

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 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, October 14, 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

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 (arrived 2:02 p.m.)
John Tornga – Commissioner, City of Dunedin
Ming Gao, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Seel – Board of County Commissioners
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
Ed McKinney – FDOT
Ken Jacobs – Pinellas County Public Works, Transportation
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County Public Works, Transportation
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
Cassandra Borchers – PSTA
Ray Chiamonte – TBARTA
Anthony Matonti – TBARTA
Mike Case – TBARTA
Vivian Peters – TRAC/CAC/LCB
Sarah Perch – Pinellas County MPO
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Merz 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 be heard.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of September 9, 2015

B. Approval of Invoices

1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates

2. URS Consultant

3. TBARTA (CCC Services)

4. Invoice for MPO Share of Copier With Pinellas Planning Council

5. Risk Allocation for October (Pinellas County)

C. Funds for MPOAC Legislative Advocacy Activities for FY 2015/16

D. Approval of Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) amendment

E. Approval of Amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

F. Approval of Health Department Grant (Partnerships to improve Community Health) (Final Agreement in Member Folders)

G. Approval of Section 5305(d) Joint Participation Agreement With FDOT

H. Approval of Section 5305(d) Joint Participation Agreement With PSTA

I. Approval of Committee Appointments – Michelle Orton as Tarpon Springs' representative with an alternate of Heather Urwiller and Brent Hall as Pinellas County Engineering representative with an alternate of Greg Cutrone to the Technical Coordinating Committee and Jake Stowers as an At Large representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee

J. (Folder Items – TBARTA Invoices 25 (July – \$2,147.39) and 26 (August and September – \$10,846.19) for CCC Services; Invoice #827 From Laughlin and Associates for September in the Amount of \$360.

Mayor Bradbury moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda, including folder items (Vote 10-0).

V. RECOGNITION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Community Planning Month – Proclamation and

B. Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week – Proclamation

Mr. Blanton provided a brief description of Community Planning Month and the proclamation declaring October as Community Planning Month and a brief summary of Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week and the related proclamation. He provided a copy of "Start-Up City" by Gabe Klein to each board member. Mr. Blanton then recognized international representatives of emerging democracies from Cambodia and Thailand and introduced Mark Reggentin, Mt. Dora Assistant City Manager, as their host. These representatives are taking part in the International City/County Management Association's International Ambassadors program. Mr. Reggentin explained they are here to observe and to have hands-on experience.

Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve both proclamations (Vote 10-0).

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. PSTA – Update

Mayor Bujalski as the PSTA representative provided a brief update on PSTA activities that included PSTA and HART coordination activities and emphasized the importance of having a unified voice for legislative priorities to benefit the region. She briefly reviewed the PSTA priorities that included sustainable bus replacement funding, additional Transportation Disadvantaged funding, regional farebox collection, funding for various projects such as Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit and Clearwater Beach to the Tampa International Airport express route. She also discussed the importance of evaluating the CSX rail line purchase opportunity from a technical transit perspective, as well as economic development. Cassandra Borchers, PSTA staff, answered several questions from board members concerning the top legislative priorities for transit.

B. Pinellas Trail Survey – Presentation and Action

Rodney Chatman, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the results of the Pinellas Trail survey as compared to the survey done in 1999. The presentation included an overview of the survey's purpose, the methodology, major findings, and the conclusion.

Board members comments included information that the TIGER grant project awards will be announced before the end of October, discussion of a countywide bike share program, a request that staff look at the use of surveys for the planned beach access study, and wayfinding signs located off the trail. Mr. Chatman noted a subcommittee of the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be studying the bike share program. In addition, Mr. Chatman noted the MPO has received a second year Health Department Grant (Partnerships to Improve Community Health) that will look at a wayfinding system and they will be developing demonstration projects for a pedestrian/bicycle scale wayfinding system. Regarding the location stickers on the trail, Mr. Chatman indicated that will be expanded to other community trails for safety purposes.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the Pinellas Trail survey (Vote 10-0).

