

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES – MEETING OF MARCH 11, 2015**

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, March 11, 2015 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jim Kennedy – *Chairman* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg (arrived at 3:26 p.m.)  
John Morroni – *Vice Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners  
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – *Treasurer* – Vice Mayor, Councilmember, City of Clearwater  
Cookie Kennedy – Secretary – 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  
  
Julie Bujalski – Mayor, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA  
Dave Eggers – Board of County Commissioners  
Cliff Merz – Vice Mayor, City of Safety Harbor, representing Safety Harbor/Oldsmar/Tarpon Springs  
  
Kevin Piccarreto – Commissioner, Town of Belleair, representing the in land communities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, South Pasadena  
  
Darden Rice – Councilmember, City of St. Petersburg  
Karen Seel – Board of County Commissioners (arrived at 3:13 p.m.)  
Michael Smith – Commissioner, City of Largo  
John Tornga – Commissioner, City of Dunedin  
Brian Beaty, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director  
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO  
Rodney Chatman – Pinellas County MPO  
Chelsea Hardy – County Attorney's Office  
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County DEI  
Bert Valery – BPAC  
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO  
Sarah Perch – Pinellas County MPO  
Sue Miller – Pinellas County MPO  
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park  
Evan Mory – City of St. Petersburg  
Councilman Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater  
Lisa Ray – City of Oldsmar  
Melanie Grigsby – City of Oldsmar  
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chairman Hock-DiPolito called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Commissioner John Tornga performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

Acting Chairman Hock-DiPolito thanked Ms. Ward and Commissioner Kennedy for attending and providing information at the Clearwater City Council meeting.

**III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Bert Valery, representing the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), came forward to speak on the BPAC recommendation regarding the need for consistent crosswalk treatment along the County section of Gulf Boulevard. He noted FDOT owns the section of Gulf Boulevard south of Walsingham Road and the County owns the section of Gulf Boulevard north of Walsingham Road. FDOT installs crosswalks at the intersections throughout the State of Florida, while the crosswalks along the County section of Gulf Boulevard are located mid-block and not at any of the intersections. To reduce the speed of motorists, the County added calming islands to slow traffic and, subsequently, located the crosswalks along these islands. The BPAC is recommending Indian Rocks Beach be the model for the entire County so everyone knows crosswalks will be located at the intersections. He asked for the MPO's support when they review the BPAC recommendation later on in the agenda. Upon query, Mr. Valery responded he has talked to the Indian Rocks Beach City Manager, who is waiting on direction from the County.

Commissioner Kennedy provided some background information on Mr. Valery noting he had previously been an Indian Rocks Beach Commissioner and one of the main reasons for the Pinellas Trail is due to his son being killed on his bicycle and that he is a proponent for pedestrian safety.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of February 11, 2015**
- B. Approval of Invoices**
  - 1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates**
  - 2. Risk Allocation (Pinellas County – March)**
- C. Approval of Agreement With Hillsborough County – Chairs Coordinating Committee Contribution**
- D. Approval of Continuation of Agreement With MindMixer for Tell Us Pinellas**
- E. Approval of Committee Appointments – ITS Committee (now TMMAC), CAC, TCC**

Ms. Ward stated that a modified agreement with MindMixer was included in the members' folders.

***Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda as amended (Vote 10-0), including the following committee appointments:***

- Transportation Mobility Management Advisory Committee (previously ITS Committee) – Vice Mayor Merz***
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Vivian Peters as an At Large representative***
- Technical Coordinating Committee – Scott Swearngen as the County Planning Department representative and Gordon Beardslee as the alternate***

V. **PUBLIC HEARING ITEM**

A. **Proposed Amendment to the FY 2014/15 – 2018/19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Ms. Ward noted that the MPO had discussed this amendment at their last meeting but had questions as to potential impacts to the business located in this area.

Lisa Ray, City of Oldsmar Public Works Director, and Melanie Grigsby, City of Oldsmar Public Works Administrator, introduced themselves. Ms. Ray indicated the City has been working to improve safety and is looking at pedestrian safety enhancements at Forest Lakes Boulevard. She described the area, noting there aren't any crossing arms at the railroad crossing, the railroad crossing is busy, there are a number of large businesses in the area, high speed traffic, and a large number of crashes. The City has an agreement to close the railroad crossing and has received cooperation from Pinellas County and FDOT, working with the CSX railroad. The business located in this area, Pest Bear, opened in January 2013. The City had several discussions with the real estate agents involved in the transaction prior to Pest Bear purchasing the property; therefore, they were aware of the closing of the railroad crossing. Pest Bear is a service provider, which means they go to the client's facility to provide pest control service. The City has met with Pest Bear several times and shared the design plans at 60% and 90%. They will be closing the railroad south of the building to S.R. 580 and relocating the safety arms to Forest Lakes Boulevard to enhance safety at that location. The City is taking that section of road and the right-of-way to create a driveway for Pest Bear. The curb cut off Tampa Road onto their property is approximately 50 feet wide and that will become Pest Bear's driveway. FDOT is providing 100% of the funding for the closure of the railroad crossing and the City will pay any additional costs. There's an agreement already in place with the CSX railroad for the work.

\*\*During the City's presentation, Commissioner Seel arrived at 3:13 p.m.\*\*

Upon call for public comment, no one came forward; therefore, the public hearing was closed. ***The TIP amendment was approved by roll call vote (Vote 11-0).***

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

A. **Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee Recommendations**

• **Consistent Crosswalk Treatments Along Gulf Boulevard**

Ms. Ward indicated that the email from Bert Valery to Commissioner Kennedy was included in the agenda packet. His email requested there be consistent crosswalk treatment on the County section of Gulf Boulevard. The previous request was to ask the MPO to work with the County to move forward with the installation of crosswalk treatments that would be consistent with the southern section of Gulf Boulevard that has been completed by FDOT. The MPO staff shared the communication with the County's Public Works staff but has not yet received any specific response. At their last meeting, the BPAC recommended the MPO request an update from Pinellas County on the crosswalk treatment on Gulf Boulevard.

***Commissioner Kennedy moved, Commissioner Smith seconded, and motion carried to approve the BPAC recommendation (Vote 11-0).***

Commissioner Seel asked who would pay for the installation of consistent crosswalk treatments. Ms. Ward responded that the intent was to receive a status of the request. Commissioner Seel wanted to make sure the MPO wasn't setting a precedent to fund the installations.

- **Enhanced Signage for Curlew Road at Alternate U.S. 19**

Ms. Ward indicated the MPO had earlier concurred with the BPAC recommendation to install no right-on-red signage for eastbound Curlew Road to southbound Alternate 19 to provide additional safety for the trail users. The MPO received a letter from FDOT that they agreed to install the signage. The BPAC requested the signage be installed in advance of the resurfacing project. The MPO staff is seeking clarification from FDOT as to when they would schedule the installation of the signage.

Brian Beaty, FDOT, responded that FDOT agreed to install the blank out signs and they have been working with the County where they would supply the County with the materials and the County would install the signage, which should occur in approximately two weeks of the County receiving the material.

***Commissioner Kennedy moved, Commissioner Tornga seconded, and motion carried to approve the BPAC recommendation (Vote 11-0).***

## **VII. REPORTS/UPDATE**

### **A. Legislative Report**

Ms Ward indicated the MPOAC legislative summary was included in the agenda packet. The MPO staff will provide any updates received prior to the next MPO meeting electronically to the MPO Board.

### **B. PSTA Activities Report**

Mayor Bujalski as the PSTA representative reported that, at the last PSTA Board meeting, they determined they were not ready to send an official letter to the MPO to request Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds.

\*\*Chairman Kennedy arrived at 3:26 p.m.\*\*

### **C. Director's Report**

Ms. Ward indicated a summary of the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) meeting was included in the members' folders.

## **VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **A. Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Meeting of March 6, 2015**

A summary was included in the members' folders.

### **B. Correspondence**

Evan Mory, St. Petersburg Director of Transportation and Parking, indicated the St. Petersburg City Council approved a resolution to FDOT requesting FDOT adopt the local standards as per the local codes on nonlimited access facilities. In order to not take away funds from FDOT for road building, the resolution requests the Florida Legislature to provide separate and additional funding from the general fund in order for FDOT to meet the local standards.

Chairman Kennedy added that the issue came forward because of the Bayway Bridge and asked for the MPO's support to forward the issue to the Legislative Delegation during this legislative session.

Upon query by Commissioner Morroni, Chairman Kennedy responded that there has been a lot of community involvement and that the condo associations along the Bayway Bridge are the most vocal group. Mr. Mory added that there is a group that has formed called the Bayway Alliance. Commissioner Morroni stated that he hasn't heard from anyone regarding this issue. Chairman Kennedy indicated the groups have appeared before the Council to express their concerns verbally. Commissioner Morroni

asked that all correspondence that's public record be sent to the County Commissioners in case they go before the Commission.

***Commissioner Morroni moved and Councilmember Rice seconded a motion to accept the resolution.***

Chairman Kennedy asked whether the motion included forwarding the resolution to the State Legislators. Commissioner Morroni responded yes but he would like more information.

***The MPO approved the motion for forwarding to the Legislative Delegation (Vote 12-0).***

**C. Other**

Chairman Kennedy announced that Whit Blanton has come to an agreement as the new MPO/PPC Executive Director sometime in June. He reported there was a search for an Executive Director earlier and briefly explained the process and acknowledged the members on the Search Committee and recognized Bev Waldron, with the Pinellas County Human Resources Department, for her excellent job.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

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Jim Kennedy, Chairman