

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 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, December 11, 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
Harriet Crozier – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Commissioner, City of Largo
David Archie – Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs representing Tarpon Springs/
Oldsmar/Safety Harbor
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – Councilmember, City of Clearwater (arrived at 1:07 p.m.)
David Eggers – Mayor, City of Dunedin
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

Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Charlie Justice – Board of County Commissioners

OTHERS PRESENT

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County MPO
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
Debbie Hunt – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Lee Royal – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
David Chase – City of Pinellas Park
Joe Falanga – CAC Chairman
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Brian Smith – BAC Chairman
Barbara Hoffman – Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve
Paul Kurtz – URS
Sherri Jent – Stantec
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Karen Seel called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Archie performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens who came forward to be heard.

IV. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING MPO MEMBER JEFF DANNER

The MPO recognized outgoing MPO member Jeff Danner for his service on the MPO and his leadership with Greenlight Pinellas.

Councilman Kennedy recognized Councilman Danner's accomplishments and leadership for the City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, and for the larger region.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of November 13, 2013**
- B. **Approval of Invoice**
 - 1. **Tindale-Oliver and Associates**
 - 2. **URS**
 - 3. **CilftonLarsonAllen (MPO Auditors)**
 - 4. **eTown Hall – Pinellas County Commissioners**
- C. **Approval of Amendments to the General Planning Consultant Contracts**
- D. **Approval of Amendment to TBARTA Agreement for Chairs Coordinating Committee Support**
- E. **Approval of Section 5303 Joint Participation Agreement**
- F. **Approval of Repair/Replacement of Traffic Count Equipment**

Ms. Ward indicated the total for the Tindale-Oliver invoices was actually less than indicated in the backup material. The correct amount is \$44,619.95.

Councilman Kennedy moved, Mayor Eggers seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda as amended (Vote 9-0).

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. ACPT Meeting of December 9, 2013

Ms. Ward provided highlights of the December 9 ACPT meeting. They received the Greenlight Plan financial plan and an update as to who has endorsed the Plan or has scheduled endorsement. They reviewed the ballot language for the referendum. The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) voted (6 to 1) to approve the ballot language at their meeting last night. They had a presentation on the Howard Frankland Bridge and the projects on the Hillsborough side regarding I-275 and S.R. 60/Memorial interchange. The MPO will receive an update on those projects in early 2014. The ACPT also discussed their future role and the staff of the partner agencies will come back at their January meeting with a proposal.

Commissioner Bujalski thanked the County Commission for their support of the project.

Chairman Seel, Commissioner Crozier, Councilman Kennedy, and Commissioner Welch all provided input regarding the building blocks to bring it to a referendum, the need to continue to educate citizens, a suggestion that FDOT could seek public input regarding the Howard Frankland Bridge as part of the education process for Greenlight Pinellas, thanking everyone involved in the Greenlight Pinellas effort, notifying citizens to go to the website, greenlightpinellas.com for additional information and/or contact PSTA to provide a speaker on that topic.

Ms. Ward added the ACPT agenda packet had been forwarded to each MPO member and an executive summary of the Greenlight Plan was included.

During discussion, Commissioner Welch arrived at 1:20 p.m.

Commissioner Bujalski thanked Commissioner Welch for bringing forward some of the citizens' concerns at the BCC meeting.

B. Election of Officers for 2014

Chairman Seel indicated the Nominating Committee was comprised of Harriet Crozier, Jeff Danner, and Doreen Hock-DiPolito.

Ms. Ward reported the Nominating Committee met immediately after last month's meeting and then had a follow-up meeting just prior to this meeting. The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for 2014:

- Karen Seel – Chairman
- Jim Kennedy – Vice Chairman
- Secretary/Treasurer – Harriet Crozier

Commissioner Welch moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the slate of officers for 2014 (Vote 9-0).

C. FDOT Items

****FDOT Transportation Improvement Program Amendment – Walk-On Item**

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment. This is a roll forward amendment for S.R. 686 for a flyover south to 49th Street. The project is included in FDOT's Work Program; however, the contract wasn't executed prior to the end of the fiscal year so it now needs to be amended into the current fiscal year. This is for the right-of-way and a portion of the environmental phase in the amount of \$466,442. At the request of Chairman Seel, he showed the project location on a graphic.

Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendment by roll call vote (Vote 9-0).

1. FDOT FY 2014/15 – 2018/19 Five Year Draft Tentative Work Program

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the FDOT Five Year Draft Tentative Work Program. He reviewed the resurfacing projects, capacity projects, and the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS)/Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) projects and highlighted projects of interest, including the Howard Frankland Bridge northbound replacement that is included in 2019 as a design/build project. A presentation to the MPO will be provided at the conclusion of the Preliminary Design and Environment Study for the Howard Frankland Bridge.

Upon a request by Commissioner Bujalski for information on the placement of Dynamic Message Signs along C.R. 1, Ms. Ward responded she would provide information.

Mr. Beaty continued regarding information on the Transportation Alternatives, aviation, and transit programs. The public hearing for the Tentative Work Program will be held December 16 at the FDOT office. MPO and FDOT staff will also be available at satellite MPO offices, in addition to people being able to stream the public hearing via computer. Public comment will be received through December 26 and the MPO and its subcommittees have until January 22 to provide comment. A statewide public hearing will be held by the Florida Transportation Commission in March and then adopted by July 1.

Councilman Kennedy had a concern regarding two projects associated with the connector to 118th Avenue that are not included in the Tentative Work Project. Lee Royal, FDOT, responded FDOT is looking at ways to package the project in order to move it forward and will continue to work with MPO staff in this regard.

Ms. Ward added the Technical Coordinating Committee raised similar comments and endorsed the Tentative Work Program based on receipt of information once it's available.

Based upon further query by Councilman Kennedy, Ms. Ward responded the MPO would review the Work Program again as it's adopted in the Transportation Improvement Program in June. Ms. Royal added FDOT will provide information on this project as it moves forward.

Upon query by Commissioner Bujalski as to how the MPO could know what has changed in the Tentative Work Program, Mr. Beaty responded FDOT is working on a report highlighting the differences and he will provide that to MPO staff once it's available. Ms. Royal added FDOT is required to provide a variance report to the MPO in January; and, in addition, FDOT is asking the MPO to review the Program at today's meeting and provide formal comment or objection once they receive the variance report in January.

2. Update on Gandy Boulevard Project Between 4th Street and Dr. MLK Jr. Street

Ms. Ward reported the MPO staff forwarded the update to the MPO members on Monday that an agreement has been reached for Florida Gas Transmission and the contract has been executed with a Notice to Proceed on December 17 and a start date in January.

Councilman Kennedy thanked FDOT for their support in moving this project forward.

3. Multi-Use Paths Policy for State Roads

Ms. Ward indicated this was a request by the City of St. Petersburg for the MPO's and its advisory committees' support for FDOT to include a multi-use path instead of a sidewalk in the resurfacing project for Roosevelt Boulevard. FDOT's response is included in the agenda packet indicating they would require the City to provide the additional funding and enter into a maintenance agreement. This item was deferred at last month's MPO meeting since FDOT and the City are working on this matter.

****Mayor Archie left at 1:50 p.m.****

Joe Kubicki, City of St. Petersburg Director for Transportation Parking Management, indicated the City has been working with FDOT as to the accommodation of bicyclists on high speed, high volume roadways. Regarding Roosevelt Boulevard, FDOT has agreed to use the funds from a planned sidewalk on the south side for a multi-use trail on the north side. In addition, FDOT has also agreed to maintain the facility.

Councilman Kennedy thanked everyone for their hard work and communication to make a safer facility.

Debbie Hunt, FDOT, clarified this project was to make it safer for bicyclists and pedestrians and that this is not considered a recreational trail. A recreational trail has an expectation for a higher level of maintenance; however, if the local government expects the facility to be maintained at a higher level, FDOT would enter into a maintenance agreement so the local government could maintain the facility at a higher level.

D. Tri-County Trail Project (Presentation)

Ms. Ward provided lead-in comments regarding the history of the study effort to look at possible alignments for the trail. She noted the MPO will receive a presentation on the preferred alignment and then will be asked to take action on the preferred alignment as well as a request to seek funding since it's a connector to the larger Coast-to-Coast regional trail.

****Mayor Archie returned at 1:55 p.m.****

David Kurtz, URS, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding the reasons for the trail, description of the surrounding areas, proposed alignments, and a description of the preferred route. The next steps include a presentation to the Pasco MPO at their meeting tomorrow, receive approval from the Pinellas and Pasco MPOs, completion of the study report, continued coordination with Duke Energy and Mitchell regarding use of their property (no additional right-of-way is required), identification of a funding source for the Pinellas section so the project can move into design and then construction.

****During the presentation, Councilman Kennedy left at 2:06 and returned at 2:09 p.m.****

Upon query by Chairman Seel as to Pasco's funding, Jim Edwards, Pasco MPO Executive Director, responded they are using "Penny for Pasco" money to fund design in 2014, advance funds for the Preliminary Engineering phase, and construction planned for 2016/17 or accelerated if possible.

Upon further query by Chairman Seel regarding Duke Energy, Mr. Kurtz responded, once they found the correct contact, they have received preliminary support; however, they need the final drawings for sign off. Chairman Seel asked for the contact information. Mr. Kurtz will provide that information to MPO staff.

Upon query by Mayor Eggers regarding the evacuation route through Pinellas County, Ms. Ward responded she would provide him a copy of the evacuation map. Mayor Eggers noted several people had indicated they were uneasy with using a trail that goes underneath a power line. Mr. Kurtz responded that was discussed with Duke Energy and Duke Energy has a White Paper as to why that's not a problem. He would forward a copy of the White Paper to MPO staff.

****Councilman Danner left at 2:15 and returned at 2:17 p.m.****

Upon query by Mayor Archie regarding a pedestrian crossing at East Lake Road and Keystone Road, Mr. Kurtz responded the plan is to utilize the existing traffic signal but to include additional provisions to provide a safe crossing.

Commissioner Bujalski requested some type of flashing lights be considered at the mid-block crossing to allow for a safer crossing. Mayor Eggers requested they also consider having the light automatically turn when a trail user approaches since a lot of people don't push the button.

Commissioner Bujalski requested a future MPO meeting include discussion as to a consistent policy on the use of pedestrian lights for mid-block crossings.

Barbara Hoffman, Friends of Brooker Creek Preserve Chairman, spoke in support of the project, especially as it connects to Brooker Creek Preserve, and volunteered their assistance.

Brian Smith, Bicycle Advisory Committee Chairman, spoke in support of the project. He also announced that he was appointed to the Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation Board and was a Governor's appointment to the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, which is advocating for the Legislature to provide State funds for the gaps on the Coast-to-Coast Trail. He supported the MPO approval of the preferred alignment and the recommendation that the project be included in the request for State funding as part of the Coast-to-Coast Trail. They have been working with FDOT to allow Transportation Trust Fund money to be used for trail projects.

Commissioner Bujalski moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve BAC Motion #13-11 in support of the preferred alignment, support the recommended alignment, and recommend the project be included in the request for State funding as part of the Coast-to-Coast Trail project (Vote 9-0).

E. City of Oldsmar Request for Additional Transportation Alternatives Funding for Phases III and V of the Oldsmar Trail

Ms. Ward reviewed the City of Oldsmar's request for additional Transportation Alternatives funding for Phases III and V of the Oldsmar Trail. The additional funding for Phase III is under \$80,000 and Phase V is a little over \$112,000. FDOT has indicated the additional funds would not impact funding for other projects. Included in the agenda packet is the Transportation Alternatives Priority List that includes the projects status. The MPO staff is recommending approval.

Chairman Seel added that the City of Oldsmar indicated in their letter they were not using \$400,000 from their original request, which will help offset the increase.

Commissioner Crozier moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried to approve the City of Oldsmar's request for additional funding (Vote 9-0).

F. Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan – Facilities Element (Presentation)

Ms. Ward provided lead-in remarks noting the MPO previously reviewed the Crash Data Report and this is the next effort in updating the Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan.

Al Bartolotta reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, noting they are working on policies to go with the Plan that will be reviewed by the MPO in January or February.