C. Follow-Up From September 21, 2015 Board Workshop – Update

Mr. Blanton updated the board on follow-up activities from the September 21 workshop, noting more information as to their progress and a work plan for the three focus emphasis areas will be brought back at a future meeting. In addition, there will be more discussion on flexible funding for transportation projects and that options for criteria under the Transportation Analysis Program will be brought back to the MPO for consideration. Staff is looking at complete streets programs with the use of competitive funding. There will be a Complete Streets presentation on October 20 on the 1st floor of 310 Court Street. There will also be follow-up with a series of streaming sessions or presentations on the concept of roundabouts. There will be a follow-up board workshop on December 4 where staff will bring forward a draft work plan.

D. Alternate U.S. 19 Workshop – Update

Ms. Ward provided an update on the Alternate U.S. 19 workshop that was held on September 29 and included the MPO, the County, and FDOT. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the options for intersection improvements at Florida Avenue and/or Nebraska Avenue in Palm Harbor. The options under consideration include a traffic signal at Nebraska Avenue or a roundabout at Florida Avenue. Recommendations from the community included a pedestrian overpass or an at grade crossing mid-block between the two intersections. The intent of the workshop was to receive input from the community but not to make any decisions. The workshop was

well attended. Staff is in the process of receiving comments and tallying those comments and then they will go back to the community.

****Councilmember Rice arrived at 2:02 p.m.****

Commissioner Eggers added that staff presented the concept for a roundabout so that discussions can begin. In addition, there had been a previous study that will be updated and another workshop will be held in early December.

E. U.S. 19 Corridor Study – Update and Crash Analysis

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the U.S. 19 corridor study update and crash analysis. He provided an overview of the transportation and land use conditions and plans, plan and policy review, demographic conditions, bicycle and pedestrian crashes, bus stop access, outreach feedback, and next steps. The next steps include completing the technical memorandum, an analysis of the correlation of bus stop activity and crashes, detailed crash analysis, short-term access enhancements, and long-term options for safety and access improvements.

****Commissioner Eggers left at 2:09 p.m. and returned at 2:10 p.m.****

There was discussion and comments from the board members.

VII. PPC/MPO JOINT ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

A. Internal Control Procedures Manual – Action

Mr. Blanton indicated this is a joint item for both the MPO and PPC boards regarding internal control policies and procedures to clarify the Executive Director’s authority and the board’s authority. He provided a brief overview of the manual.

Commissioner Merz asked that consideration be given to three modifications:

- Page 3 regarding designation of check signing authority during the Executive Director’s absence – clarify that such authority is limited;
- Reduction in the dollar amount from \$50,000 to \$25,000 for items the Executive Director may approve without board action; and
- Modification of language on Page 9 to ensure the board is made aware of Interlocal Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding for technical assistance to local governments.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the Internal Control Procedures Manual as modified above (Vote 11-0).

VIII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. Executive Director Report

Mr. Blanton reported on a response letter from the Chairman to a recent “Tampa Bay Times” editorial on a lack of leadership in the region. The “Times” requires response letters to be no more than 300 words to be printed in the paper. As such, a shortened version has been drafted. The longer version will be placed on the website, distributed via Facebook, and distributed to other identified recipients. He noted they are still waiting to see whether they received TIGER grant funding for the Pinellas Trail loop. Mr. Blanton reported on the upcoming November 6 Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group meeting that will focus on the possibility of purchasing the CSX rail line that goes to Brooksville and through Pinellas County. He provided information from SunRail officials regarding the rail project in the Orlando area. He announced the establishment of a Nominating Committee at the November

meeting, which will be held on November 18 because the MPO's regular meeting date is Veterans Day.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC).

Mayor Bradbury asked about elected officials serving on the advisory committees and Ms. Ward responded that, typically, citizens discuss and bring back recommendations to the MPO. The BPAC modified their bylaws to have two beach representatives. The CAC has had one elected official to serve. She requested staff have time to review this and bring a proposal to the MPO.

B. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

C. Other

There was no other business.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman