

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 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, December 10, 2014 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Seel – *Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners
Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park (arrived at 1:47 p.m.)
John Morroni – *Treasurer* – Board of County Commissioners
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – Vice Mayor, Councilmember, City of Clearwater
Julie Bujalski – Mayor, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Jim Kennedy – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
Cookie Kennedy – Commissioner, City of Indian Rocks Beach, representing the beach communities of Belleair Beach, Belleair Shore, Indian Rocks Beach, Indian Shores, Madeira Beach, North Redington Beach, Treasure Island, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St. Pete Beach

Wengay Newton – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
Kevin Piccarreto – Commissioner, Town of Belleair, representing the in land communities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, South Pasadena

John Tornga – Commissioner, City of Dunedin
Ken Welch – Board of County Commissioners
Ming Gao, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

David Archie – *Vice Chairman* – Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs representing Tarpon Springs/Oldsmar/Safety Harbor

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
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
David Chase – City of Pinellas Park
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County DEI
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Brian Smith – BPAC Chairman
Tom Rask – Resident
Sully Grasso – Resident
Devin Henderson – Resident
Steven Lange – Resident
Barb Haseldon – Resident
Gisela Laubitz – South Pasadena Resident
Sarah Perch – Pinellas County MPO
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO
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

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito performed the invocation and Councilman Jim Kennedy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. WELCOME NEW MPO MEMBERS REPRESENTING DUNEDIN AND LARGO

The MPO welcomed Commissioner John Tornga as the new Dunedin representative on the MPO. Chairman Seel indicated Largo will make their appointment on December 16.

IV. PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING MPO MEMBERS CHARLIE JUSTICE, DAVE EGGERS, HARRIET CROZIER, AND DAVID ARCHIE

The MPO thanked Harriet Crozier for her service on the MPO and presented her with a framed certificate. Chairman Seel noted that Commissioner Charlie Justice, Commissioner Dave Eggers, and Mayor David Archie could not be in attendance.

Those on the dais introduced themselves at this time and the area(s) they represent.

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

The following citizens came forward to speak:

- Tom Rask – thanked the MPO for including driverless cars in the 2040 LRTP and asked elected officials to listen to the voters
- Devon Henderson – there is a need for different transit options but planning is necessary and that FaceBook comments indicate that citizens were okay with the transit option portion of the referendum but did not agree with light rail and there is a need to reach out to the community

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of November 12, 2014

B. Approval of Invoices

1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates

2. Risk Allocation (Pinellas County – December)

C. Approval of Committee Appointments (CAC Reappointments and MPOAC)

D. Approval of Amendment No. 2 to TBARTA Agreement for Chairs Coordinating Committee Support

Chairman Seel removed Item VI C from the Consent to allow for discussion of a representative and alternate on the MPOAC. She also indicated that Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito is requesting the appointment of Wade Carlisle as a Clearwater representative on the CAC.

Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito volunteered to serve as the MPOAC representative and Councilman Jim Kennedy volunteered to serve as the MPOAC alternate.

Commissioner Cookie Kennedy moved, Commissioner Morrioni seconded, and motion carried to approve Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito as the representative and Councilman Jim Kennedy as the alternate on the MPOAC; Wade Carlisle as a Clearwater representative on the CAC; and the reappointments of Bob Henion, Deborah Schechner, and Paul Ziegler to a second four-year term on the CAC (Vote 10-0).

The MPO pulled the November Tindale-Oliver invoice for LRTP Tasks 8, 9, 10.

Commissioner Welch moved, Councilman Jim Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the remainder of the items on the Consent Agenda – Items A, B, and D (Vote 10-0).

VII. PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

A. Adoption of the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Ward stated the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) has been modified to reflect changes to the transit portion to remove the Greenlight Pinellas network and add the no new revenue alternative and one change in the roadway network regarding the Gateway Express.

Chelsea Favero, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted general information regarding the LRTP, the public comment period, the no new revenue transit networks that included two options.

Ms. Ward summarized the two transit options that are included in the 2040 LRTP: core routes versus coverage or, possibly, a combination of the two options.

Some discussion followed regarding the difference between the two options and the changes/reductions as a result of the referendum not being approved by the voters; the process for amending the Plan if new revenue(s) can be identified; the adopted Plan will include a Vision Plan without specifying technology; the LRTP is updated every five years; the PSTA Board hasn't met since the referendum didn't pass to provide additional input to the LRTP, however, the LRTP must be adopted by December 2014; PSTA will hold a visioning workshop on January 21 on various strategies.

Ms. Favero continued with her presentation noting the updated projected growth, Cost Feasible Plan revenues summary, cost feasible roadway projects, roadway summary of costs and revenues, management and operations, trail and bike facilities, and the next steps that include the MPO adoption of the 2040 Cost Feasible LRTP at today's MPO meeting and then the final documentation.

Upon call for public comment, the following came forward to provide comment:

- Barb Haseldon, St. Petersburg resident (Gisela Laubitz ceded her time to Ms. Haseldon)
- Steve Lange, St. Petersburg resident
- Devon Henderson, resident
- Tom Rask, resident (Sully Grasso ceded his time to Mr. Rask)
- Brad Miller, PSTA

****Mayor Bradbury arrived at 1:47 p.m.****

In response to Mr. Miller's question about the 44% funds for transit that are included in the LRTP and 3% included in FDOT's Tentative Work Program, Ms. Favero indicated the MPO staff looked at all revenue sources for year of expenditures and the PSTA portion included operations, maintenance, and capital projects for the LRTP; whereas, FDOT included the ports and airports in their Work Program that MPO staff did not include in their calculations.

Councilman Newton emphasized the voters were voting on a one percent sales tax and not on the transportation network since the referendum language was for a one percent sales tax. The referendum also did not include language that the sales tax increase would be a swap for the ad valorem tax that all property owners are currently paying for transit whether or not they use it. He noted there is a lot of misinformation. He clarified that one of the options indicate that PSTA will have to eliminate bus routes by 60% and the amount of funds PSTA has to pay for services will be reduced by approximately 25 to 30%. Councilman Newton reminded everyone that the candidates who expressed support of the Greenlight referendum were voted into office while those candidates who did not support the Greenlight Plan were not. He emphasized the need to agree to disagree in an agreeable manner in order to move forward since there is a transportation problem in Pinellas County.

Commissioner Welch provided input regarding elimination of routes and an increase to bus fares during the recession; however, some of the routes were kept due to citizens attending PSTA Board meetings citing the importance of keeping those routes so they can go back and forth to work. Commissioner Welch stated that PSTA is open to discussion and they listen to suggestions.

Upon query by Commissioner Welch, Ms. Ward responded that the autonomous discussion was included in the context discussion of the LRTP. Commissioner Welch wanted assurance that the MPO was embracing all potential transportation technologies. Ms. Ward responded yes, that the consultant is still working on the final document and that she will make sure the document is provided to the MPO members.

Chairman Seel thanked the staff and public for their input and closed the public hearing.

Councilman Jim Kennedy moved, Councilman Newton seconded, and motion carried to approve the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan by roll call vote (Vote 11-0).

Commissioner Welch left at 2:16 p.m.

VIII. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. FDOT Tentative Work Program – Comment and Approval

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Pinellas County portion of the FDOT Tentative Work Program. The presentation highlighted the program development and strategies; project phases; several corridor studies for U.S. 19 and Alternate U.S. 19 and a corridor study on S.R. 595/Pasadena Avenue; a resurfacing project on S.R. 586/Curlew Road, several Transportation Alternative projects; aviation projects estimated at \$34 million; and transit projects estimated at \$107.8 million. The next steps include an on line public hearing from December 15 to 19 (including access to the FDOT website at the libraries), each MPO office will host a face-to-face public workshop for the public with FDOT on December 16; public comments are due by December 19; MPO comments are due by January 21, an executive review by the Executive Committee that is comprised of all the District Secretaries and the FDOT Secretary follows, a statewide public hearing is held by the Florida Transportation Commission on March 2, 2015, and final adoption by the Governor through the Department Secretary of the Work Program occurs on July 1, 2015. Mr. Beaty announced that FDOT Secretary Prasad is leaving FDOT in a couple of weeks and the goal is to have a new Secretary before the legislative session begins.

During the presentation, Commissioner Piccarreto left at 2:20 p.m. and returned at 2:23 p.m.

**During the presentation, Commissioner Welch returned at 2:26 p.m.

During the presentation, Mayor Bujalski left at 2:30 p.m.

Mayor Bradbury suggested advertising the website hosting on Bay News 9 and to reach out to the city staff to provide a message on the dynamic message signs. Mr. Beaty indicated they will be advertising through a number of social media outlets, as well as providing poster notices to the libraries and FDOT has done an extensive outreach. Councilman Jim Kennedy suggested reaching out to all local government access t.v.'s. Upon query by Commissioner Cookie Kennedy, Mr. Beaty responded the face-to-face will occur at the Pinellas MPO office on December 16 from 4 to 6p.m. Councilman Newton suggested providing a reciprocal link to the FDOT website to all the local governments for use on their websites.

Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilman Newton seconded, and motion carried to approve the FDOT Tentative Work Program (Vote 10-0).

B. Dunedin Causeway Project Development and Environmental Study Presentation

Chairman Seel indicated the Dunedin Causeway presentation will occur at the January MPO meeting.

Mayor Bujalski returned at 2:35 p.m.

Commissioner Welch left at 2:36 p.m.

C. Approval of MPO Services Agreements

1. Notice of Intent to Withdraw From the MPO/BOCC Services Agreement

Chairman Seel indicated that the Notice of Intent to Withdraw from the MPO/Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Services Agreement is the first step with the MPO separating from the County.

2. Approval of MPO/PPC Services Agreement

Chairman Seel indicated that, for the MPO to stay under the County's Florida Retirement System, they must contract for services with the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC).

Commissioner Morrioni moved, Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to accept the Notice of Intent to Withdraw from the MPO/BOCC Services Agreement and approve the MPO/PPC Services Agreement (Vote 10-0).

Commissioner Welch returned at 2:41 p.m.

D. Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Recommendations – Approval

• Approval of BPAC Recommendation Regarding Anclote Coastal Trail Alternatives Analysis Study

Brian Smith, BPAC Chairman, came forward and summarized the recommendation regarding the Anclote Coastal Trail Alternatives Analysis Study. The Pasco MPO utilized a consultant to look at alternative alignments to connect several parks and schools in the area. The BPAC reviewed the alternatives and noted the variety of destinations and proximity to schools and parks along the alternative trail route identified by the planning study; therefore, the BPAC recommended the Pasco MPO support the Anclote Coastal Trail Alternate #1 as the preferred recommended route. This route would link the Pasco and Pinellas trail networks, provide an additional trail route along Florida's west central Gulf Coast, and improve non-motorized access to schools, parks and other major destinations

• Approval of BPAC Recommendation Regarding Alternate U.S. 19 Resurfacing

Mr. Smith summarized the BPAC recommendation to upgrade the pedestrian crossing that links Honeymoon Island Trail with the Pinellas Trail with a similar activated signalization treatment at the Pinellas Trail/Curlew Road crossing, using a lighted No-Right-On-Red blank-out sign. The resurfacing project is estimated to begin mid-summer 2015.

Mayor Bujalski emphasized the need to improve safety at this intersection.

• Approval of BPAC Recommendation Regarding Elfers Spur Trail Erosion Repair

Mr. Smith summarized the BPAC recommendation to support and reinforce the funding priority for the edge erosion repair on the Elfers Spur Trail. The Committee endorsed the County support funding to repair this section of trail.

• Approval of BPAC Recommendation Regarding Skinner Boulevard – Pinellas Trail Crossing Safety

Mr. Smith summarized the BPAC discussion and recommendation to the MPO to support recommending FDOT review the guidelines and concluding recommendations from the report for the Skinner Boulevard crossing. Additional safety measures may also need to be evaluated. Ms. Ward added that the BPAC recommended that the City

of Dunedin and FDOT consider the recommended guidelines from the Sprinkle Study to determine what more can be done at this location to improve safety for the Trail users crossing at this location.

Mayor Bujalski added additional information as to the reasons the motorists should come to a complete stop for the Trail users crossing the roadway. She noted the inconsistencies for the Trail and road intersections, where some intersections require the Trail user to stop and other intersections require the motorist to stop.

Mayor Bradbury suggested the installation of a second pole with a flashing yellow light in the center median to help the motorists in the inner lanes to see the signal when it flashes to be able to stop for the Trail user.

Councilman Newton suggested installing speed humps in both directions on the road to slow down motorists so they see the flashing yellow.

Mayor Bujalski moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the four BPAC recommendations (Vote 11-0).

IX. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. PSTA Activities Report

Mr. Miller indicated there was nothing additional to report at this time.

B. Director's Report

Ms. Ward thanked Chairman Seel for today's luncheon on behalf of the staff. Chairman Seel thanked the MPO members and staff for their hard work.

X. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Transportation Management Area (TMA) Meeting of November 7, 2014

Chairman Seel indicated there continues to be progress with the TMA Leadership Group working on regionally-significant projects. Upon query by Commissioner Morroni, Ms. Ward responded the MPO members who serve on the TMA Leadership Group are Commissioner Seel, Councilman Kennedy, and Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito and includes three members from each MPO.

B. 2015 MPO and Committees Meeting Schedules

Chairman Seel noted the MPO and committees meeting schedule for 2015 is in the MPO agenda packet.

C. Committee Vacancies

Chairman Seel noted the various vacancies on the committees and asked the members to help fill those vacancies.

D. Correspondence

The dates for the 2015 MPOAC Weekend Institute are included in the agenda packet. Ms. Ward reported the session in Orlando is April 24 thru April 26 and the session in Tampa is from May 15 thru May 17 and each MPO is slotted for two members to attend. Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito encouraged the MPO members to attend, especially the new members.

E. Other

Upon query by Councilman Newton, Ms. Ward responded the next Pinellas Trail Security Task Force is scheduled for January; therefore, there will be a report on the January MPO agenda. Ms. Ward noted the Task Force meets quarterly.

Councilman Kennedy thanked Commissioner Seel for her dedicated leadership as the MPO Chairman and his colleagues for electing him as the MPO Chairman for 2015. Councilman Kennedy explained he would like to schedule a meeting between the January MPO and PPC meetings as a planning and goal setting workshop. This would allow FDOT and the MPO and PPC staffs to be present at the same time and allow an opportunity to discuss new ideas, which could be a local concern, a regional concern, or provides a benefit from a countywide perspective. He would like to discuss the naming of the MPO to

include transportation and naming of the PPC to include land use; countywide discussions such as transportation for hire ordinance (i.e., Uber and Lyft) to provide uniformity throughout the County; better engagement of the citizens in Pinellas County so they can be better educated as to the MPO's function. He would like to start in January and then continue monthly or whenever the agendas allow time.

Mayor Bradbury suggested a workshop at the end of the meeting as time allows so that different ideas can be brought forward. She suggested letting staff know ahead of time to allow the MPO members to think about the different ideas and make notes.

Councilman Newton indicated Orlando is crafting language regarding Lyft and Uber. He noted this is also being looked at from a state level with Senator Brandes.

Mayor Bujalski noted there is an item called Commission Discussion at the end of the Dunedin Commission agenda to allow for this type of discussion. This allows items to be brought up to see if there is interest in having the staff research it and bring it back at a later time.

Commissioner Cookie Kennedy stated that she and Sarah Ward have been attending each of the beach commission/council meetings to provide a 15 to 20 minute presentation so they are aware of the organization's function and what her role is. They have put together a packet that they provide the members. She will bring the packet to the workshop. Commissioner Kennedy added that Vice Mayor Hock-DiPolito has asked her to attend a Clearwater Commission meeting and Commissioner Piccarreto has asked her to attend a Belleair Commission meeting.

The MPO members thanked Commissioner Seel for her Chairmanship.

Chairman Seel indicated the MPO continues to move Pinellas forward and thanked FDOT for moving various road projects forward.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman