

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF JULY 8, 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, July 8, 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
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
Julie Bujalski – Mayor, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA
Dave Eggers – Board of County Commissioners
Cliff Merz – Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor, representing Safety Harbor/Oldsmar/Tarpon Springs (arrived at 1:07 p.m.)
Kevin Piccarreto – Deputy Mayor, 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
John Tornga – Commissioner, City of Dunedin
Ming Gao, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Michael Smith – Commissioner, City of Largo

OTHERS PRESENT

Whit Blanton – MPO Executive Director
Sarah Ward – Pinellas County MPO
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO
Rodney Chatman – Pinellas County MPO
Chelsea Hardy – County Attorney's Office
Brian Beaty – FDOT
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County Public Works
Evan Mory – City of St. Petersburg
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Brad Miller – PSTA
Bill Jonson – City of Clearwater/PSTA
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Mayor Bujalski performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

The MPO welcomed Whit Blanton as the new Executive Director and thanked Sarah Ward and Mike Crawford for their leadership as the Interim MPO Executive Director and Interim PPC Executive Director, respectively.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens who came forward to be heard.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of June 10, 2015**
- B. Approval of Invoices**
 - 1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates**
 - 2. URS Consultant**
 - 3. TBARTA for CCC Services**
 - 4. MPO Share of Copier With Pinellas Planning Council**
 - 5. Risk Allocation (Pinellas County – July)**
- C. Approval of Printing Pedestrian Safety Awareness Education Material**
- D. Authorization for Executive Director (Whit Blanton) to Sign Checks**
- E. Approval of Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendments (MPO Resolution #15-4)**
- F. Approval of Committee Appointments – Joseph Santini as a Local Medical Community representative on the Local Coordinating Board, Ajaya Satyal as the County’s Environmental Management representative on the Technical Coordinating Committee**

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

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Proposed Amendments to the Facilities Element of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, described the proposed amendments to the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan that resulted from discussions with the City of St. Petersburg staff to look at potential grant opportunities through the Office of Greenways and Trails to expand the existing trail/bike lane network in South County. The proposal included eight facilities that are listed below and shown on the attached map. The proposed facilities are within the Lealman area of unincorporated Pinellas County and the City of St. Petersburg, excluding the northernmost 1600 feet of #3 that is within the City of Pinellas Park.

- 1) 74th Street, planned Joe’s Creek Trail to Pinellas Trail, bike lanes or shared road use markings
- 2) 68th Street, planned Joe’s Creek Trail to Tyrone Boulevard frontage road, bike lanes or shared road use markings
- 3) Sawgrass Lake Park service road, 25th Street/Park entrance to Gandy Boulevard, trail
- 4) 28th Street, 62nd Avenue North to Sawgrass Lake Park service road, shared road use markings
- 5) 50th Avenue North, 37th Street to 28th Street, bike lanes or shared road use markings

- 6) CSX Corridor, 46th Avenue North to 9th Avenue North and Booker Creek Trail, trail
- 7) 3rd Street/Salt Creek, Booker Creek to 26th Avenue South, bike lanes/trail
- 8) 26th Avenue South, 31st Street to Skyway Trail, bike lanes

Pinellas County has requested that Number 5, the 50th Avenue North trail, be removed from the proposed amendments; therefore, the amendments won't include Number 5.

****During the presentation, Commissioner Merz arrived at 1:07 p.m.****

Upon query by Councilmember Hock-DiPolito, Mr. Bartolotta explained that the removal of Number 5 was based on safety concerns with regards to crossing U.S. Highway 19 in this area. In addition, the Board of County Commissioners recently authorized County staff to develop a community redevelopment plan for the Lealman area in coordination with the Lealman Community Redevelopment Advisory Committee. The evaluation of bicycle/pedestrian needs in Lealman, including facilities and crossings, will be addressed in the redevelopment plan. Any trail or on-street improvements identified through this effort will be reflected in a future amendment to the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan that will come before the MPO.

In response to Councilmember Hock-DiPolito, Mr. Bartolotta indicated the Technical Coordinating Committee could revisit this item.

Upon query by Mayor Bujalski as to whether needs in other areas were considered, Mr. Bartolotta responded staff works with other communities on an ongoing basis to identify needs, including trail connections. Mayor Bujalski wanted to make sure the whole context of the Plan was considered and not just amendment by amendment. Mr. Bartolotta offered to present the overall Trailways Plan at a future meeting, noting the Plan had major updates last year. Mr. Blanton added that each local government can bring amendments forward at any time but it's helpful to have everything in context, including the process, a summary of recent amendments and priorities that have been advanced. Mr. Blanton stated that, as the unification of the two boards continues, they will be looking at their processes and criteria used to advance projects over the next several months.

Upon query by Mayor Bradbury regarding 62nd Avenue North, Mr. Bartolotta responded the intent is to do these types of projects in conjunction with road improvements (road resurfacing or construction) to help reduce costs.

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

Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendments to the Facilities Element of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan by roll call vote (Vote 12-0).

B. Proposed Amendment to the FY 2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program (included in members folders)

Brian Beaty, FDOT, summarized a proposed amendment to the FY2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that would include the annual Federal Transit Administration Section 5339 allocation to PSTA of \$1.4 million.

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

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Commissioner Morroni seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendment to add the FY 2016 PSTA allocation of Section 5339 funds by roll call vote (Vote 12-0).

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. Tampa Bay Management Area Leadership Group Regional Priorities – Action

Chelsea Favero, MPO staff, described the priorities of the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group via slides. The 2014 priorities were adjusted to combine the Tampa Bay Express projects into one project, add a transit connection from Westshore to downtown Tampa, and to add the projects in the region that are seeking funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program. The Howard Frankland Bridge and Gateway Express projects are already funded in FDOT's Work Program. The top five priorities are:

- Tampa Bay Express Lanes Phase 1
- Westshore Multi-Modal Center and Connection to Downtown and Airport
- U.S. 41 CSX Rail Corridor Study
- Regional Farebox Project (TIGER)
- Duke Energy Trail Project Loop (TIGER)

Mayor Bujalski asked whether the TMA Leadership Group discussed the letter the Pinellas MPO and PSTA sent to FDOT expressing concern that the express lane project stops in the Gateway area and doesn't go all the way to St. Petersburg. Mr. Blanton responded that it was discussed at the TMA meeting and FDOT acknowledged they received the letter; however, FDOT isn't extending the express lanes into St. Petersburg at this time due to funding constraints and timing. FDOT will evaluate the corridor in the future as they receive transportation funding. The Pinellas MPO will continue to work with FDOT.

Chairman Kennedy added that it is the desire of the City of St. Petersburg to extend the express lane project into St. Petersburg and FDOT did an additional study; however, the study did not support extension of the express lanes to St. Petersburg. It is in the long-term plan. The City will continue to express their desire to extend the express lanes to St. Petersburg. Chairman Kennedy reported that they hope to hear whether the Duke Energy Trail Loop project received TIGER grant funds either in late August or September.

In response to Councilmember Rice regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects and a possible BRT pilot project, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito stated the Leadership Group didn't want to put too many projects on the list as top priorities. Mr. Blanton stated that the Leadership Group packaged the rapid bus connections to beaches projects and that the MPO staff will be looking at enhanced access to the beaches as a priority. Councilmember Hock-DiPolito noted that HART and PSTA are meeting jointly to discuss enhancements to BRT. Chairman Kennedy reported that St. Petersburg did not receive funding for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project.

Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the TMA Regional Priorities for transmittal to FDOT (Vote 12-0).

B. Crash Report – Action

Rodney Chatman, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint that highlighted the 2014 Crash Data Report. The MPO Crash Data Report provides information and analysis of crash trends and locations and possible countermeasures. This information is used for

various purposes, including transportation safety studies and projects, prioritization of roadway improvements, targeted law enforcement activities, and design plans for road construction projects. He explained that FDOT and the MPO are jointly paying for a study that is looking at U.S. 19 with a focus on bicycle and pedestrian access related to transit stops but with the understanding that the findings can be applied to the entire corridor. The study will develop recommendations as to how to provide safer crossings on U.S. 19 and how to retrofit the existing overpasses, while also looking at a better design and future connections at the interchanges. The Curlew Road project is on hold until the study is complete so that the recommendations can be incorporated into the design.

The MPO staff was asked to make sure Commissioner Seel's name is included on the Crash Report.

There was considerable discussion regarding the crash data and trends, especially at certain intersections. Mayor Bujalski stated that teen driving should be addressed, such as through the schools drivers education programs, especially in light of the fact that some schools are only offering the course during the summer. This needs to be more prevalent in schools and should be pursued, especially since the data shows it is necessary. Commissioner Eggers felt the intersection analysis should include three solutions for improvement and that residents should be informed of dangerous intersections so they are aware to be more cautious as they approach those intersections. The Dynamic Message Signs could be used to indicate dangerous intersections, as well as staff could attend local government meetings to present the crash data information. Mayor Bujalski suggested the MPO staff bring back an action plan, which Mr. Blanton responded that the MPO can help with its development at the September 21 workshop. Commissioner Seel suggested the use of Public Service Announcements to help reduce crashes.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the Crash Report (Vote 12-0).

In addition, the report will be sent to city managers with an offer for the MPO staff to provide presentations at their council/commission meetings and staff will evaluate ways, including use of broadcast media, to bring attention to the report and to make residents aware of the high crash locations, particularly those on U.S. 19 at Curlew and Tampa Roads

Commissioner Morroni left at 2:02 p.m.

C. State of the System Report – Action

Rodney Chatman, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint that highlighted the State of the System Report.

Commissioner Tornga moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the State of the System Report (Vote 11-0).

D. Public Participation Plan Evaluation – Action

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint that highlighted the Public Participation Plan and Evaluation.

During the presentation, Commissioner Morroni returned at 2:13 p.m.

Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the Public Participation Plan Evaluation (Vote 12-0).

E. Amendment to the St. Petersburg Downtown Intermodal Facility Study Agreement – Action (folder item)

Tom Whalen, City of St. Petersburg staff, explained the City of St. Petersburg is requesting an extension of the agreement's expiration date to September 2017 and a revision to the scope. The City received a congressional earmark to conduct a Downtown Intermodal Transit Facility and Parking Study. The MPO, as the Federal Transit Administration designated recipient, has an agreement with the City to administer the grant on the City's behalf. The current agreement expires on September 30, 2015. In addition, the City would like to revise the scope to look at other locations and to study the feasibility of relocating the downtown transfer and layover operations from Williams Park that will assist with PSTA moving toward a grid system. Councilmember Rice noted its importance to the City, as well as PSTA and Chairman Kennedy added that St. Petersburg City Council will also take action to approve the amendment.

Councilmember Rice moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendment to the agreement (Vote 12-0).

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. PSTA Activities Report

Brad Miller, PSTA CEO, indicated Whit Blanton met with PSTA staff to discuss ideas regarding coordination and partnering. One suggestion is for the MPO and PSTA Executive Committees to meet together. PSTA is moving ahead with its budget discussions that include redesigning their system and routes as identified in their community bus plan. He thanked the MPO for approving the amendment to the City of St. Petersburg agreement that will help with implementing a grid system. As a result of PSTA moving toward a grid system, there will be changes throughout the County that will be done in phases. PSTA will host a coordination meeting on July 22 that will include planning, community development, economic development, and engineering staff. PSTA will provide an update on their planning activities that include its strategic plan, route changes, Williams Park, etc. Mr. Miller thanked the Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group for prioritizing the two PSTA projects. PSTA is moving forward with its BRT projects both locally and legislatively.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Reminder – August MPO Meeting Cancelled

The August MPO meeting is cancelled.

B. July 10, 2015 Chairs Coordinating Committee Meeting and Joint Meeting With the Central Florida MPO Alliance

The meetings are scheduled for this Friday.

C. Committee Vacancies

Regarding the appointments included in the folder, ***Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Tornga seconded, and motion carried to approve the appointment of Tom Washburn as the County Traffic technical representative and Gina Harvey and Casey Morse as the alternates on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee as requested by Pinellas County.***

D. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

E. Other

Chairman Kennedy reported the City of St. Petersburg has installed the cameras on the Pinellas Trail to enhance security and that they are operational and functioning. He

announced the meeting for the Project Development and Environment Study for the San Martin Boulevard Bridge over Riviera Bay scheduled for July 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Holy Family Church located at 200 78th Avenue NE in St. Petersburg.

Mr. Blanton remarked on the activities that are being initiated now that he is on board with the MPO and mentioned items that will be discussed at the September 21 workshop, noting that items will be coming back to the MPO Board for direction and action as the activities progress. Staff is performing an assessment and alignment of operations of the MPO and Pinellas Planning Council to unify the two organizations. He has met with various city staffs and attended council/commission meetings. He will be bringing to the MPO strategies to unify communication opportunities. His intent is to use an outside consultant to assist with a branding initiative and asked for any suggestions or ideas the members might have. The outcome of the workshop on September 21 will help determine the five major issues the MPO would like the staff and its partners to focus on. They will also be looking at options as to how to fund transportation projects and to look at funding flexibility and opportunities for land redevelopment reforms in Pinellas County. The MPO will discuss the workshop and take any actions necessary as a result of the workshop at its September MPO meeting. He is in the process of developing the agenda, in coordination with Chairman Kennedy, for the September 21 workshop.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman