

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF JUNE 10, 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, June 10, 2015 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Kennedy – *Chairman* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
John Morroni – *Vice Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners
Doreen Hock-DiPolito – *Treasurer* – Councilmember, City of Clearwater (arrived at 1:12 p.m.)
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

Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Dave Eggers – Board of County Commissioners
Cliff Merz – Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor, representing Safety Harbor/Oldsma/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
Michael Smith – Commissioner, City of Largo
John Tornga – Commissioner, City of Dunedin
Lee Royal, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Julie Bujalski – Mayor, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA

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 – FDOT
Brad Miller – PSTA
Cassandra Borchers – PSTA
Brian Smith – BPAC Chairman
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Cheryl Stacks – City of St. Petersburg
Ken Jacobs – Pinellas County DEI
Tom Washburn – Pinellas County DEI
Deborah Lekenta – Neighborly Care Network
Vivian Peters – TRAC/CAC/LCB
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater/PSTA
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Sarah Perch – Pinellas County MPO
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Deborah Lekenta, Neighborly Care Network, 13945 Evergreen, Clearwater, came forward to ask PSTA to allow children and teens to ride the bus for free during the summer months in order to access locations that provide free meals for children 18 and under. She noted this is a collaborative effort that she wanted to make the MPO aware of. She described a similar successful program that is being implemented in Lakeland. She provided the Board members with flyers containing background information about the proposal. The MPO asked that she get with Brad Miller as CEO of PSTA and attend the June 28 PSTA Board meeting with her request.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 13, 2015

B. Approval of Invoices

1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates

2. Risk Allocation (Pinellas County – June)

C. Approval of Printing of Traffic Count Map

D. Approval of PSTA Section 5305 Joint Participation Agreement (Withdrawn)

E. Approval of Transportation Disadvantaged Planning Grant – Resolution

F. Approval of MPO Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

G. Approval of Committee Appointments – Deborah Malone as an At Large representative on the CAC, Valerie Brookens as a Largo technical representative and Christine McLachlan as the alternate on the BPAC.

Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 11-0).

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Adoption of the FY 2014/15 – 2018/19 Transportation Improvement Program

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, indicated the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) incorporates the FDOT Five Year Work Program and includes \$2.9 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. FDOT deferred the U.S. 19 project from Northside Drive to C.R. 95 so that they could look at safety concerns in the area associated with transit users, as well as bicyclists and pedestrians.

****Councilmember Hock-DiPolito arrived at 1:12 p.m.****

Ms. Ward reported that the advisory committees recommended approval.

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

Upon query regarding the completion of the Ulmerton Road segments, Ms. Ward responded that staff would provide that information. Ms. Ward announced that the U.S. 19 project will be complete this year and that the Bayway PD&E project has been added to the TIP.

Regarding the Treasure Island Causeway project, Ms. Royal, FDOT, responded that the City of St. Petersburg requested the project be deferred until 2018 due to cost increases. Cheryl Stacks, City of St. Petersburg staff, came forward and stated the construction was deferred to 2018 due to cost overruns for the Bayway Trail. The City is requesting the project be included in the next Work Program, hopefully for 2017. Ms. Royal stated FDOT will work with the City staff. It was stated the construction bids came in higher than anticipated. Commissioner Kennedy requested Ms. Stacks keep her updated on this project.

Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Piccarreto seconded, and motion carried to adopt the TIP by roll call vote (Vote 12-0).

B. Transportation Improvement Program Priority Lists

Sarah Ward noted that normally the MPO schedules its annual adoption of the priority lists in the fall for transmittal to FDOT; however, since the next legislative session begins earlier, in January, the priority lists are due to FDOT by August 1.

Mr. Bartolotta indicated FDOT uses the priority lists to determine projects for the 5th year of the new Tentative Work Program. The TMA Leadership Group at their June meeting recommended an additional project be added to the TMA-TA priority list, which is to recommend the Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian overpass project be added as Number 19. Proposed changes to the local TA priority list include the removal of the City of St. Petersburg's North Bay Trail and Skyway Trail Hardscape Enhancements project (Priority #29) and three completed City of Oldsmar trail projects (Priority #1). FDOT has determined that the St. Petersburg project is not eligible for TA Program funding.

In response to comments, Mr. Bartolotta emphasized the intent was that the Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian overpass project would not supersede other projects on the TMA-TA list. There are several Safe Routes to School projects on the TMA-TA list that have a higher priority. The intent was that the project be added to the list in case there were regional funding opportunities that become available. FDOT has "anywhere" funds that could be used for the Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian overpass project. Commissioner Seel noted that the TMA Leadership Group also discussed adding a pedestrian overpass project at Rocky Pointe and S.R. 60 to the TMA-TA Priority List. Ms. Ward responded that she discussed the pedestrian overpass for the Hillsborough side with the Hillsborough MPO Executive Director, who indicated she would like it discussed at the next Regional Multi-Use Trails Committee. There is already an underpass at the location to allow for a safe crossing. Commissioner Seel wanted to make sure that both the Hillsborough and Pinellas locations are addressed. Ms. Ward responded she would forward the comments to Hillsborough County.

There was discussion regarding the process to prioritize the TA and TMA-TA Priority Lists and how projects get on the lists. Ms. Ward stated the TMA Leadership Group provides recommendations to the MPOs, with each MPO taking action on those recommendations. Ms. Stacks noted that the priority lists were discussed by the Technical Coordinating Committee and they recommended moving the priorities from the local TA lists to the regional TMA-TA list. The TCC had a lengthy discussion and they recommended the 2014 applications not supersede the 2010 projects on the TA list and that substitute projects not be allowed. The Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian overpass project was added after the TCC meeting.

Ms. Ward noted that all the advisory committees reviewed the priority lists to provide input. The TMA Leadership Group reviewed the TMA-TA Priority List and recommended the pedestrian overpass project be added to the bottom of the priority

list. The group discussed the idea of developing a regional TA priority list. The passage of MAP-21 required a priority list for each TMA. Last year was the first year for the TMA-TA Priority List and, since there weren't criteria developed, it was decided to advance projects from each MPO's local priority list. The Staff Directors discussed this and decided to use the same procedure for this year. There are the TMA allocation and "anywhere" funds. FDOT has the discretion to fully fund projects on the TMA-TA Priority List.

Ms. Ward clarified that the Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian overpass project has a high cost compared to the other projects but they are looking at other options for funding. The project needs to be included on the list so that it would be eligible as funding opportunities arise. The issues associated with crossing the Courtney Campbell Causeway include safety and traffic back-ups.

Following discussion and public hearing, **Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the local TA Priority List by roll call vote (Vote 12-0).**

Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the TMA-TA Priority List by roll call vote (Vote 12-0).

Mr. Bartolotta then reviewed the state road projects and Congestion Management Process (CMP) projects on the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Priority List. He noted that projects adopted in the Cost Feasible Long Range Transportation Plan were added to the STP Priority List and these included U.S. 19 north to C.R. 95, Gandy Boulevard and 4th Street to the bridge, and I-275 express lanes. Changes to the list of non-State roads include clarifications on the project descriptions and status updates.

Ms. Ward stated that a column was added in response to the MPO members who requested, at an earlier meeting, that they be provided information as to how long projects have been on the list. In addition, the MPO staff performed an additional crash analysis but it didn't result in any changes to the list.

Mr. Bartolotta reviewed the history for 62nd Avenue, noting the project was included in the 1st Penny for Pinellas sales tax and the 1980 Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan for funding. The MPO staff is currently working with the County staff on the county road projects and their priority looking at all kinds of data. The end result is to develop a new County priority list that can move forward and 62nd Avenue will probably move higher on the priority list and be funded with the next Penny sales tax.

Upon call for public hearing, Brad Miller, PSTA CEO, came forward to inform the MPO that the PSTA Board previously voted to transmit a letter to the MPO requesting the use of STP funds for bus purchases. The PSTA will work with the MPO staff in the fall to consider expanding the list to include transit. In addition, both the MPO and PSTA approved a letter expressing concern that the express lane project should be extended south. The TMA Leadership Group at their June meeting approved the project as a priority.

Ms. Ward responded FDOT has requested the MPO provide their priority lists by August due to the earlier 2016 legislative session. The MPO Board Workshop is scheduled for September 21 where they will discuss the possibility of expanding the STP Priority List to include other modes. The STP Priority List can be amended after the September 21 MPO Board Workshop if necessary.

Councilmember Rice noted this is an opportunity to note there are ongoing discussions with PSTA and the pending workshop. Ms. Ward responded this information could be included in the communication to FDOT.

The public hearing was closed.

Following discussion and public hearing, **Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the STP Priority List by roll call vote (Vote 12-0).**

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. Committee Recommendations

1. BPAC and TCC – Crosswalks on Gulf Boulevard in City of Indian Rocks Beach

Rodney Chatman, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint that described the Gulf Boulevard crosswalks in Indian Rocks Beach. He described the FDOT maintained and Pinellas County maintained sections and the pedestrian crashes between 2007-2010 and 2011-2014 for the FDOT and Pinellas County sections, including injuries and fatalities. He summarized the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) and Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) recommendations. The BPAC recommended Pinellas County install painted crosswalks at all beach access points for the segment of Gulf Boulevard north of Walsingham Road as soon as possible. The TCC supported the original County study based on Traffic Engineering Manual criteria and that only the locations recommended from the County study be marked at this time and that the County conduct a study in the future to determine if additional improvements are needed and bring that study back to the TCC.

There was discussion regarding the crash statistics, the need for consistency at all crosswalks to help aid expectations, schedule, the City of Indian Rocks Beach would be responsible for crosswalks not identified by the study, FDOT is providing the flashing (RRF) beacons.

Brian Smith, BPAC Chairman, came forward and indicated the BPAC has discussed this issue several times. The BPAC feels that markings at the intersections are appropriate.

****Commissioner Eggers left at 2:15 p.m.****

Commissioner Kennedy added additional information regarding discussions with Bert Valery and the City of Indian Rocks Beach, noting the City is okay with the TCC recommendation until everything is completed and then it can be reevaluated. The City wants to make it easy and safe for pedestrians to cross the road.

Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the TCC recommendation (to support the original County pedestrian/bicycle safety study that was based on Traffic Engineering Manual criteria that only the crosswalk locations recommended in the study be marked at this time and that the County conduct a follow-up evaluation to determine if additional improvements are needed) (Vote 11-0).

2. Amendment to the BPAC Bylaws

Ms. Ward briefly summarized the amendments to the BPAC bylaws, which are mostly minor and clean-up in nature.

Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendments (Vote 11-0).

B. Local Coordinating Board Recommendations

1. TBARTA Letter

Ms. Ward briefly described the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) recommendation that TBARTA include in their Master Plan a section that addresses transportation disadvantaged and paratransit service needs. The Hillsborough MPO discussed this issue with the TBARTA Executive Director, who agreed to the request; however, the Pinellas LCB felt it was important to support the actions of the Hillsborough LCB and MPO on this issue and recommended the Pinellas MPO transmit a letter to TBARTA.

Mayor Bradbury moved, Commissioner Merz seconded, and motion carried to approve the transmittal of the letter to TBARTA requesting that the TBARTA Master Plan address regional transportation disadvantaged and paratransit issues (Vote 11-0).

2. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan

Ms. Ward explained that this was the annual update to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan, which included minor changes.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Commissioner Piccarreto seconded, and motion carried to approve the annual update of the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (Vote 11-0).

Ms. Ward indicated there were committee appointments included in the member folders.

Mayor Bradbury moved, Commissioner Morroni seconded, and motion carried to approve the appointment of Richard Hartman as the CUTR alternate on the BPAC and Joseph DiDomenico as a Person With Disabilities representative on the Local Coordinating Board (vote 11-0).

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. PSTA Activities Report

Brad Miller, PSTA CEO, indicated the PSTA, at their last meeting, approved its new strategic plan that calls for PSTA to work with the MPO and its new Executive Director to develop a multimodal funding plan, looking internally first for funding. Mr. Miller noted that PSTA is recruiting their first federal lobbyist. He reported on the recent joint PSTA and HART Executive meeting that was felt to be productive and positive. There will be a follow-up joint PSTA HART Executive meeting in the fall. In addition, it was reported PSTA and HART are moving forward with ideas to work closer together.

B. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Ward reported there will be a grand opening for the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail June 22 at 9:30 a.m. and that Clearwater is in the process of developing a press release that the MPO staff will send to the MPO Board. Ms. Ward also reported that the County submitted the TIGER grant application for the Pinellas Trail Loop last Friday.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito and Councilmember Rice reported on their trip to Washington, DC, to meet with U.S. DOT representatives and congressional members regarding the Pinellas Trail Loop TIGER grant application. Councilmember Hock-DiPolito noted that a template for a support letter for the application can be found on the MPO's website and encouraged everyone to submit a letter of support.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Cancellation of August MPO Meeting

It was announced the August MPO meeting is cancelled and that the November MPO meeting falls on November 11, which is Veterans Day, and that meeting might be able to be cancelled along with the Pinellas Planning Council meeting.

B. Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting of May 15, 2015

A summary of the CCC meeting was included in the agenda packet. It was reported the CCC took action to add the Courtney Campbell Causeway pedestrian overpass to the Multi-Use Trail Priority List. It was also indicated that the Pinellas MPO provided a copy to the other MPOs in the CCC region of Senator Nelson's letter that supports bicycle and pedestrian safety.

C. Tampa Bay TMA Meeting of June 5, 2015

A summary of the TMA meeting was included in the members' folders.

D. Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the CAC and BPAC.

E. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

F. Other

The MPO members who attended the recent MPOAC Weekend Institute provided a summary report of the benefits.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman