

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES – MEETING OF JULY 10, 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, July 10, 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  
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  
Debbie Hunt, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Harriet Crozier – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Commissioner, City of Largo  
David Archie – Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs representing Tarpon Springs/Oldsmar/Safety Harbor

**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)  
Kirk Bogen – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Heather Sobush – Pinellas County MPO  
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO  
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg  
Evan Mory – City of St. Petersburg  
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater  
Leland Dicus – City of Largo  
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park  
Patrick Murphy – City of Pinellas Park  
Greg Rice – City of Dunedin  
Lace Giebel – City of Dunedin  
George Kinney – City of St. Pete Beach  
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
Cassandra Borchers – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater  
Justin Fleming – Resident  
David Bredahl – American Consulting  
Scott Pringle – Jacobs Consulting  
Bob Clifford – TBARTA  
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Karen Seel called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

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

**III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Justin Fleming, Riverview, came forward and provided a summary of the benefits of concrete and asked that concrete be considered in projects.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of June 12, 2013**

**B. Approval of Invoices**

**1. URS**

**2. City of St. Petersburg – Central Avenue BRT Corridor Enhancement Project**

**3. Tindale-Oliver & Associates (invoices in folders)**

**C. Approval of Amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

**D. Approval of Invoice for MPO Share of Copier with Pinellas Planning Council**

***Councilman Danner moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (including invoices in folders) (Vote 9-0).***

**V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

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

Ms. Ward briefly described the two proposed amendments:

- Pasco County Public Transportation (PCPT) – \$261,099 for the construction of an operation and maintenance facility and the purchase of a 40-foot bus
- 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, ***Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendments by roll call vote (Vote 9-0).***

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

**A. Howard Frankland Bridge Replacement Presentation**

Kirk Bogen, FDOT, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding replacement of the northbound span of the Howard Frankland Bridge and the regional transit corridor evaluation. The northbound bridge will need to be replaced and a transit connection was added to the study. The cost estimate to replace the northbound bridge is approximately \$367 million and the question is how to accommodate transit and include stations on both sides of the Bay. Construction costs to include two express lanes in each direction would be approximately \$706 million. FDOT is in the process of evaluating whether rail could be accommodated in the center lane and how much it would increase the cost. The cost to replace the northbound bridge and include transit exclusive Guideway is approximately \$1.3567 million. He reviewed the stakeholder questionnaire summary and a possible typical section (4-1-R-1-4); however, FDOT doesn't have a cost estimate for that option. The next steps include coordination and seeking input and engaging the public. A public

hearing will be held in the fall of 2013 and FDOT will come back to the MPO after the public hearing.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito requested a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. Commissioner Welch requested that it be standard procedure to make all presentations available on the website.

Discussion followed regarding the various alternatives and associated costs, bridge life expectancy, some MPO members liked the alternative for using the center with four general use lanes and one express lane in each direction although FDOT has not determined a cost estimate yet., and the timeframe for the study noting the study will be complete by the end of the year.

**B. TBARTA Master Plan Presentation**

Bob Clifford, TBARTA, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2013 Master Plan Update. He noted this is a minor update and that they ensured consistency with corridor studies and other plans and projects, as well as regional coordination efforts and refined regional networks. Included in this update were projects showing local and regional progress toward implementation, such as the Pinellas Alternatives Analysis and other regional priorities. He reviewed the update process and the coordination with other efforts, as well as the public engagement efforts.

\*\*During the presentation, Chairman Seel left at 1:44 p.m. and returned at 1:55 p.m.\*\*

Some discussion followed.

**C. MPO Reapportionment Plan**

Ms. Ward noted, at the last meeting, the MPO recommended to FDOT and the Governor that they remain a single County MPO. Therefore, the item currently before the MPO is the Reapportionment Plan. The changes to the MPO Reapportionment Plan include expanding the MPO Board to add two additional seats that will be shared on a rotating basis. One seat will be for the ten beach communities and one seat will be for the six inland communities not currently represented on the MPO Board. The established procedure for these two appointments have been included in the Plan and allows for municipal appointments on a two-year rotating basis with reappointment up to four successive two-year terms for a maximum term of eight years. The three maps included in the Plan show the adjusted urban boundary, existing MPO membership and population, and proposed MPO membership and population. Also, language regarding the regional coordination process has been included, as well as resolutions of support from all local governments and PSTA. Once the MPO approves the Plan, it will be submitted to FDOT for their review. FDOT has 30 days for their review and another 14 days to consider comments and then submit the Plan to the Governor. There is no time frame for the Governor's review; however, staff will communicate the desire to move as quickly as possible through the process. Once the Governor signs off on the Plan, the MPO has 60 days for the appointments to the new board and to update the Interlocal Agreements.

Upon query by Mayor Eggers, the response was the same representative would serve on both the MPO and PPC Boards.

***Councilman Kennedy moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the Reapportionment Plan and authorized its transmittal to FDOT (Vote 9-0).***

**D. MPO 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan – Scenario Planning**

Scott Pringle, Jacobs Consulting, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that included a summary of the station area charettes and the scenario planning that is currently underway as a part of the 2040 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Update. He will bring renderings of the stations to the MPO at a future MPO meeting.

\*\*During the presentation, Commissioner Justice left at 2:05 p.m.\*\*

\*\*During the presentation, Mayor Eggers left at 2:06 p.m.\*\*

\*\*During the presentation, Mayor Eggers returned at 2:15 p.m.\*\*

Mayor Bradbury asked for a copy of the presentation.

\*\*Commissioner Justice returned at 2:17 p.m.\*\*

Discussion followed regarding the public's perception of increased density as opposed to areas such as New York City. In certain areas, the public didn't want the character of neighborhoods changed. Density should be located in the right places and there should be proper planning so it doesn't impact neighborhoods. The intent and placement of the density should be conveyed to the public

**E. Draft Goals and Objectives for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Update**

Ms. Ward briefly reviewed the goals and objectives for the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan. She indicated that they will be developing the Measures of Effectiveness over the next several months and will bring them to the MPO before adoption of the Long Range Plan.

\*\*During the presentation, Mayor Eggers left at 2:29 p.m.\*\*

\*\*During the presentation, Councilman Danner left at 2:30 p.m.\*\*

\*\*During the presentation, Councilman Danner returned at 2:32 p.m.\*\*

***Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the draft Goals and Objectives for the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (Vote 8-0).***

**F. Committee Recommendations – Bicycle and Technical Committees**

• **Roosevelt Boulevard/S.R. 686 Resurfacing**

Ms. Ward reported that they received a request from the City of St. Petersburg that FDOT include a multi-use trail on the north side of Roosevelt Boulevard between 28<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Streets as part of the resurfacing project. The Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Technical Coordinating Committee reviewed the request and recommended the trail be included as part of the resurfacing project. Mr. Bartolotta showed the location of the proposed trail on a graphic and indicated the benefits of the trail. He indicated it would cost an additional \$135,000 to include the trail in the resurfacing project.

Upon query by Chairman Seel, Ms. Ward responded that FDOT indicated there was sufficient right-of-way for a 12-foot trail. She noted that it would provide connectivity to the trail system in the area.

Councilman Kennedy indicated his support, noting it would provide additional safety for trail users.

Tom Whalen, City of St. Petersburg, clarified that the crossing would be located in the ramp area (off-ramp from I-275) and that a separate trail would be safer. They will need to look at how to cross the ramp area. In response to Commissioner Welch, Mr. Whalen indicated it would be at-grade.

Lee Royal, FDOT, indicated that FDOT has been working with St. Petersburg staff and will continue to work with staff to make sure it's a safe crossing. FDOT is looking to partner with the City, including a maintenance agreement.

Following discussion, ***Councilman Kennedy moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the BAC and TCC recommendation (Vote 8-0).***

- **2013 TIGER Discretionary Grant Program**

Chairman Seel noted the Bicycle Advisory Committee's support for the TIGER grant application. She reported they are still in the process of confirming a meeting on July 24 with the DOT Secretary.

**G. Committee Appointments**

***Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the appointments of Delquanda Tuner representing Children at Risk on the Local Coordinating Board, Andrew Hayslip representing the Clearwater Planning Department on the Technical Coordinating Committee, and Juan Luvian as the PSTA representative with Marilyn Turman and Bob Lasher as alternates on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees (Vote 8-0).***

**VII. REPORTS/UPDATE**

**A. PSTA Activities Report**

Brad Miller, PSTA, thanked the MPO and the MPO staff for their continued involvement with the Howard Frankland Bridge replacement and the inclusion of transit and supported the replacement of the northbound bridge with the center option. He summarized the Greenlight Pinellas outreach process and reported on the business and civic committees meetings, noting the committees are different in their approach and questions. The two committees will need to eventually endorse the Plan or reach consensus on it. The process is moving forward with completion in August. The next Advisory Committee for Pinellas Transportation meeting is scheduled for July 22. Mr. Miller also reported that PSTA has had a successful partnership with the Jolley Trolley over the last several years; however, the grant from FDOT for three years has expired, and they will need to work through the resultant budget issues.

There was discussion regarding the need to educate the public and get the message out to the public regarding the Greenlight Pinellas effort. Mr. Miller is speaking to as many groups and organizations as possible and asked that anyone who has additional venues to provide that information to him.

**B. Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee Meeting**

Chairman Seel provided an update on the recent Joint MPO/PPC Executive Committee meeting held earlier that day, noting the Committee approved the job description for the Executive Director and the salary range of \$118,000 to \$178,000. The Human Resources Department has agreed to help with the screening of candidates. There will be two panels to review potential candidates

screened by the Human Resources Department and then the final candidates will be interviewed by the full board. The PPC will have a land use package for the Greenlight Pinellas effort and their work will be complete in September. She expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts.

**VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Mobility Plan Status**

Chairman Seel noted the Mobility Plan status was included in the agenda packet.

**B. Advisory Committee for the Pinellas Transportation (ACPT)**

The next ACPT meeting is July 22.

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

Information is included in the agenda packet.

**D. July 12, 2013 Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting and Joint Meeting With the Central Florida MPO Alliance**

The agendas are included in the agenda packet.

**E. 2012 Traffic Count Map**

The traffic count map is included in the agenda packet.

**F. Correspondence**

**G. Other**

Ms. Ward announced that the next meeting for the Transportation Management Area (TMA) is tentatively scheduled for September 13 at the Tampa International Airport but that date would be confirmed after the Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee meeting on July 12. All MPO members were invited to attend to discuss the structure of the TMA Working Group and to discuss with the other MPOs the alternatives for transit improvements in the Howard Frankland Bridge Corridor. Information will be sent to the MPO members.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

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Karen Seel, Chairman