion Supporting Dunedin Bicycle Trail Plans

The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), at their last meeting, received a presentation from the City of Dunedin regarding its Citywide Master Plan, which includes a connection to the Pinellas Trail. After the presentation, the BAC passed a motion expressing their support of Dunedin's bicycle trails plan.

Commissioner Bujalski moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve BAC Motion #12-4 (Vote 8-0).

b. Motion Supporting Conceptual Amenities Plan for Courtney Campbell Causeway

The Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), at their last meeting, received a presentation regarding conceptual enhancements to the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail that will include landscaping, benches, and shade trees. The BAC passed a motion supporting the conceptual amenities to the trail.

Commissioner Seel indicated her support but expressed concern regarding the high costs for the amenities.

Councilman Kennedy moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve BAC motion #12-5 (Vote 8-0).

2. Madonna Boulevard/Pinellas Bayway – Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee Recommendations

The Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC), at their last meeting, reviewed pedestrian issues regarding the intersection of Madonna Boulevard and the Pinellas Bayway and recommended FDOT install rectangular rapid flashing beacons at this location to improve pedestrian safety. This recommendation was forwarded to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) for their review. Mr. Bartolotta showed the location on a map and indicated the improvements already completed by FDOT. Even with the improvements, the PTAC felt there were still issues. The TCC reviewed the PTAC recommendation at their last meeting and, after discussion, recommended the MPO request FDOT to conduct a traffic study to perform an overall assessment of the entire intersection to address issues.

Mr. Gao responded FDOT is coordinating with their Traffic Operations Office to look at the intersection and will provide preliminary results at the next meeting.

Councilman Kennedy moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the TCC recommendation (Vote 8-0).

C. Establishment of Nominating Committee for 2013 Election of Officers

Chairman Eggers asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee and Commissioner Welch, Commissioner Crozier, and Councilman Kennedy volunteered. Chairman Eggers announced the Nominating Committee would meet immediately upon adjournment of the MPO meeting.

Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve Commissioner Welch, Commissioner Crozier, and Councilman Kennedy as serving on the Nominating Committee (Vote 8-0).

VII. PRESENTATION ITEMS

A. Beckett Bridge Project Presentation

Ms. Ward noted the advisory committees have received the Beckett Bridge presentation.

Ann Venables, EC Driver, indicated a public workshop will be held on this project in January. She then reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Beckett Bridge PD&E Study, which included the project limits, information and issues with the existing bridge, community concerns, opportunities for community input, the four alternatives and associated constraints or issues, proposed typical sections, possible detour routes, boat survey, environmental impacts, upcoming community involvement activities and PD&E Schedule. The consultant will be presenting this project to the stakeholders prior to holding a public meeting in January. The next step is to select a preferred alternative and hold a public hearing in the summer of 2013, deal with the issues related to the selected alternative, and anticipate receiving approval in December of 2013 from the Federal Highway Administration.

During the presentation, at 202 p.m., Commissioner Welch left the meeting

VIII. REPORTS

A. FTA Section 5307 Program Funding Allocation

Ms. Ward indicated there are changes to the FTA Section 5307 formula as a result of the 2010 Census. In several cases, federal funds are allocated to urbanized areas and not individual counties. The MPO and HART serve as Designated Recipients for Section 5307 funds. The current formula allocates 45% of the funds to HART and 55% split between PSTA (89%) and Pasco County Public Transit (11%). Based on the 2010 Census, the agencies will be looking at a new funding agreement and, in addition, TBARTA will receive a share of the funds. MPO staff will be meeting in coordination with PSTA, HART, Pasco County Transit, and TBARTA and will bring back the results of those meetings at a later date. It was clarified that the funding is allocated based on population.

B. Upcoming Changes to the FTA 5316 (JARC), 53417 (New Freedom), and 5310 (Elderly & Disabled) Programs

Ms. Ward indicated there have been changes to the Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs as a result of MAP-21. JARC will be eliminated and, instead, flow through the transit agencies as part of Section 5307. The New Freedom Program is to be combined with Section 5310 that is administered by FDOT. They are still looking at guidance regarding the designation of recipients for the funding as to who would administer the funds, whether it's HART, the MPO, or FDOT. FTA has requested they begin discussions as to who would be the designated recipient. They are looking at FDOT since they currently administer the Section 5310 funds.

C. Legislative Matters

Ms. Ward noted there is nothing new on legislative matters.

D. PSTA Activities Report

Brad Miller, PSTA, indicated the federal formulas are complex and will have impacts on the funding amounts to PSTA and HART since the MAP-21 bill did not increase the funding amounts. He will be bringing this information to the PSTA Board. The MPO members will

receive an invitation to a ribbon cutting event on December 4, at 11:00 a.m., at the Shops at Booth Ranch on East Lake Road for the North County Flex Route service that will begin the following Monday. Last Thursday, PSTA staff met with FTA in Atlanta to update them on current PSTA activities, such as the Alternatives Analysis, the PSTA bus study, PSTA messaging and branding, partnership with the MPO regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan, and activities associated with the PSTA/HART consolidation study. The Advisory Committee for Pinellas Transportation will meet on Monday, December 10, at 3:00 p.m. at the PSTA office. Also on December 10, at 9:30 a.m., the PSTA Board will meet with the HART Board regarding the Consolidation Study. The subcommittee comprised of the two Boards met this past Monday to review the final draft report from the consultant that looked at efficiencies and how a consolidation might work. This was a preliminary analysis and more analysis still needs to be done; however, the consultant identified 22 overhead managerial positions that were duplicative of the two agencies. If there were just one of each position, it would save approximately \$2.4 million. There was discussion at the subcommittee meeting whether that savings was realistic. The consultant indicated that further analysis was needed. There are a number of one-time costs that need further study but there are ways to work together for efficiencies. Senator Latvala has been invited to the December 10 meeting of the two Boards. There will be a meeting of the two Boards in early January to vote on the recommendations before they are submitted to the Legislature. October had record ridership for any one given month. In response, Mr. Miller indicated the consolidation study is available on the PSTA website, as well as the "Tampa Bay Times" website.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Update on Regional Transportation Priority List

Ms. Ward indicated a chart was included in the folders as to the boards that have taken action to date on the Regional Transportation Priority List. Some of the agencies will not have a chance to review the list prior to the December 14 Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee meeting; therefore, there will be an update at that meeting but no action will be taken at that time.

B. MPOAC Meeting of October 25, 2012

Ms. Ward noted the MPOAC held its meeting on October 25 and the agenda was included in the meeting packet. A governance workshop was held the day before the MPOAC meeting where there is an ongoing discussion on regional agencies to see whether there are opportunities to better align boundaries. At the workshop, they discussed options for MPO structures in Florida. FDOT indicated that the MPOs should expect a letter by the end of this year regarding MPO redesignations. The MPO should still be on schedule for the spring of 2013 for the Reapportionment Plan going forward.

C. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting of December 14, 2012

Ms. Ward indicated this item was to announce the Chairs Coordinating Committee meeting for December 14. The TBARTA meeting will also be held that same day so the schedules and location of the two meetings will be coordinated to make it convenient for those members who serve on both groups. .

D. Correspondence

E. Other

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Dave Eggers, Chairman