

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES – MEETING OF JUNE 12, 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, June 12, 2013 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Karen Seel– *Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners (arrived at 1:04 p.m.)  
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  
Harriet Crozier – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Commissioner, City of Largo  
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  
Debbie Hunt, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**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)  
Heather Sobush – Pinellas County MPO  
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO  
Rick MacAulay – Pinellas County MPO  
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO  
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg  
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg  
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater  
Joe Falanga – Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Chairman  
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
David M. Chase – City of Pinellas Park  
Patrick Murphy – City of Pinellas Park  
Sheila Martin – TBARTA  
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Jeff Danner called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens who came forward to speak.

\*\*Chairman Seel arrived at 1:04 p.m.\*\*

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 8 , 2013
- B. Approval of Invoices
  - 1. Tindale-Oliver & Associates
  - 2. TBARTA
- C. Approval of Amendment No. 2 With City of St. Petersburg
- D. Approval of New Freedom Amendment No. 2 With PSTA
- E. Approval of PSTA Planning Funds Joint Participation Agreement
- F. Approval of Joint Certification Statement
- G. Approval of Printing of Transportation Disadvantaged Program Materials
- H. Approval of Printing of Long Range Transportation Plan Outreach Materials
- I. Approval of Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant
- J. Approval of Endorsement of Pasco County Section 5307 Transit Grant
- K. Approval of Use of “Facebook” Ad

*Commissioner Crozier moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 11-0).*

**V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**A. Amendment to the Transportation Alternatives Priority List to Add Safe Routes to School Projects**

Ms. Ward briefly noted the Transportation Alternatives Program was part of the latest Federal Authorization Bill, which merged the Transportation Enhancement and Safe Routes to School Programs into the Transportation Alternatives Program. At the time the programs were merged, there were two pending Safe Routes to School projects that now need to be added to the MPO’s Priority List in order to receive funding. The first is a sidewalk project for Sexton Elementary School along 19<sup>th</sup> Street North from 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and the second is a sidewalk project for Oakhurst Elementary School along Oakhurst Road (west side) from 111<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to Page Avenue and have been listed as A and B on the Priority List.

There was some general discussion regarding outstanding projects and the sidewalk project for Sexton Elementary School, with Joe Kubicki, St. Petersburg staff, providing clarification and additional information for that project.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. Following the public hearing, *Councilman Danner moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried by roll call vote to approve the amendments to the Transportation Alternatives Priority List (Vote 11-0).*

**B. TBARTA Program of Projects for Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula Program Funds**

Ms. Ward briefly described the TBARTA Program of Projects, which included capital costs for their vanpool program as well as upgrades to their computer hardware and software.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. Following the public hearing, ***Councilman Danner moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the TBARTA program of Projects (Vote 11-0).***

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

Ms. Ward briefly described the two proposed amendments:

- PSTA – \$1.4 million for the purchase of two hybrid buses
- TBARTA – \$799,686 for their Commuter Vanpool Program for the purchase of vehicles and computer hardware/software and administering the program

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. Following the public hearing, ***Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendments by roll call vote (Vote 11-0).***

**D. Adoption of the FY 2013/14 – FY 2017/18 Transportation Improvement Program**

Al Bartolotta briefly highlighted the projects that have been completed, as well as new projects for road construction/resurfacing, bicycle/pedestrian, and Intelligent Transportation System improvement projects. He noted the FDOT Work Program was rolled into the annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Upon call for public comment, Peter Creighton, came forward and indicated his company owns a significant amount of land along Gandy Boulevard between I-275 and U.S. 19 and voiced a concern regarding the planned improvements to Gandy Boulevard in that area. He indicated his company is against the proposed overpass at Grand Avenue and Gandy Boulevard due to the potential impacts to their land and the businesses located in this area. He has met with the City of Pinellas Park, FDOT, and MPO staff regarding their concerns and he requested the MPO ask FDOT to stop pursuing the two identified alternatives and, instead, re-examine other options. It was felt the overpass at Grand Avenue wouldn't provide a global solution for this area, especially since a traffic signal is located on the west side of U.S. 19 near the proposed overpass. FDOT has acknowledged the problem with the intersection of U.S. 19 and Gandy Boulevard but there are no immediate improvements identified. In addition, there is an issue with access to 28<sup>th</sup> Street and options should be identified. He asked that FDOT include the property owners and businesses located in the area, as well as the cities of Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg in these discussions.

