

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF JULY 9, 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, July 9, 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
Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Harriet Crozier – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Commissioner, City of Largo
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
Lee Royal, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of
Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Seel – *Chairman* – 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
Chelsea Hardy – County Attorney's Office
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
Patrick Murphy – City of Pinellas Park
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater
Evan Mory – City of St. Petersburg
Representative Ed Hooper – Florida State Representative
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
Leland Discus – City of Largo
Brian Smith- BPAC Chairman
Brent Hall – County Dept of Environment and Infrastructure
Paul Belhorn – County Dept of Environment and Infrastructure
Ivan Fernandez – County Dept of Environment and Infrastructure
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Damien Miller – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Jared Schneider – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Rudy Alms – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
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 1:03 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 speak.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. **Approval of Minutes – Meeting of June 11, 2014**
- B. **Approval of Invoice**
 - 1. **Tindale-Oliver and Associates**
 - 2. **TBARTA – CCC Services**
- C. **Approval of Printing Invoice for Transportation Disadvantaged Applications**
- D. **Approval of Amendments to Agreements**
 - 1. **New Freedom – Quality of Life Community Services, Inc.**
 - 2. **JARC – Hillsborough County Dept of Health and Social Services**
 - 3. **City of St. Petersburg – Central Avenue**
 - 4. **TBARTA – One Call/One Click – Research**
 - 5. **TBARTA – One Call/One Click – Transportation Information Center**
- E. **Approval of Printing Pedestrian safety Awareness Education Material**

Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 10-0).

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

- A. **Proposed Amendments to the Facilities Element of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan**
 - 1. **Circle Lake Tarpon**

Ms. Ward noted this is a concept presented by the residents who live in the area and is supported by the advisory committees.

Mr. Bartolotta indicated the residents of East Lake Tarpon identified a concept plan, which is for a multi-use trail around Lake Tarpon that would utilize existing trails and alignments but recognizes improvements would be needed in some areas, such as sidewalk improvements along Tampa Road and widening of sidewalks along a 3.7-mile section along U.S. 19. The advisory committees recommended approval but with the understanding this project would not be a priority over the Pinellas Trail Loop or the regional connection in the northeast area. The residents would also like the installation of wayfinding signs and signs directing people to public access points around the lake at some point in the future.

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

Following discussion, *Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the proposed amendment to include the concept plan in the Facilities Element of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan (Vote 10-0).*

- 2. **Lansbrook Area**

As part of the Facilities Element, the MPO staff identified bike lanes or bike markings on the main streets in the Lansbrook area. Initially, the residents had concerns with any alterations of the medians and the possibility of an increase in the number of pack riders in their neighborhood. The residents felt the bicyclists could use the existing trail in their neighborhood instead of riding on the streets.

Following the BPAC review in March, the MPO staff did a field assessment of the Lansbrook street network to determine if the existing trail network would accommodate the bicyclists. Following the field assessment, the MPO staff developed an alternative proposal for road shoulders on roads that were wide enough and shared use lanes marked with “sharrows” where there wasn’t sufficient pavement width. The MPO staff discussed the alternative proposal with the President of the Lansbrook Master Association and the Neighborhood Association who felt this was a reasonable approach and was acceptable to the residents. The BPAC reviewed the alternative proposal and recommended approval. The proposal is for approximately 2 ½ miles with 3-foot shoulder provisions and 5 ½ miles with markings for shared use.

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

There was some question as to the distance that the shared use roads would be marked to make sure the motorists are aware the road would be shared with bicyclists. Mr. Bartolotta indicated he would have to get information regarding the standards from the engineers. Based on further discussion, Mr. Bartolotta responded there would need to be signage indicating the share used as motorists approach the roads.

Following discussion, ***Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the proposed amendment to the Facilities Element of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan for the Lansbrook area (Vote 10-0).***

Commissioner Welch asked if these amendments require a roll call vote. Ms. Ward responded no; however, these amendments will become part of the Long Range Transportation Plan later in the year and, at that time, will require a roll call vote. Ms. Ward indicated she will be providing information regarding the MPO Plan amendment process and the and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process later in the fall so the MPO members know which amendments require a roll call vote.

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Proposed MPO FY15 Budget

Ms. Ward indicated that, as part of the transition to the MPO becoming independent of Pinellas County, the MPO staff has prepared a budget for FY 2015. The MPO had previously reviewed the Unified Planning Work Program that showed the expenditures of grant funds. The MPO budget provides details of all MPO-related expenses, as well as anticipated revenue for 2014/15. Pinellas County has committed that they will provide a one-time amount of \$150,000 for the MPO’s working capital to make sure there is enough money in the MPO’s bank account to meet the day-to-day expenses. In addition, Pinellas County has agreed to provide the 10% match for the Section 5305 funds. The cost allocation amount of \$78,000 covers costs associated with other County departments or resources that aren’t specifically included in the budget, such as the County’s Communication Department, Human Resources, Real Estate Department, Purchasing, etc. The consultant line item reflects the existing commitments that are outstanding associated with the MPO’s Long Range Transportation Plan, \$80,000 that’s annually committed to PSTA as part of Section 5305, and costs associated with the MPO’s crash data management system. In addition, the MPO will be utilizing a consultant to perform a study on U.S. 19 that will look at issues related to bicyclists, pedestrians, transit, crossing, etc., along that

corridor. The MPO staff is in the process of developing a Scope and will utilize Section 5305 funds.

****At 1:26 p.m., Commissioner Justice left the meeting****

Upon query regarding other potential income sources, Ms. Ward responded, currently, the MPO performs traffic counts that are utilized by the local governments in their comprehensive planning process. Although they don't currently charge, this could be revisited in the future to have the local governments pay for the information. In addition, the MPO pays Tindale-Oliver and Associates to compile crash data that is utilized by local governments and local law enforcement. It was determined several years ago that everyone should be using the same system for safety planning and analysis purposes so the MPO maintains the crash data management system, which could also generate revenue for the MPO. Ms. Ward agreed to provide information in response to Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito's request for information regarding the structure when the local governments did their own crash data collection. Ms. Ward also agreed to provide information to Councilman Newton regarding the millage rate included on the budget outline of 0.0160; however, Ms. Ward indicated the MPO is not a taxing authority and does not collect millage. Upon further query regarding the MPO and Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) budgets, Ms. Ward clarified the MPO and the PPC will remain separate entities and will retain separate budgets.

****At 1:31 p.m., Commissioner Justice returned to the meeting****

Commissioner Bujalski noted there could be potential cost savings in the future. Ms. Ward responded, possibly, where there are combined services. Ms. Ward indicated the PPC has seen savings overall due to a couple of retirements and a lesser amount for rent when they moved from the Bank of America Building to a County facility. When the MPO's administrative assistant retires in 2016, the PPC's administrative assistant will take on the support for both the MPO and PPC Boards. Ms. Ward noted the MPO's costs will increase as of October 1 once they become independent from the County since they will be paying rent. In the past, the County contributed to the MPO's program through in-kind services and did not charge the MPO rent when they were part of the County. Ms. Ward agreed to provide documentation to Councilman Newton regarding the proposed savings.

There was some discussion that the MPO and PPC will share staff when and where possible, it was decided not to hire a separate Executive Director at this time but to keep Sarah Ward as the MPO Executive Director and Mike Crawford as the PPC Executive Director since they work well together and the MPO has received a reduction in the PL grant funds, and that the MPO and PPC will synchronize their audits.

Mayor Eggers suggested that details be kept on the cost allocation in case it changes since it's good to have consistency from year to year.

Following discussion, ***Commissioner Crozier moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the MPO's budget for FY15 (Vote 10-0).***

B. Pinellas County Mobility Plan Policies and Code Provisions

Mr. Bartolotta reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, noting the MPO approved the Mobility Plan concept last September and, since that time, the MPO staff has been working with the Mobility Plan Task Force, which includes the local government staffs, to develop model codes for use by local governments. He provided background

information related to the growth management law, revisions to the growth management law, tools used by Pinellas County for growth management, and transportation impact fees. He then reviewed the development of the Mobility Plan and the Plan concept, the Mobility Plan objectives and improvements, land development provisions, Transportation Management Plan strategies, and changes to the Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Codes. The next steps include a Board of County Commissioners' (BCC) workshop on July 22, BCC review of Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan amendments during October/November, BCC adoption of the Comprehensive Plan and Code amendments following receipt of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity comments, and assisting the municipal staff efforts in preparing amendatory ordinances during the September, 2014, to March, 2015, timeframe.

Following some discussion, ***Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried to approve the Mobility Plan Policies and Code Provisions for inclusion in local comprehensive plans and development codes (Vote 10-0).***

C. Federal Transportation Legislation

Ms. Ward explained the current federal surface transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), is due to expire this year. Transportation for America is advocating the reauthorization be more of a discretionary program instead of a formula-based program. The discretionary program would allow the local governments, transit agencies, and others to apply for those funds. The MPO staff is not taking a specific position because some of the provisions might replicate the process, in some cases, already in place at the MPO level. Discussions are underway for the reauthorization of MAP-21. At the State and local levels, currently there aren't enough funds to meet all the unmet needs. In addition, the Transportation Trust Fund is in jeopardy. The MPO staff will continue to monitor the activities.

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito reported she met with a representative from Senator Nelson's office who sent her an email this morning that indicated "the Florida network should continue to fight the looming slowdown of federal dollars." "U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx sent letters Tuesday to the State warning of road dollars drying up in the summer unless Congress reaches a deal." Florida draws approximately \$2.3 billion from the Highway Trust Fund, which represents one quarter of the State's Work Program.

D. Pinellas Trail Security Task Forces Meeting

Vice Chairman Kennedy noted he requested the letter from the MPO to the County Administrator be included in the members' folders since the response letter from the County Administrator was included in the agenda packet. The letter to the County Administrator requested the County partner with the local governments and assist with the cost of purchasing the security cameras. There were several incidents on the St. Petersburg portion of the Pinellas Trail. The response letter from the County Administrator indicated the County didn't have available funding to assist with the purchase of the security cameras for a pilot project. The County was also concerned with setting a precedent. The St. Petersburg Administration has determined that safety and the perception of safety are a priority and the City will find funding for the pilot project.

Ms. Ward reported that the MPO, at their last meeting, voted to support a pilot project within the City of St. Petersburg and encouraged the County to partner with the City by participating in the funding. This past Monday, several representatives from the MPO

and St. Petersburg took a field trip to Bradenton to see the security cameras along the Riverwalk Trail. They felt it was a good system since camera pictures had very good resolution and images that would provide a benefit to law enforcement. The Pinellas Trail Security Task Force met on Tuesday. They had previously endorsed the concept of security cameras. The Task Force supports any initiative by the local governments that would assist law enforcement.

Commissioner Welch agreed to talk to the County Administrator about contributing to the pilot project. He noted this could be viewed as a law enforcement issue within a jurisdiction or as a countywide infrastructure along a countywide amenity, which would justify the County partnering with the City. He stated the County is partnering with the City in providing \$20 million for a new police station. He attended the field trip and stated the technology is great and would provide another tool for law enforcement. The quality of the images can be used for facial recognition. The technology expert noted that it was better to have several servers along the Trail instead of a master server in St. Petersburg but the system would be interoperable, which means each law enforcement jurisdiction would be able to view the images.

Councilman Newton indicated he also went on the field trip and noted it was a self contained system using WiFi and there weren't any recurring costs; however, there would be a cost for the internet connections that would allow the various law enforcement personnel to access the cameras. He felt that it would not set a precedent for the County to assist with funding for the pilot project. He noted the County already has a recurring cost in their budget with the salaries for the paid Park Rangers. The security cameras would provide additional tools for safety. The City has already stepped up patrols along the Trail and the City will move forward with the installation of the security cameras. The City of Bradenton archives the images through a backup storage that allows the images to be retained for 45 days or indefinitely if necessary. The security cameras would also provide a deterrent to crime and other illicit activities and the cameras can be panned as necessary.

Upon query by Mayor Archie, Ms. Ward responded it was reported at the recent Pinellas Trail Task Force meeting that there were 110 active rangers that have patrolled the Trail at least a few hours over the last two years but they don't have specific locations where they patrol. They have worked with the City of St. Petersburg to recruit and train volunteers to patrol the Trail in that area. The MPO members had previously requested they be provided a link to the Auxiliary Ranger Program so each city can place the link on their website to recruit volunteers to patrol the Trail in their area. Ms. Ward reported the auxiliary rangers now have new shirts with the auxiliary ranger information on the front so they are more visible and Trail users know they are an auxiliary ranger when they encounter them.

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito attended the Pinellas Trail Security Task Force meeting and, at that meeting, provided an update on her meeting with Representative Jolly and USDOT regarding the TIGER grant application for the Pinellas Trail. She encouraged the Task Force members to write letters of support of the TIGER grant to USDOT. She noted USDOT liked the connection of the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail that connects to the Ream Wilson Trail and over to Hillsborough County. USDOT also liked the fact that the grant application included information regarding the transportation and school use aspect of the Trail. USDOT noted it was an enhanced application with consideration of the Greenlight Pinellas, which they recognized was a good plan. It was suggested that local community leaders and elected officials write letters of support for the TIGER grant application. In addition, Representative Jolly suggested

they hold a press release on the Trail in one of the communities to show the excitement regarding the grant.

Vice Chairman Kennedy noted the grant application included letters of support from all the local governments, as well as the Sheriff. He then asked Ms. Ward to draft a memo from the MPO to the local governments, the neighborhood associations, and other active organizations to encourage each to write a letter of support for the TIGER grant.

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito stated she received a suggestion that it would be good to make a presentation to the Chambers of Commerce regarding the TIGER grant. She noted she is scheduled to make a presentation to the Regional Chamber of Commerce. She also noted the MPO staff developed a PowerPoint that included talking points that could be used for these presentations.

Commissioner Bujalski stated the Task Force asked for a report as to how many park rangers there currently are and how many were needed if money wasn't a factor. This information would help to develop a plan that the County could use to eventually have enough park rangers.

Mayor Archie added that it would be more cost effective to have security cameras as opposed to hiring more park rangers.

Councilman Newton requested additional information: place a dot on a map for all the locations where there are rangers, the number of recurring paid rangers included in the FY 2015 budget, and the length of the Trail that is being patrolled. He noted that, during the hottest part of the day, the rangers wouldn't need to be physically on the Trail and, instead, monitor the security cameras in an air conditioned space.

Commissioner Welch reiterated that he would ask the County Administrator to place the funding request on a BCC agenda for discussion. He noted there needs to be a model in place, such as a 50/50 share of the costs, so the same arrangement would occur as other local governments ask the County to assist in purchasing security cameras. Commissioner Welch agreed to continue to move forward with this issue in a collaborative manner. Vice Chairman Kennedy commented that the cameras are not intended to be monitored on a 24-hour basis but provide another enforcement tool.

E. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Preliminary Cost Feasible Roadway Plan

Damien Miller, Tindale-Oliver and Associates, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation regarding an overview of the preliminary 2040 Cost Feasible Plan, which included where they are in the schedule; the other modes including Intelligent Transportation Systems, trail facilities and bike lanes, and premium transit; the roadway component; and then the next steps. The roadway component includes state roads, county roads, and a few municipal roads. The total projected cost for the state road projects is \$1.7 billion; however, the total state revenue is projected to be \$1.021 billion, which leaves \$648 million in projects unfunded. He noted they are still refining the costs on some of the projects. All the county road projects, including bridges, and the municipal projects have been deemed cost feasible based on the estimated funding sources. The next steps include ongoing public involvement, committee review of the Final Draft Cost Feasible Plan will occur in August, the MPO will take action to open the public comment period at their September meeting, and the MPO will adopt the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan in December.

Commissioner Welch asked how the 22nd Avenue South and Gulfport Boulevard project could be advanced from 2031, noting it was on the 2000 Penny for Pinellas

project list and the current Penny for Pinellas project list. Ms. Ward responded that she has asked the County staff to provide information at the September MPO meeting regarding the prioritization process and the projects that can be completed with the current Penny for Pinellas since the MPO had questions at their last meeting regarding 62nd Avenue North and Belcher Road in Clearwater. The MPO staff has been meeting with the County staff and has been involved in the discussions. Commissioner Welch emphasized the need to advance the 22nd Avenue South and Gulfport Boulevard project, noting the Cities of Gulfport and St. Petersburg also support the project. Commissioner Welch asked for the cost of the project and Mr. Miller responded he would get that information to him.

Commissioner Bujalski asked about the timeframe for the bridge replacement projects included in the Plan. Mr. Miller responded he worked with the MPO staff to identify the bridge projects and included \$113 million for the bridges, which he took off the top of the Penny for Pinellas funding. Regarding the timing for the bridges, Ms. Ward responded she would have the County staff address that at the September MPO meeting. Commissioner Bujalski asked that MPO staff provide a separate spreadsheet with the bridge information prior to the next meeting. Lee Royal, FDOT, came forward and indicated the bridge projects are considered maintenance and operation projects that FDOT has requested that the bridge projects be included on a list. She noted there are certain assumptions and the cost is broken down. They are replacement projects that will be done at different times.

Vice Chairman Kennedy asked Ms. Ward to contact each MPO Board member individually prior to the September meeting to identify projects that they feel are of concern.

Mayor Bradbury asked if the criteria used for the State road prioritization could be used for the County projects, noting 62nd Avenue has two different characteristics, one section is an industrial corridor and the other is a residential corridor.

Vice Chairman Kennedy asked Mr. Miller to check with PSTA to make sure the transfer and transit stations are in sync with PSTA's plan. He restated that Ms. Ward should contact each MPO member as to their area of concern so the MPO has the background and information on each concern prior to the next MPO meeting.

F. Endorsement of Regional Priority List (Follow-Up to Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Meeting)

Ms. Ward indicated the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group recommended the regional priority list included in the agenda packet at their June 6 meeting. The TMA Leadership Group is comprised of three members from each MPO (Pinellas, Pasco, and Hillsborough). Each MPO needs to endorse the regional priority list and then the list will be submitted to FDOT. The Technical Coordinating Committee reviewed the list and also recommended endorsement.

Mayor Bradbury moved, Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to endorse the TMA Leadership Group Regional Priorities List (Vote 10-0).

G. Committee Recommendation

1. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Ms. Ward briefly reviewed the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Motion #14-6 noting the condition of the Pinellas Trail in the Tarpon Springs area and recommends the County prioritize this section of Trail for rehabilitation or

refurbishment. **Mayor Archie moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve BPAC Motion #14-6 (Vote 10-0).**

Ms. Ward reported the BPAC received information there were several cross streets along the Trail corridor where there isn't signage that indicates the street name. BPAC Motion #14-7 recommends the installation of appropriate street signs to identify all roadway-Trail crossings. These locations have been identified and the recommendation is to request the MPO staff send a letter to the local jurisdictions along the Trail encouraging them to install the appropriate signage. In response to Councilman Newton, Ms. Ward indicated the GPS locators are helpful for segments of the Trail between the intersections but the issue is that some of the smaller intersections do not have appropriate signage. Upon query by Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito, Ms. Ward responded she would provide a list of those intersections to the MPO members. **Commissioner Crozier moved, Mayor Archie seconded, and motion carried to approve BPAC Motion #14-7 (Vote 10-0).**

Ms. Ward briefly reviewed the BPAC recommendation that, when they were reviewing bicycle and pedestrian crash data where there are no motor vehicles involved, those crashes are not captured at the State level or in the MPO's crash data management system. The BPAC recommendation supports the inclusion of crashes that don't involve a motor vehicle in the motor vehicle crash data report so there is comprehensive data for safety planning purposes for those modes. **Mayor Archie moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the BPAC recommendation (Vote 10-0).**

Ms. Harvey explained this section of Gulf Boulevard is two lanes and FDOT installed a bike lane and sidewalk. FDOT had complaints about vehicles passing on the right so FDOT installed "no passing on the right" signs and quick-kurb with bollards just before the pedestrian crossings so a vehicle cannot go around another vehicle and possibly hit a pedestrian. She showed the installation of the signage, quick-kurbs, and bollards on a graphic at a crosswalk location on Gulf Boulevard. The bicycles, however, are having an issue with the quick-kurb/bollards because they are an obstruction in the bike lanes. The BPAC has been working with FDOT and, out of the ten locations, FDOT replaced two of the quick-kurb/bollards with a thinner flex post that isn't an obstacle to the bicyclists but provides safety for the pedestrian. FDOT has committed to working with the MPO staff on the remaining eight locations. Upon query by Councilman Newton, Ms. Harvey responded the flex posts act as a deterrent to the motor vehicle to pass on the right where there are pedestrian crossings. **Commissioner Crozier moved, Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the BPAC recommendation (Vote 10-0).**

2. Technical Coordinating Committee

Ms. Ward noted there was a recent newspaper article that indicated it was very difficult for law enforcement to enforce the ban on texting while driving unless they pulled the vehicle over for another offense. Both the BPAC and Citizens Committee had recommended the MPO support legislation to make the ban on texting while driving a primary offense. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) recommended that the MPO work with the Legislative Delegation during the upcoming session and, perhaps, draft legislation that would classify the use of electronic devices while driving as a primary offense. There was discussion as to whether this was a ban on texting while driving or inclusive of all electronic devices while driving and also whether it would include hands-free devices, use of GPS,

etc. The MPO asked for clarification on the recommendation and, therefore, this item was deferred until the next MPO meeting.

Commissioner Welch left at 3:09 p.m.

Ms. Ward indicated there were minor amendments to the TCC bylaws. ***Commissioner Bujalski moved, Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendments to the TCC bylaws (Vote 10-0).***

H. Committee Appointments

Mayor Eggers moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the appointment of Leslie Viens as a Dunedin representative and Karen Mullins as an At Large representative on the CAC; the appointment of Evan Mory as the St. Petersburg Department of Transportation and Parking representative and Dave Goodwin as the St. Petersburg Planning Development Services alternate on the TCC, and the appointment of Jorge Quintas as the Dunedin Traffic Engineering alternate on the TCC (Vote 0-0).

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. PSTA Activities Report

Due to the lateness of the hour, Mr. Miller did not provide a report on PSTA activities.

B. Follow-Up Regarding Belcher Road and Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito thanked FDOT, Senator Latvala, and Representative Hooper for their support of the safety study at Belcher Road and Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard yesterday. Rudy Alms, Safety Engineer for Tindale-Oliver and Associates, came forward to provide a summary of the recommendations from the study at Belcher Road and Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard. He indicated there was a lot of cooperation between all the parties in that there were representatives from law enforcement, the County, the City of Clearwater, FDOT, and engineers looking at this location. The various parties shared information as to their activities at this location. The State will perform resurfacing work in this location starting in January of 2015, looking at the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) issues and replacement of the traffic signal with mast arms that will include the reflective tape and flashing yellow left-turn signal. In August, the City of Clearwater will be installing a new adaptive control system that will read the traffic and be able to adjust the length of the signal cycle as necessary. The recommendations from the study revolve around signage, markings, and signalization, while the police will deal with law enforcement. The team will have a draft report that will be provided to FDOT on Monday and then FDOT will disseminate it to the other agencies after they've had an opportunity to review the recommendations.

Representative Ed Hooper came forward and indicated he was part of the group that went out to study the area and thanked FDOT for their efforts. He acknowledged the short-term improvements and indicated that they will be approaching the owner of the property on the northeast corner about the possibility of a dedicated right-turn lane from westbound Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard to northbound Belcher Road. This will also require the involvement of Duke Energy. Currently, the tractor-trailer trucks cannot make that turning movement. This intersection is considered the most dangerous intersection according to data from a five-year crash report on S.R. 60. Representative Hooper thanked everyone for their participation and the speed to resolve the issues.

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito acknowledged the City of Clearwater Engineering staff and thanked them for their hard work and dedication, noting they've been working on this intersection for several years.

C. Director's Report

Vice Chairman Kennedy reported that the MPO and Pinellas Planning Council unification is moving forward and thanked FDOT for agreeing to change the indemnification language in the MPO Interlocal Agreement. This was the last obstacle for unifying the two boards and the MPO Interlocal Agreement and that the new language should be circulated to the member agencies soon. Ms. Ward added that she received the new MPO Interlocal Agreement prior to the meeting and that it will be circulated very soon with the intent to have it fully executed by the September meeting. The hope is to have the new board seated at the September meeting. She thanked the FDOT staff, the County Attorney staff, and the City of St. Petersburg staff for their involvement to resolve the issues with the MPO Interlocal Agreement.

Upon query by Mayor Bradbury, Ms. Ward indicated that she and Mr. Crawford would work with all the agencies regarding appointments to the unified board. Ms. Ward indicated the inland communities and the BIG-C have made their appointments to the unified board.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Reminder – August MPO Meeting Cancelled

Vice Chairman Kennedy reminded everyone that 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.

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

Information is included in the agenda packet.

D. Other

There was no further business to be discussed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Karen Seel, Chairman