

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF MAY 8, 2013**

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, May 8, 2013 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Seel– *Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners
Jeff Danner – *Vice Chairman* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
David Archie – Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs representing Tarpon Springs/Oldsmar/Safety Harbor
Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – Councilmember, City of Clearwater
David Eggers – Mayor, City of Dunedin
Charlie Justice – Board of County Commissioners
Jim Kennedy – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
Ken Welch – Board of County Commissioners
Ming Gao, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harriet Crozier – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Commissioner, City of Largo

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County MPO
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Lee Royal – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO
Joe Falanga – Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Chairman
Kasey Cursey – URS
Ron Gregory – URS
Paul Kirk – URS
William Roll – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Leland Dicus – City of Largo
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
Patrick Murphy – City of Pinellas Park
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater
Lynn Rives – City of Oldsmar
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Deborah Lekenta – Neighborly Care Network
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Seel called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Welch performed the invocation and Mayor Bradbury led the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens who came forward to speak.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 10 , 2013**
- B. **Approval of Invoices**
 - 1. **Tindale-Oliver & Associates**
 - 2. **URS**
 - 3. **PSTA**
- C. **Approval of Use of “Facebook” Ad**
- D. **Approval of Printing of 2012 AADT Traffic Count Map Publication**

Commissioner Welch requested Item C be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Councilman Danner moved, Councilmember DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve Items A, B, and D of the Consent Agenda (Vote 10-0).

Commissioner Welch asked whether other government agencies advertised on Facebook and if the MPO has a Twitter account as well. Mr. Bartolotta responded that staff does occasionally cross link Twitter with Facebook. When asked for the MPO’s Twitter handle, Mr. Bartolotta responded he would have to get that information. He wasn’t sure if other MPOs used the Facebook ad; however, he noted that a few of the other MPOs had over 300 “likes”. He saw this as a way of getting the word to have people “like” the MPO. Commissioner Welch suggested each MPO member “like” the MPO on Facebook and request their friends to also “like” the MPO.

Commissioner Welch moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve Item C (Vote 10-0).

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Proposed Amendments to the FY 2012/13 – FY 2016/17 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Ward noted there were two additional items in the members’ folders: an additional TIP amendment for the Oldsmar Trail and an amendment to the MPO’s Long Range Transportation Plan regarding the cost increase for the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail.

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed the proposed amendments:

- Pinellas Trail landscaping project into downtown St. Petersburg, \$374,000 Transportation Enhancement funds – St. Petersburg became design/build LAP certified in order to utilize Transportation Enhancement funds for a stand-alone landscaping project that is ineligible under the new Transportation Alternatives funding category;
- I-275 rigid pavement rehabilitation project from 54th Avenue South to south of 26th Avenue South – adds \$530,000 in FY 2013/14 for the design phase and \$1.9 million in FY 2015/16 for the construction phase – Strategic Intermodal System Interstate Contingency funding; and

There was discussion regarding the I-275 project. Ms. Royal clarified that FDOT updates their Work Program on an annual basis and, as part of that update, they look at pavement districtwide that would include the Interstate and the pavement condition is rated and prioritized. If the pavement condition receives a high priority, the project needs to be amended into the current TIP due to the difference between the state (July – June) and federal (October – September) fiscal years that result in a three-month gap. In response to additional questions, Ms. Royal responded that the determination as to how traffic will be maintained during construction is part of the design phase. She clarified that the design phase is a two-year process due to several reasons.

Mr. Beaty continued his review:

- Oldsmar Trail, Phase III, multi-use trail project to change the project termini to match the description in the TIP with the description in the Work Program – \$478,950 construction, funding source from the Transportation Alternatives category.

