

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES – MEETING OF JUNE 11, 2014**

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 11, 2014 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Kennedy – Vice *Chairman* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg  
David Archie – Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs representing Tarpon Springs/  
Oldsmar/Safety Harbor (arrived at 1:08 p.m.)  
Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park  
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA  
David Eggers – Mayor, City of Dunedin  
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – Vice Mayor, Councilmember, City of Clearwater  
Charlie Justice – Board of County Commissioners  
Wengay Newton – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg (arrived late)  
Ken Welch – Board of County Commissioners  
Debbie Hunt, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of  
Transportation District 7)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Karen Seel – *Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners  
Harriet Crozier – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Commissioner, City of Largo

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director  
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO  
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office  
Chelsea Hardy – County Attorney's Office  
Lee Royal – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park  
Kathy Gademer – City of Pinellas Park  
Chris Hanning – City of Pinellas Park  
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg  
Cheryl Stacks – City of St. Petersburg  
Evan Mory – City of St. Petersburg  
Officer Mitch Detty – St. Petersburg Police Department  
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater  
Brian Smith- BAC Chairman  
Dave Talhouk – Pinellas County Department of Environment and Infrastructure  
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
Leland Discus – City of Largo  
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO  
Sarah Perch – Pinellas County MPO  
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairman Jim Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner Bujalski performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

\*\*Mayor Archie arrived at 1:08 p.m.\*\*

Everyone on the dais introduced themselves. Mr. Sadowsky introduced Chelsea Hardy, County Attorney's Office, who will be the attorney representing the joint MPO/PPC Board once it becomes unified.

### III. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Brian Smith BPAC Chairman and member of the Florida Trails and Greenways Foundation, announced that the Coast-to-Coast Trail received \$15.5 million in funding, with a portion to be used to fund the gap located in Pinellas County. He thanked the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation and the Governor for approving the funds. Mr. Smith also reported the Legislature passed Senate Bill 2514 that allows FDOT to use transportation trust funds for trails; and, in addition, legislation passed that allows FDOT to plan, design, and construct trails.

Upon a request by Councilmember Hock-DiPolito, Ms. Ward agreed to email a copy of Senate Bill 2514, noting there is still discussion in Tallahassee regarding the language.

Councilman Newton stated that funding trails is important; however, he cautioned that the safety and security aspect of the trail should also be included.

### IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 14, 2014**
- B. **Approval of Invoice**
  - 1. **Tindale-Oliver and Associates**
  - 2. **Laughlin & Associates**
- C. **Approval of FDOT Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) for PL Funds**
- D. **Approval of Transportation Disadvantaged Planning grant**

***Commissioner Welch moved, Councilman Newton seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 9-0).***

### V. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

#### A. **Proposed Amendment to the FY 2013/14 – 2017/18 Transportation Improvement Program**

Brian Beaty, FDOT, described the proposed amendments to the FY 2013/14 – 2017/18 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding for WorkNet Pinellas for \$211,000, Neighborly Care Network for \$780,900, and PSTA for \$525,800. The funding under Section 5310 is intended to fund programs to serve the special needs and mobility of seniors and persons with disabilities beyond regular transportation services.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. The public hearing was closed.

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

#### B. **Adoption of the FY 2014/15 – 2018/19 Transportation Improvement Program**

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, indicated the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is annually adopted by July 1 and incorporates the State's Work Program that was presented to the MPO last December. The TIP includes \$2.4 billion in expenditures. He highlighted the projects that have been completed since the last TIP and then briefly highlighted the road projects, bicycle/pedestrian facilities, and the Intelligent Transportation System projects. The seven new road projects include five projects for

U.S. 19, a project for the replacement of the Howard Frankland Bridge, a project to repair the Skyway Bridge, and advancement of the Gateway Express project. A couple projects were deferred.

Commissioner Welch asked for details of the Skyway Bridge repair. Mr. Bartolotta and Ms. Royal agreed to provide that information.

Commissioner Bujalski asked when the engineering process would begin for the S.R. 580 project from Bass Boulevard to Pinehurst Road. Mr. Bartolotta responded he would get that information. Ms. Royal added the State's fiscal year begins on July 1 and that she would check on the dates. Commissioner Bujalski noted there were pedestrian crossing concerns at the Pinellas Trail as it crosses Skinner Boulevard. Ms. Royal responded that the design is underway and requested that the Dunedin staff email their concerns.

Mayor Bradbury had a question regarding 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to U.S. 19. Ms. Ward responded 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue is a County facility and today's action is for the adoption of the TIP to include the State projects. Ms. Ward agreed to provide an update since the County's Work Program will not come before the MPO for review until the fall.

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward. The public hearing was closed.

***Commissioner Welch moved, Councilman Newton seconded, and motion carried to adopt the TIP by roll call vote (Vote 9-0).***

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

### **A. Transit Access Study Presentation**

Ms. Ward noted this item was deferred until the July MPO meeting, at which time there will be an MPO and FDOT presentation.

### **B. Follow-Up on Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program Update**

#### **1. TA Project Priorities List**

Ms. Ward provided lead-in comments regarding the Technical Coordinating Committee's (TCC) recommendation to allow local governments to substitute projects and to add new projects to the bottom of the list and not prioritize them at this time. Regarding substitute projects, they would remain at the same priority and at the same cost as the original project.

Mr. Bartolotta indicated there were a couple projects that are being removed from the priority list: Oldsmar Trail Phases 1 and 4 since construction is now complete, rehab of the Pinellas Trail that has been completed, and a Pinellas County sidewalk project where the project was completed by another funding source.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito cautioned changing the priority too much as they go through the process for funding.

Councilman Kennedy noted the new process is that the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group would rank the projects and that the projects need to be on the priority list.

Regarding the substitute projects, Ms. Ward responded there isn't enough time to go through the advisory committee process. A deadline of July 1 was set to receive new applications. Some of the criteria for the Transportation Alternatives Program

are different than the previous Transportation Enhancement Program where landscaping projects are no longer eligible.

Following discussion, ***Commissioner Welch moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the TCC recommendation to allow local governments to modify and substitute projects included on the Transportation Alternatives Priority List and to allow local governments to add new projects to the bottom of the list (Vote 9-0).***

**2. Use of TA Funds for Security Cameras**

Evan Mory, Director of Parking and Management – City of St. Petersburg, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on St. Petersburg's Trail Security Program that covered the various initiatives for engineering/planning and encouragement to enhance the safety of Trail users. St. Petersburg Police Officer Mitch Detty described the enforcement tools being utilized to provide safety. One of those tools is the use of security cameras on the Trail for a pilot project for the section of the Trail between 49<sup>th</sup> Street and 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. The cameras would be modeled after the City of Bradenton's cameras that are located along their Riverwalk. The cameras would be operational at all times although they would not be actively monitored and would use infrared for nighttime recording. The intent is that the cameras could be replicated across the entire Pinellas Trail where appropriate and for use by the other police agencies. The estimated cost for the cameras is \$100,000 (\$75,000 for the cameras and \$25,000 for the poles, installation, and electric work). The system would use higher resolution cameras for entry/exit points and lower resolution cameras for the corridor. The cameras would use wireless mesh/independent broadband signals to eliminate the recurring cell and hot spot fees. Mr. Mory indicated they initially wanted to work with the County where the County would pay for the cameras and the City would pay the balance; however, in discussions with the County staff, it looks like the County doesn't have \$75,000 in their budget to pay for the cameras so the City will look at funding the entire amount. A field trip to look at the Bradenton camera system is tentatively scheduled for July 7 at 2:00 p.m., with everyone meeting at the Bradenton Police Department. Once the date and time are confirmed, the MPO staff will notify everyone of the information and provide the address.

Considerable discussion ensued, including several questions regarding the camera system, the upcoming field trip, and other safety initiatives. It was clarified that the camera system would require maintenance and/or replacement at the end of its life span. It was noted that each camera costs approximately \$1,200 and the City plans to initially install 18 cameras, 4 intermediate wireless antennae, and a server. The plan is to also place the cameras within hotspots where they can be remotely accessed by the police. It was also clarified that the St. Petersburg Police Department would own the equipment and would store and keep the records. The information could be shared with the Sheriff's Office once the St. Petersburg Police Department gave them access, as well as the Sheriff's Office being allowed to remotely access the cameras within the hotspots. Each Police Department would own their equipment. Regarding administrative costs, Mr. Mory stated the St. Petersburg Police Department plans to use their existing resources and not hire additional staff.

**\*\*During discussion, Commissioner Justice left at 1:58 p.m.\*\***

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito asked that in the future consideration be given to allow access to anyone who wished to view the Trail for their enjoyment so that the

system can transition from an enforcement tool to something that can be enjoyed by others. Mr. Mory responded they would probably want to look at setting up a separate system. He noted that both the City of St. Petersburg and FDOT have cameras that people can log into to view the area.

Commissioner Bujalski noted the MPO had taken earlier action to add three MPO members to the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force. At the last Task Force meeting, they heard there were only 35 paid rangers for the entire Pinellas County park system and approximately 90 volunteer auxiliary rangers. At that meeting, they asked the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Department for a report as to how many rangers are needed if money were not an issue. They also discussed the possibility of using cameras. The Task Force felt that, if cameras are going to be on the Trail, the system should be adaptable for everyone and that the areas that needed heightened security should be looked at first. Their desire is to have the County partner with the municipalities instead of the municipalities carrying the burden for the total cost of the cameras and installation.

Mr. Mory added that they have had discussions with the County's Parks and Conservation Resources Department and they are planning to increase the use of prisoners to clear debris from the Trail, as well as some other recommendations that have been brought forward.

Commissioner Welch indicated he would bring forward the \$75,000 request since the County is in the process of developing the County's budget. Commissioner Welch asked about the durability of the cameras and where they will be positioned. Officer Detty responded the vendor has indicated the cameras should last between 7 to 10 years and they will be placed 20 feet above the ground. Commissioner Welch asked if the cameras would be eligible for the "Penny" sales tax and Mr. Mory responded yes, if there was money available. Upon further query by Commissioner Welch regarding some of the discussions regarding privacy issues, Mr. Mory responded that people have voiced that concern at various meetings although there isn't an expectation of privacy on a public trail. There would be signage indicating there are cameras being used in the area.

\*\*During discussion, Commissioner Justice returned at 2:06 p.m.\*\*

Upon further query by Commissioner Welch, Officer Detty responded the server would be built to accommodate the current needs but could be expanded as the needs increase and to accommodate additional users. Based on additional concerns expressed by Mayor Archie, Officer Detty responded St. Petersburg's server would probably be expanded instead of each local government having to purchase individual servers and that communication/sharing of information would be through the normal routine process. Mayor Archie asked for information regarding the auxiliary ranger program. Ms. Ward responded she would forward information as to how to access the auxiliary ranger program on the County's website. Commissioner Bujalski noted the Task Force discussion included a suggestion that all municipalities be provided a link that they could put on their websites for information regarding the auxiliary ranger program. Councilman Newton provided additional information regarding the camera system and how it would work as another tool for the law enforcement community.

***Commissioner Bujalski made a motion to support the use of cameras as a pilot program and to partner with the County, noting the system needs to be***

***a countywide program implemented in stages based on the needs. Councilman Newton seconded the motion.***

Commissioner Welch reiterated that he would follow-up with the County Administrator during his briefing and agreed there are ways for the County to partner and this needs to be a countywide system. Commissioner Welch asked that Mr. Mory provide a more defined timetable for the City's implementation of the cameras. Mr. Mory agreed to provide that information after he met with the City Administration; however, he indicated the desire was to have the County's portion of \$75,000 this fiscal year. Commissioner Welch confirmed that it was a 75/25 split between the county and the city and a one-time expense; whereas, Mr. Mory responded yes. Mayor Bradbury noted that the Sheriff's Office has partnered with the cities over the years on group projects and they have received federal funding through the JAG Program and suggested pursuing the use of grant funds to implement the cameras on a countywide basis.

Ms. Ward requested the MPO allow FDOT to respond regarding the eligibility of TA funds for security cameras. Ms. Ward also added that she received communication from Chairman Seel that the cost for the entire Trail needs to be considered and not just the segment within the City of St. Petersburg. Both Commissioner Bujalski and Vice Chairman Kennedy responded this would be a pilot program and a learning experience to determine if cameras should be utilized on the entire trail and that, as part of the program, standards should be developed for use on a countywide basis.

Lee Royal, FDOT, indicated that the criteria for the TA program allow funding to be applied to safety-related infrastructure projects. If the County and City request funding under the TA Program for the security cameras, FDOT requests that the system be consistent throughout the County, using a common technology throughout the system. They would also need to include in the application a plan for the maintenance costs, as well as identify who would maintain, operate, and review the infrastructure. FDOT would also require details as to the cost for design and implementation of the system. Ms. Royal volunteered to work with the MPO to develop the project but noted it would need to be included on the TA Priority List and must meet all federal guidelines. Upon query by Councilman Newton, Ms. Royal responded that TA allocations are received annually and, when FDOT receives low bids, there might be available TA funds. FDOT encourages all the counties to have projects ready so they can be funded as funding becomes available.

Following discussion, ***the motion carried (Vote 9-0).***

Vice Chairman Kennedy asked that next month's agenda include an update on the program. Ms. Ward added that next month's agenda will also include a summary of the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting and the trip to the City of Bradenton.

**C. Modification to the 2035 MPO Long Range Transportation Plan**

Ms. Ward reviewed the request from Pinellas County to include three bridge projects (Beckett Bridge, San Martin Bridge, and Dunedin Causeway) in the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update. The County is pursuing federal bridge funding and, if awarded, the MPO would amend the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include the project. The TIP is required to have a linkage back to the LRTP for the projects. The MPO staff included language on Page 108 referencing the replacement of the major bridge structures.

***Commissioner Bujalski moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried to approve the modification to the LRTP (Vote 9-0).***

Ms. Ward noted the MPO staff received a letter from the City of Clearwater that was included in the members' folders where they expressed concern about the need for improvements at the intersection of Belcher Road and Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard as soon as possible.

Upon query by Commissioner Bujalski, Ms. Ward responded the funding issue is due to the high costs associated with the acquisition of right-of-way. Commissioner Bujalski requested this item be included on next month's agenda for discussion. Ms. Ward responded she would ask the County staff to present the program at the July meeting if available. Councilmember Hock-DiPolito added that the intersection is a priority; however, there are significant costs associated with the right-of-way acquisition. The project would involve Duke Energy, as well as the County and State since the intersection includes a County road and a State road. It will take awhile to address and resolve all the issues.

**D. FY 2014/15 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Update**

Ms. Ward indicated this is the annual update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP). The changes modify Table 6, Goals, Objectives and Strategies. Most of the changes seek to refine the measures used to gauge progress toward accomplishing the corresponding objectives. An updated Rate Model is also included with the proposed changes. The Local Coordinating Board recommended approval of the update at its May 20 meeting.

***Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Justice seconded, and motion carried to approve the FY 2014/15 TDSP Update (Vote 9-0).***

**E. Committee Recommendation – Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Technical Coordinating Committee Recommendation Regarding Installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the Intersection of Alternate U.S. 19 and Delaware Avenue in Palm Harbor**

Ms. Ward indicated the recommendation is for the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) at Alternate 19 and Delaware Avenue. This is the result of a request by the Pinellas County School System. The MPO staff recently received correspondence from FDOT where they agreed to issue a permit to the County for the installation of a RRFB at that intersection. This will help facilitate safer access for students attending Palm Harbor University High School.

***Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the above committee recommendation (Vote 9-0).***

**VII. REPORTS/UPDATE**

**A. Report on June 6 Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group Meeting**

Ms. Ward indicated the preliminary Regional Priority List was reviewed by the MPO and advisory committees for comment. A modified Regional Priority List was reviewed by the Leadership Group at its June 6 meeting. At that meeting, FDOT also provided input on the list and, as a result, the Leadership Group approved a modified Regional Priority List. She will bring back the Priority List at the next MPO meeting for endorsement. All three MPOs are being requested to endorse the priority list.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito added that the Pinellas MPO requested a resolution of support for the Pinellas Greenlight Plan from both the Pasco and Hillsborough MPOs. Ms. Ward indicated she has discussed this with Brad Miller, PSTA, and noted a meeting summary was included in the members' folders. It was noted there were various organizations that have indicated their support/endorsement for Greenlight Pinellas.

Vice Chairman Kennedy asked the members to carefully review the criteria for prioritizing the projects. He noted the Pinellas Greenlight was ranked Number 1 noting the project would require New Starts funding and there was general agreement for the priorities. Ms. Ward added she has had further discussions with FDOT and PSTA regarding the next steps and the federal and state New Starts funding they will be seeking at some point.

**B. PSTA Activities Report**

Brad Miller, PSTA, reported PSTA received word last week that FDOT completed its investigation regarding the use of PSTA's state dollars for Greenlight Pinellas and they determined there were no findings of wrong doing, which confirmed PSTA's outreach efforts are within the State law. They have received several positive press editorials and a letter to the editor was recently published by PSTA Chairman Ken Welch. The Board of County Commissioners recently voted to eliminate the PSTA property tax once the referendum is approved through an Interlocal Agreement that will come before the PSTA Board this month. PSTA had a ribbon cutting event at the Lenox Apartments off Kings Highway in Clearwater today where the route was permanently changed to go by the Lenox Apartments. The route had been temporarily changed while road work was being done on Betty Lane. PSTA received a petition from the residents of Lenox Apartments asking that the route be made permanent. Ridership has increased by 180% with the temporary route so PSTA agreed to make it permanent. Mr. Miller thanked the TMA Leadership Group for ranking Greenlight Pinellas Number 1 on the Regional Priority List. Mr. Miller reported that he continues to make presentations at organizations and City Council meetings. They are focusing on senior citizens and speaking at senior citizen organizations. They will hold an event on June 25 at 1:00 p.m. at the Hale Center in Dunedin where the State Director of AARP will talk to the senior citizens about the benefits of Greenlight Pinellas. The private campaign outreach is also going well and they are also holding events.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito thanked the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce for hosting an event for young professionals and she asked that the Board members encourage young adults to attend the regional chamber and organization events so they can be informed.

Councilman Newton added that the Tampa Chamber of Commerce and other groups have also endorsed Greenlight Pinellas.

Vice Chairman Kennedy requested Mr. Miller to provide information on the bus pass program in St. Petersburg. Mr. Miller explained PSTA is working on a new program where businesses, organizations, employers, colleges pay PSTA the amount they were paying for bus passes, or a portion, for their employees or students to ride the bus. The employee or student shows their ID badge in order to ride the bus. Upon approval by St. Petersburg City Council, City staff will be able to ride the bus for free beginning July 1 by showing their City ID badge because the City will be paying their fare to PSTA. PSTA is working with St. Petersburg College so that students will be able to ride transit for free to the various campuses by the fall.

Vice Chairman Kennedy noted the City of St. Petersburg will be hosting a roundtable that will include the St. Petersburg Mayor and the Tampa Mayor regarding the Greenlight Pinellas proposal.

**F. Committee Appointments**

***Mayor Archie moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the appointment of Katie See as a Clearwater Planning Department representative on the Technical Coordinating Committee (Vote 9-0).***

**VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Cancellation of August MPO Meeting**

Ms. Ward reported that she received a request to poll the MPO members to determine whether the desire is to cancel the July or August MPO meeting. Following the poll, it was determined the desire is to cancel the August MPO meeting.

Ms. Ward reported that she is still working with the City of St. Petersburg and FDOT regarding the MPO Interlocal Agreement, which is needed to seat the new board. She reported that Chairman Seel is working with the St. Petersburg Mayor to try to resolve the issue.

Vice Chairman Kennedy explained he has had discussions with his legal staff. The issue is that the Interlocal Agreement includes a liability clause that holds the individual MPO members and their cities jointly and severally liable for potential damages to FDOT. He consulted his legal staff prior to today's meeting and they indicated FDOT had forwarded them a Texas case where there was similar clause between a municipality and DOT and the Texas Court determined they were not going to enforce the clause because neither party was aware the clause was in the contract. His legal staff has emphasized that any clause regarding joint and several liability should not be included and let the existing Statutes cover the liability issue. If the issue doesn't get resolved, the City legal staff has indicated their willingness to make a presentation to the MPO Board regarding their reasoning and FDOT could also present their viewpoint.

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

Information is included in the agenda packet.

**C. June 13, 2014 Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting and Joint Meeting With the Central Florida MPO Alliance**

It was announced the Chairs Coordinating Committee meeting and the joint meeting between the Chairs Coordinating Committee and the Central Florida MPO Alliance is Friday and that Commissioner Crozier will be attending for the Pinellas MPO.

**D. Other**

There was no further business to be discussed.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Jim Kennedy, Vice Chairman