Following some discussion, ***Commissioner Crozier moved, Councilman Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the Facilities Element (Vote 9-0).***

G. Committee Recommendations

1. Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

- **Approve/Endorse Tri-County Trails Connection Study (BAC Motion #13-11)**

This was approved as part of Agenda Item VI D.

2. **Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC)**
 - **Endorsement of the Teen Driver’s Safety Education Program and Recommend the MPO Receive the Presentation (PTAC Motion #13-3)**
Commissioner Crozier moved, Councilman Danner seconded, and motion carried to approve PTAC Motion #13-3 endorsing the Teen Driver’s Safety Education Program (Vote 9-0).
3. **Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC)**
 - **Multi-Named Roadway Signage**
This item was deferred at the request of the TCC.
4. **Joint BAC/PTAC**
 - **Motion #13-4: Support Largo Trailhead Plans**
 - **Motion #13-5: Endorse Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan Facilities Element**
 - **Motion #13-6: Support Final Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety Recommendations for Clearwater Memorial Causeway Bridge**
Commissioner Crozier moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried to approve the three joint BAC/PTAC motions (Vote 9-0).

H. Transportation Disadvantaged Items

1. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan Amendments

Ms. Ward reviewed the amendments to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan to retain the \$5 co-pay associated with the 10-nonconsecutive day bus pass based on income levels and to correct the co-pay amount shown for wheelchair service from \$3 to \$4. The Local Coordinating Board reviewed the amendments at their November meeting and recommend the MPO approve the amendments. The summary of the changes are included on Table 8.

Mayor Eggers moved and Commissioner Crozier seconded a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan.

Commissioner Crozier questioned the wheelchair late fee. Mr. Miller responded these are contract rates with PSTA’s provider and, if the provider is late, PSTA charges the provider a late fee. He provided some clarification on the proposed amendments.

Following discussion, the motion was approved (Vote 9-0).

2. Approval of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation

Ms. Ward reported, as part of the MPO being the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA), they are required to assess the Community Transportation Coordinator, which is PSTA. MPO staff performed the assessment, which is a standard process, and found PSTA to be in compliance. MPO staff is recommending approval.

Mayor Eggers moved and Councilman Kennedy seconded a motion to approve the CTC Review Report and Evaluation Workbook.

Upon query by Commissioner Crozier as to the corrective actions, Ms. Ward responded that a driver did not assist a passenger and a vehicle did not have the TD Helpline number posted and those have now been corrected.

The motion was approved (Vote 9-0).

I. Committee Appointments

Ms. Ward noted Mayor Eggers, as the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Chairman, has indicated he would like to provide an opportunity for any MPO member who would like to be the LCB Chairman. She will bring this back at the next MPO meeting.

Ms. Ward indicated Jeff Danner has served as the MPOAC representative for the last couple of years. With Mr. Danner leaving the MPO, another representative is needed.

Councilman Kennedy moved and Commissioner Welch seconded a motion to nominate Karen Seel to serve as the MPOAC representative. Commissioner Welch moved and Mayor Archie seconded a motion to nominate Jim Kennedy as the alternate. The motion carried (Vote 9-0).

Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the appointment of Paul Kurtz as an At Large representative on the BAC, the reappointment of Joe Falanga to serve a second term on the CAC, the reappointment of Neil McMullen to serve as a Clearwater representative on the CAC, and the appointment of Michelle Orton as a Beach Communities representative on the TCC (Vote 9-0).

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. Status of MPO Reapportionment Plan

Ms. Ward reported FDOT has indicated the Reapportionment Plan has been transmitted to the Governor's Office and they are anticipating a two to three week turnaround.

B. PSTA Activities Report

Mr. Miller thanked the Board of County Commissioners for their support on the ballot referendum.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

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

B. Transportation Management Area (TMA) Meeting of November 15, 2013

C. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting of December 13, 2013

D. 2014 MPO and Committee Meeting Schedules

E. Correspondence

F. Other

Ms. Ward noted that she will send out the summary of the TMA meeting once they receive it from the facilitator and that the Chairs Coordinating Committee will meet this Friday and a report will be provided at the next MPO meeting.

Chairman Seel indicated the 2014 MPO and advisory committee meeting schedule is included in the agenda packet and wished everyone best wishes for the holiday season and thanked them for their service.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Karen Seel, Chairman