Ms. Ward pointed out that the Gandy Boulevard project was removed from consideration at the request of FDOT.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. Following the public hearing, ***Commissioner Welch moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried by roll call vote to approve the three proposed amendments to the TIP (Vote 10-0).***

Upon query by Councilman Kennedy regarding Gandy Boulevard, Mr. Beaty responded this is a widening project to add design to the Work Program with the project to be let in the first quarter of 2014. During discussions internally and with the City of Pinellas Park about potential development and their concern regarding the PD&E concept, it was decided to withdraw the amendment to allow time to meet with the stakeholders and then let the project in the fourth quarter of 2014. The meeting has been scheduled for May 17.

B. Proposed Amendments to the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Ward indicated this is a follow-up from the last MPO meeting, where the MPO approved a TIP amendment regarding a cost increase for a segment of the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail. After the TIP amendment was processed, staff was notified that they needed to also amend the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to reflect the cost increase. Staff included a strike-through/underline and clean version of Table 61 showing the change to the project. In order for the Federal Highway Administration to approve a project, there must be consistency between the TIP and LRTP.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. Following the public hearing, ***Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilman Danner seconded, and motion carried by roll call vote to approve the amendment to the LRTP (Vote 10-0).***

VI. ACTION ITEMS

A. Greenlight Pinellas

1. Baseline Financial Assumptions for 2014 Ballot Initiative

Brad Miller, PSTA CEO, noted that he and Sarah met with those MPO members not on the PSTA or the ACPT to update them on the baseline financial assumptions. He is asking that the MPO accept the Alternatives Analysis Baseline Financial Plan, approve the Optimal Bus Plan, and support PSTA's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) application for the Central Avenue Corridor Bus Rapid Transit, working with the City of St. Petersburg.

He then reviewed a PowerPoint. He reported that the PSTA unanimously approved asking the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) to place a referendum on the ballot for a transit surtax. The BCC approved the PSTA's request at their February 26, 2013 meeting. His review included past efforts to create a new system, the 2012 Alternatives Analysis Financial Plan for a complete package of bus and rail improvements and the associated financial assumptions, frequency of service before and after if a transit surtax were approved, and the reasons for a transit surtax.

2. **Bus Plan Optimal Scenario**

Mr. Miller continued with the PowerPoint regarding the optimal bus plan scenario that showed the network; types of service; hours; connections; station circulation; and the next steps that would include refining route-level recommendations, responding to available revenue (no new revenue, AA assumptions, develop phased implementation), and continuing community dialogue via the outreach effort called Greenlight Pinellas. The BCC will take action on the ballot language probably at their November meeting. The PSTA Optimal Bus Plan will be included in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan as a Policy Plan.

During the presentation, Commissioner Welch left at 1:31 and returned at 1:36 p.m.

During the presentation, Chairman Seel left at 1:31 and returned at 1:45 p.m.

Councilman Kennedy asked whether an equation was worked out that compared the cost of riding in a private vehicle (cost of constructing and maintaining the road, cost of vehicle and maintenance as well as gas and insurance) versus the cost of riding in mass transit. Mr. Miller responded the comparable capital expenditures over the last ten years for construction U.S. 19 and Ulmerton Road was \$1.6 billion. PSTA has begun putting together national studies on the operational costs to compare with different modes of transportation.

Mayor Archie left at 1:55 p.m.

Ms. Ward added that she recently received information from Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, as well as other national organizations for the cost of road construction and maintenance and vehicles as well as transit information but has not received information specifically for Pinellas. She will provide the information to the MPO members.

Councilman Kennedy emphasized that the cost for constructing roadways is not free and that the MPO is being asked to accept the baseline assumptions. Mr. Miller added that both the ACPT and PSTA have approved the baseline assumptions and that it was important to have the MPO also approve the assumptions.

Councilman Kennedy moved and Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded a motion to accept the baseline financial assumptions.

Commissioner Bujalski added that PSTA will be hiring an accounting firm to perform an independent examination of the Alternatives Analysis looking at the Bus Study and the previous rail study to build a financial plan using the baseline assumptions.

Mayor Archie returned at 1:59 p.m.

The motion to accept the baseline assumptions was approved (Vote 10-0).

There was additional discussion that this was a visioning plan, there is the need to educate the residents, and that PSTA will be forming a public and civic committee that will meet three or four times beginning in early June and that anyone interested in serving on those committees should notify the PSTA office.

Commissioner Bujalski moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the Bus Plan Optimal Scenario (Vote 10-0).

B. MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan – Socioeconomic Data Report-Trend Scenario

Ms. Ward noted the MPO received a presentation at their last meeting, which the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) had also received. Although there wasn't a concern with the trend scenario, the City of Largo staff had questions regarding the methodology for the other two scenarios that look at the enhanced bus network and the Alternatives Analysis. MPO staff met with the Largo staff to review the methodology for the scenarios and this information was presented again to the TCC and both the TCC and Largo have endorsed the methodology. At last month's MPO meeting, Mayor Eggers had requested information regarding the perspective of the current forecast compared with several years ago. That information has been provided to him and staff recommends approval.

Councilman Kennedy moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the Trend Scenario Technical Memorandum (Vote 10-0).

C. 2013 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grants

Ms. Ward reported that the U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a notice that funding is available for another round of TIGER grants. For the 2012 TIGER grant, the MPO approved staff working with the County to submit an application for the northern segment of the Progress Energy Trail. The MPO staff is again seeking the MPO's authorization to submit an application for the Progress Energy Trail to receive TIGER grant funding. The portions of the Trail would be the northern segment, as well as a southern segment the City of St. Petersburg has requested in order to complete the Pinellas Trail loop. Although the Trail is a County facility, staff is seeking authorization to work with all the partner agencies to develop and submit an application prior to the June 2013 deadline. In addition, the MPO staff is recommending the MPO approve a letter of support to endorse PSTA's application.

Councilman Danner moved and Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded a motion to authorize staff to work with the County and other partner agencies regarding the Pinellas Trail to submit an application for the TIGER grant.

Chairman Seel asked about the matching funds. Ms. Ward responded the match is from projects already in the County's Capital Improvement Program, including replacement of the San Martin Bridge and the project between NE Coachman Road and U.S. 19. Ms. Harvey provided additional information on the San Martin Bridge project.

Chairman Seel asked if the project should be broken into two segments. Councilman Kennedy expressed his support for the San Martin Bridge replacement, noting that this is an opportunity to construct a longer and higher bridge to allow better water flow in and out to benefit the environment.

During discussion whether there should be two applications, Ms. Harvey clarified that TIGER grants are awarded for an amount between \$10 million and \$50 million. Ms. Ward added that \$474 million is available nationwide.

Following discussion, *the motion was approved (Vote 10-0).*

D. Committee Appointments

Mayor Eggers moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the reappointments of Becky Afonso and Fran Briskman to the Citizens Advisory Committee (Vote 10-0).

E. Technical Recommendation – Alternate 19/Curlew Road – Honeymoon Island

Ms. Ward reported that she received information from FDOT reminding staff that this is a State Road and FDOT will review the pedestrian safety concerns and work with the City of Dunedin. No action is necessary at this time.

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. Pinellas Trail Crossing at Klosterman Road in Tarpon Springs

Ms. Ward reported that she received updated information from FDOT that they are looking at the northbound to eastbound turning movements off Alternate 19. Pinellas County has responsibility for the shrubbery in this area. Since this is a joint responsibility of FDOT and the County, they are working closely together.

Mayor Archie thanked the MPO staff and others for working towards a solution for a safer crossing for Trail users.

B. Multi-Named Roadways

1. Status on C.R. 296 Renaming

Ms. Ward explained that the MPO had previously submitted the request to rename the C.R. 296 corridor to Bryan Dairy Road to the affected cities and Pinellas County. The consensus was to approve the renaming; however, in discussion with County staff, it was felt that, due to the economy, the cost of implementation to replace the signs was a concern, as well as the impact to the businesses to replace their signs and stationary. Therefore, the renaming did not move forward but staff can follow-up with the affected governmental agencies.

2. Historical Background Information on Multi-Named Roadways

Ms. Ward indicated a list was included in the agenda packet that identified the major roadways in the County with multiple names moving through various jurisdictions. Alternate 19 is one corridor that has several names as it goes from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg. Portions of that corridor have changed since staff put the list together several years ago (e.g., Alternate 19 along South Fort Harrison Avenue was moved to Myrtle and Missouri Avenues). The MPO staff has found that there is community identify with the local names, which causes resistance to changing the name.

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Chairman Seel asked the members to review the list and to see if there is any interest in moving forward with a single name for the multi-named roadways. The use of several names for a single corridor is very confusing to tourists and residents. This item will be brought back next month for further discussion.

Regarding the C.R. 296 renaming, staff agreed to check with the County Commission as to their support. Councilman Kennedy noted that the St.

Petersburg staff had a concern with changing the 118th connector and the north-south connector to C.R. 296 and he asked Mr. Kubicki to come forward.

Joe Kubicki, City of St. Petersburg Director of Transportation and Parking Services, indicated that staff research their files and found a resolution that did not support the name change, as well as the minutes of the September 2007 MPO meeting that indicated St. Petersburg did not agree with the change. He will get with MPO staff whether there is additional information of the City's support. Ms. Ward responded that she thought there was subsequent action by the City because the letter to the County indicated there was support of all the affected cities but agreed to further research the files.

Chairman Seel suggested that staff take this to the City of St. Petersburg and the Home Shopping Network for their support from this point forward. She asked that this item be brought back next month.

Mayor Bradbury stated both the cities of Pinellas Park and Seminole had supported the name change but wanted to make sure there was ample time for the businesses to be able to change their information to the new address. Chairman Seel responded that they would have two years.

C. Tri-County Connection Trail

Paul Kirk, URS, reviewed the Tri-County Trail Connection Study, which is a planning study to evaluate potential alignments to identify a preferred route for a trail segment to link the Starkey Trail in Pasco County to the Pinellas Trail in Pinellas County. There have been several stakeholder meetings, as well as a public workshop. He showed several graphics. This Trail would provide a link to the Coast-to-Coast Connector Trail that would go from St. Petersburg to Titusville. He reviewed the alignment alternatives, as well as the challenges. There will be close coordination with Duke Energy since they have an easement in the area, as well as own a portion of the proposed alignment in Pasco County.

Upon query by Councilman Kennedy, Mr. Kirk responded that the Legislature approved \$50 million but he wasn't sure whether the Governor signed or vetoed the funding.

D. MPO Redesignation

Chairman Seel indicated that the location for the May 31 meeting has been changed to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Board Room.

E. Legislative Report

Ms. Ward reported the transportation bill was withdrawn, the proposal to allow cities to implement a transit surtax was not approved this legislative session, and the bill to ban texting while driving was approved with some changes.

F. PSTA Activities Report

Councilman Danner moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve a letter of support for PSTA's TIGER grant application (Vote 10-0).

G. Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee Report

Chairman Seel updated the MPO regarding the joint meeting that occurred earlier. They received an update on the Countywide Plan progress, financial information for both the MPO and PPC, and how other MPOs operate. The intent is to have

everything completed at the next joint meeting, which is scheduled for July 10 at 11:30 a.m., with a report at the July MPO meeting.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. MPOAC Meeting of April 25, 2013

Ms. Ward reported Councilmember Hock-DiPolito attended the MPOAC meeting with her. The MPOAC agenda is included in the packet.

B. Technical Recommendation – Memorial Causeway Bridge

Ms. Ward reported that staff will work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee on the bicycle issues regarding the Memorial Causeway.

C. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Stakeholder and Public Outreach Report

Information is included in the agenda packet.

D. Correspondence

E. Other

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Karen Seel, Chairman