Ms. Ward added that a meeting was held last week that included the cities of Pinellas Park and St. Petersburg and FDOT and MPO staffs. FDOT presented two conceptual alternatives and comments were provided to FDOT. FDOT has put this project on hold while they review the comments. MPO staff is in the process of arranging follow-up meetings. A final recommendation will come before the MPO before a decision is made.

There was considerable discussion regarding the need to identify solutions for the intersection at U.S. 19 and Gandy Boulevard, the proposed light rail alignment

including station locations in this area, a need for a master plan for the area and the planning process, and the need to work with all interested parties.

Chairman Seel requested that staff provide information to the MPO members when the meeting has been scheduled and Mayor Bradbury asked that Mr. Creighton also be kept apprised of the meeting information.

Following the public hearing and MPO discussion, ***Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the updated TIP by roll call vote, with a notation that MPO staff and FDOT, in coordination with interested parties and stakeholders, continue to explore options for Gandy Boulevard (Vote 11-0).*** The MPO further recommended that a holistic review of this entire area be conducted.

## **VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Advisory Committee for the Pinellas Transportation (ACPT)**

Ms. Ward reported the May agenda focused on transportation and land use and the June agenda focused on the Pinellas Community Bus Plan.

### **B. MPO Redesignation**

Ms. Ward reported on the Regional MPO workshop that was held May 31 with the three MPOs of Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco. The meeting was held to allow discussion in order to respond to the letter sent by the FDOT Secretary in January. The letter requested that the MPOs review and evaluate whether multiple MPOs for the urbanized area are warranted due to the size and complexities of the area. The key points as identified from the workshop have been included in the agenda packet. In addition, a follow-up telephone conference between the MPO Staff Directors, FDOT, and the facilitators was held to review the key points. They reached an agreement on the key points and determined the general consensus from the workshop was the MPOs' desire to remain single county MPOs and to look at how to strengthen the process and to determine priorities for the core urban area. The MPO staff recommends the Board take action to remain a single county MPO and that they agree to participate in a steering committee or working group to explore options for strengthening the coordination process within the Transportation Management Area. It was the desire of the MPOs to not create another organization or layer of bureaucracy; therefore, they would look at ways to streamline and enhance the process that includes the Chairs Coordinating Committee and TBARTA. She would bring back a more detailed plan regarding the steering committee or working group but noted the discussions included the possibility of each MPO appointing three members that would meet over to discuss options. She has prepared a draft letter to be sent to the FDOT Secretary. The Hillsborough MPO took similar action at their recent meeting and they have sent a letter to the FDOT District VII Secretary and the FDOT Secretary in Tallahassee. The Pasco MPO is expected to take the same action at their Board meeting tomorrow.

***Councilman Kennedy moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to authorize the Chairman to send a response letter to FDOT that the Pinellas MPO wishes to remain as a county MPO and that they would participate in the process to explore options to strengthen the coordination process (Vote 11-0).***

Ms. Ward reported that she will bring back the updated MPO Reappointment Plan at the July meeting for MPO action to submit to FDOT. The Plan adds two additional seats to the MPO membership: one for the beach communities and one for the inland communities not currently represented on the MPO Board.

Upon query by Commissioner Bujalski regarding the timeline to seat the new Board, Ms. Ward responded that, once the MPO submits their Reapportionment Plan, FDOT has 30 days for review and then an additional 14 days to send their recommendation to the Governor. There isn't a timeline in the State Statutes or guidelines for the Governor to take action. She has been meeting with the MPO attorney, the PPC Interim Executive Director and the PPC attorney to see how they can begin moving activities together. Once the MPO receives approval from the Governor, they have 60 days to seat the new Board and put the required Joint Participation Agreement in place.

**C. 2012 State of the System (SOS) Report**

Mr. Bartolotta reviewed a PowerPoint presentation for the 2012 State of the System Report. This is a biennial report of the transportation system, identifies the needed improvements, and is used in the MPO planning programs and processes. He reviewed the data sources, road performance trends, congestion information, regional impacts and tourism trends, PSTA ridership, sidewalk coverage, bike lanes and trails, and vulnerable user crash fatalities.

Chairman Seel asked that the PowerPoint be emailed to the MPO members.

Upon query by Councilmember Hock-DiPolito, the MPO staff agreed to provide additional information regarding the timeline for the new ATMS software for sections of Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard.

Upon query by Councilman Kennedy, the MPO staff agreed to provide bus ridership information for the Central Avenue corridor.

Chairman Seel noted that U.S. 19 and Enterprise Road is under construction and that the traffic signal has been removed and only right turns are allowed from Enterprise onto U.S. 19. She indicated this is a dangerous situation due to the high speed of vehicles traveling on U.S. 19, which doesn't allow for gaps for those motorists turning right onto U.S. 19. She asked FDOT to look at the possible closure of Enterprise Road and U.S. 19 as an interim safety measure until the improvements are completed for that portion of U.S. 19.

**D. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation**

Ms. Ward briefly reviewed the evaluation that is required on an annual basis, noting the report indicates the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) is working effectively and that PSTA is doing a good job regarding transportation disadvantaged services. The MPO staff recommends approval.

***Mayor Eggers moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the CTC Review Report and Evaluation Workbook (Vote 11-0).***

**E. 2014 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Update**

Ms. Ward indicated the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) is required to be reviewed annually with a major update every five years. In the interim years, a minor update is required; therefore, this is a minor update. The proposed changes that have been identified are included in the agenda packet.

She pointed out the change to prioritize trips for education related to employment. The MPO staff recommends approval.

***Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the 2014 TDSP Update (Vote 11-0).***

**F. Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan – Presentation**

Mr. Bartolotta briefly reviewed the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Cost Feasible Plan, indicating the proposed changes on the map. The SIS identifies the proposed overpasses along U.S. 19 from Tampa Road to Tarpon Springs, which are identified as unfunded projects in the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The SIS identifies segments of the S.R. 686 connector for managed lanes. Since this is not included in the LRTP, this would require a feasibility study. In addition, there is a feasibility study for the managed lane concept on I-275 that is included in the SIS Cost Feasible Plan.

Mr. Ward added that the SIS Cost Feasible Plan will roll into the MPO's LRTP that the MPO will adopt next year. She pointed out that the bridge replacement for the northbound span of the Howard Frankland Bridge is included in the SIS Cost Feasible Plan. The MPO staff recommends the need to show the multi-modal improvements in the Plan even if it is unfunded. The MPO staff feels it's important to show the transit accommodations as part of the improvements. The Technical Coordinating Committee reviewed the Plan but didn't take any action at that time but it was indicated they could provide comment until June 15. The Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed the Plan and they recommended its endorsement.

***Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the Plan, with a request that FDOT show multi-modal improvements for the Howard Frankland Bridge (Vote 11-0).***

**G. Committee Recommendations**

• **CAC Motion Recommending the Legislation to Ban Texting While Driving be Strengthened**

Ms. Ward reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) wished to thank the Legislature for its efforts to ban texting while driving; however, they were concerned this is a secondary offense instead of a primary offense. The CAC would like the legislation strengthened. In addition, the MPO staff researched texting and cell phone legislation nationwide and found Florida is one of the states with the least stringent legislation.

***Commissioner Bujalski moved and Councilman Kennedy seconded a motion to approve the CAC recommendation.***

Upon query by Mayor Bradbury whether the legislation included police and fire personnel since they type information as they are driving. Ms. Ward responded that there are some exceptions but she would provide additional information via email.

***The motion carried unanimously (Vote 11-0).***

• **PTAC Recommending Use of Accepted Statewide Crash Report Form Involving Bike Crashes**

Ms. Ward reported that the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) had been informed that crashes that occurred on trails or off road facilities were not treated the same as those that occurred on roads. They are submitted as traffic incidents, which doesn't create a true picture of crashes

that involve vulnerable users. The PTAC recommended that all local agencies include traffic incidents as part of the standard crash form for consistency; therefore, they are requesting a letter be sent to all the local agencies encouraging them to use the statewide crash report form.

***Mayor Archie moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the PTAC recommendation (Vote 11-0).***

## **VII. REPORTS/UPDATE**

### **A. Multi-Named Roadways**

#### **1. Status on C.R. 296 Renaming**

Chairman Seel felt it was a good idea to establish a Working Group to develop options that would be brought back to the MPO and that the Working Group would include members from the affected jurisdictions.

***Commissioner Welch moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried for the establishment of a Working Group (Vote 11-0).***

Upon a call from Chairman Seel for volunteers to serve on the Working Group, the following volunteered: Mayor Bradbury, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito, and Councilman Danner. A letter will be sent to the City of Seminole asking they appoint a representative to serve on the Working Group.

#### **2. Historical Background Information on Multi-Named Roadways**

Ms. Ward indicated the information had been updated.

Councilman Kennedy suggested the same Working Group for the C.R. 296 renaming also look at this issue.

By consensus, the MPO directed that the working group for the C.R. 296 renaming also review the issue of multi-named roadways and that they forward their recommendations to the affected local governments for comment.

### **B. PSTA Activities Report**

Brad Miller, PSTA, reported briefly on the PSTA activities, which included the expansion of the Green Light outreach process, the importance of all the staffs working together, and ridership is up.

### **C. Committee Appointments**

Chairman Seel reviewed the vacancies for the Citizens and Pedestrian Committees.

## **VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. Cancellation of August MPO Meeting**

Chairman Seel noted the August MPO meeting has been cancelled.

### **B. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Stakeholder and Public Outreach Report**

Information is included in the agenda packet. Chairman Seel expressed her appreciation to the MPO and PSTA staffs for their outreach efforts.

### **C. Correspondence**

### **D. Other**

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito requested a letter be sent to the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council thanking them for hosting the May 31 Regional MPO Workshop. Ms. Ward responded that she would send a letter.

The MPO emphasized that planning for all improvement projects should include all modes of transportation, including transit. Ms. Ward responded that staff is doing some through the congestion management activities and in coordination with their partners and engaging technical assistants as resources allow.

The MPO acknowledged the initiative of its members and noted that it was excellent that the Pinellas MPO is attempting to look at things from a regional perspective. Chairman Seel was commended for her leadership role.

Ms. Ward indicated the 2013 legislative summary received from the MPOAC will be forwarded to the MPO members. In looking at the information, legislation banning texting while driving includes language that it does not apply to motor vehicle operators performing official duties such as emergency personnel.

Ms. Ward thanked the MPO's partners in the submittal of the TIGER V grant application, noting they received letters of support from all 25 local governments within Pinellas County.

The MPO asked that all members be apprised when the next dates are for the MPOAC Institute and that they try to attend. Ms. Ward provided information regarding the MPOAC Institute and indicated that follow-up information will be provided regarding the abbreviated half-day offered by the MPOAC in association with the Florida Association of Counties' meeting. In addition, she will find out whether the abbreviated half-day is also offered for the League of Cities.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

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Karen Seel, Chairman