

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF DECEMBER 9, 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, December 9, 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 1:08 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

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
Karen Seel – Board of County Commissioners
Michael Smith – Commissioner, City of Largo
John Tornga – Commissioner, City of Dunedin
Lee Royal Beasley, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Sandra Bradbury – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park

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
Brad Miller – PSTA
Cassandra Borchers – PSTA
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County Public Works, Transportation
Brian Smith – Pinellas BPAC Chairman
Rob Cursey – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Vivian Peters – TRAC PSTA/CAC
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
Sarah Perch – Pinellas County MPO
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Bob Clifford – Clearwater Jolley Trolley
Anthony Matonti – TBARTA
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kennedy called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Kennedy performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens who came forward to be heard.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of October 14, 2015

B. Approval of Extension of GPC Contract (Amendments)

C. Approval of Committee Appointments – re-appointment of Neil McMullen, Becky Afonso, and Larry Roybal to a 2nd four-year term on the CAC, appointment of Terri Novitsky and Deborah Schechner as beach representatives and Patricia Rodriguez as an At Large representative on the CAC, and appointment of Councilmember Hock-DiPolito as the MPOAC representative with an alternate of Commissioner John Tornga

Chairman Kennedy noted there were CAC appointments included in the members' folders. ***Commissioner Eggers moved, Commissioner Merz seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda ,including the appointments in the folders (Vote 11-0).***

V. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. PSTA – Update

Mayor Bujalski, as the PSTA representative provided a brief update on PSTA activities:

- PSTA advanced the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project by requesting to enter into the Project Development and Environment phase of the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts Program. FDOT announced on Monday that they are contributing \$500,000 to PSTA for this project, which will supplement PSTA's local funding;
- PSTA will begin a pilot project in East Lake and Pinellas Park by entering into agreements with taxi companies and Uber to provide demand service in those defined areas to replace the supplemental bus service that was eliminated. The taxi companies will operate in both East Lake and Pinellas Park and Uber will operate in Pinellas Park. This service will begin early next year and last six months, at which time, PSTA will analyze the data to determine its success as a transportation alternative;
- PSTA approved the final design for the grid bus service in downtown St. Petersburg that will replace the previous hub system in Williams Park;
- PSTA will host the December 11 Transportation Management Area Leadership Group meeting;
- Transportation days in Tallahassee are January 20 through January 21;
- January 22 is the joint meeting between the PSTA and the MPO; and
- PSTA elected Darden Rice as their new Chairman.

During Mayor Bujalski's PSTA update, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito arrived at 1:08 p.m.

B. Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan – Action

1. Overview of Plan Implementation and Amendment/Update Process – Information

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, provided an overview of the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan implementation and amendment process. The Plan includes existing and planned trails, bike lanes, and sidewalks. Although anyone can bring forward an amendment to the Plan, it's typically the local government where the project is located. The amendments are reviewed by each of the committees (Bicycle Pedestrian, Citizens, and Technical Committees) for the overall benefit to the community, as well as countywide. The committees look at the project(s) connectivity and connections to major destination points, as well as connections to the Pinellas Trail. The Plan was originally adopted in 2006 and major updates were done in 2013 and 2014. In addition,

several local governments have reevaluated their local plans and have made adjustments to their local plans, which are then brought forward as amendments to the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan. Projects on the Plan are implemented through stand alone projects, the local governments and FDOT capital improvement programs, or as part of a local site plan. When a local government or FDOT reconstructs a road through resurfacing or improvement, they will include bike lanes, sidewalks, and/or trails as part of the project if it's feasible. Pinellas County and FDOT have a policy that all road resurfacing and/or reconstruction projects will include bike lanes where there is available right-of-way. As part of a local site plan, a development might construct a bike lane, sidewalk, and/or trail in order to meet certain requirements or in lieu of paying impact fees.

2. Proposed Amendments to the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan and Update Process – Action

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, briefly described the four proposed amendments to the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan:

- Pinellas Trail Loop re-alignment to reflect the trail loop alignment identified in the Pinellas County/MPO TIGER grant application, with the existing trail to remain on the Master Plan as a community trail;
- Gateway Nature Trail to be removed from the Master Plan;
- A 0.5 mile segment bike lane on Ulmerton Road from Fountain Parkway North to west of I-275 to be removed from the Master Plan; and
- Bike lanes or shared use markings are proposed to be installed on the main streets within the Carillon development and will be implemented by the City of St. Petersburg through an upcoming resurfacing project.

Commissioner Morrone asked that the speed limits in the Carillon area be looked at and suggested that traffic calming be considered to help slow down traffic. Mr. Bartolotta responded that he will follow-up with the City of St. Petersburg.

Commissioner Seel asked whether the trail projects along Roosevelt Boulevard and Gandy Boulevard will be included in the road projects. Mr. Bartolotta responded he believed so and Chairman Kennedy concurred that would be the case.

Commissioner Morrone moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the four amendments to the MPO Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan (Vote 12-0).

C. Modification to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan – Action

Chelsea Favero, MPO staff, briefly described the modifications to the 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP):

- Adjustment of the project limits for the I-275 Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study currently underway in Pinellas County to be consistent with the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (modification on page 5-5);
- Adjustment of the project limits for the I-275 Express Lanes project (FID #424501-2) to be consistent with the TIP (modifications on page 5-19 and 5-23);
- Adding an interchange modification project that involves the reconfiguration of the 4th Street/I-175 interchange in St. Petersburg to allow direct access to the interstate for traffic driving northbound on 4th Street to the list of unfunded roadway projects (reflected on page 5-24);
- Modifications to pages 5-24, 5-25 and 5-26 to clarify the sources of funding for the projects on the preceding tables; and
- Modification to Appendix E to clarify the source of funding for the projects included in that table.

Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to approve the above modifications to the LRTP (Vote 12-0).

D. Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendation – Action (Walk-On Item)

As part of their discussion on the three emphasis areas at their recent meeting, Mr. Blanton reported that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) took action to ask the MPO to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners consider allocating a portion of the six cent tourist development tax for transportation improvements to the beaches. A copy of the CAC motion is included in the members' folders.

Commissioner Seel responded that she felt Michael Zas, the Tourist Development Council, should review the recommendation and provide his opinion. There is specific detail in the Florida Statutes as to what the tourist tax can be spent on.

The MPO tabled the CAC recommendation that requests the Board of County Commissioners to consider allocating a portion of the six cent bed tax for transportation and beach access improvements to allow the County Attorney for the Tourist Development Council to provide a written opinion.

Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to table the CAC recommendation until the Tourist Development Council attorney has had time to review the recommendation and provide a written opinion (Vote 12-0).

VI. PPC/MPO JOINT ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

A. Board Workshop Follow-Up

1. Approval of Emphasis Areas Work Plans – Action

Mr. Blanton provided a PowerPoint on the Pinellas SPOTlight emphasis areas that outlined the process for each of the three emphasis areas (U.S. 19 corridor, enhancing beach access, and the Gateway area). He highlighted the next steps that include appointing working subcommittees; communication; developing a scope of work and schedule for each; and engagement of partners, stakeholders, and community groups in various forums.

Commissioner Seel suggested that MPO members either serve or be invited to attend the workgroup meetings. Mr. Blanton responded that he would contact each member to determine which working group they are interested in serving on.

Chairman Kennedy suggested that listening tours be held in each emphasis area. The Board directed staff to follow-up.

Councilmember Rice moved, Commissioner Eggers seconded, and motion carried to approve the emphasis areas work plans (Vote 12-0).

2. Approval of Complete Streets Plan – Action

Mr. Blanton stated that FDOT has an adopted Complete Streets Policy and announced an implementation program. The city of St. Petersburg and other local governments have a policy or are working on a policy for complete streets. Mr. Blanton suggested establishing a funding program to support complete streets projects that could be funded with the existing funding sources and would be competitive. Staff is still working out the details staff but is seeking Board action to authorize continued development of the Complete Streets program. If authorized, the Board will be asked to approve the proposed program and associate funding levels at a future meeting in 2016. The eligible project would need to meet certain criteria, such as having a strong land use/redevelopment emphasis, and require a funding match from the local government.

Mayor Bujalski moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to move forward with the Complete Streets Program (Vote 12-0).

B. Election of 2016 Officers (Nominating Committee Report) – Action

Chairman Kennedy reported that Commissioner Seel, Councilmember Rice, and Commissioner Tornga served on the Nominating Committee as approved at last month's meeting.

Commissioner Seel reported the Nominating Committee met briefly after last month's meeting and recommends the following slate of officers to serve for 2016:

- Chairman – Jim Kennedy
- Vice Chairman – John Morrioni
- Secretary – Cookie Kennedy
- Treasurer – Doreen Hock-DiPolito

Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the above slate of officers for 2016 (Vote 12-0).

C. 2016 Board and Committees Meeting Schedules – Information and Action

Commissioner Morrioni moved, Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to approve the 2016 board and committee meeting schedules for 2016 (Vote 12-0).

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. Executive Director Report

Mr. Blanton reported briefly on the process to go out for Request for Proposals for General Planning Consultants beginning in January. The contracts will be for a two-year period with two options of renewals of a two-year period to coincide with the Unified Planning Work Program. A recommendation and contract will be brought back for action at a future meeting. They are continuing to work on a bike share concept in coordination with the city of St. Petersburg. There will be a future agenda item on the recommendations from the subcommittee as to how to approach a bike share program on a countywide basis.

Discussion followed regarding the bike share program, such as making sure that St. Petersburg can continue with their selection of a vendor, that staff has reached out to each of the bicycle shops, identified geographic areas, and looked at other regional approaches to bike share programs such as Hillsborough.

Rodney Chatman, MPO staff, responded that staff inventoried all the bike shops across the county, looked at various business models that utilize existing bike shops for rebalancing and maintenance, still going through the location analysis, and looking at capital and maintenance costs.

The board members asked that staff proactively reach out to the bike shops/businesses. Staff agreed to continue to reach out to the bicycle shops.

Chairman Kennedy invited the Board members to attend a St. Petersburg Council workshop on their bike share program on the last Thursday in January at 2:00 p.m.

Regarding discussion that County staff has not participated in the bike share workshop meetings, Mr. Chatman responded that a County Planning staff member attended the first couple of meetings but agreed to continue to reach out to County staff for their participation in the countywide bike share program.

Mr. Blanton provided an update on the ferry service/water taxi service that St. Petersburg is considering in partnership with others from Pinellas County to Hillsborough County. He indicated the MPO will have a future agenda item on this program to provide further information.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito reported that Pinellas County did not receive TIGER funding this year for the Pinellas Trail Loop and indicated that there will be a debriefing on Tuesday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m. with Howard Hill of DOT. She will forward the information to staff so it can be emailed to the members.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

Noting three members are leaving the CAC due to term limits, Chairman Kennedy thanked Robert Detweiler, Michael Welch, and Kasey Cursey for their service on the CAC.

Noting the vacancies on the CAC, Mr. Blanton asked the members to let him know of any minority representatives or groups to contact who might be interested in serving. They are striving for diversity on the committees. Commissioner Seel suggested staff contact Sandra Lyeth of the Clearwater Hispanic Outreach Center to see if she knows of anyone interested in serving.

B. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

C. Other

Mr. Blanton indicated that a workshop on Alternate U.S. 19 was held last night at the Palm Harbor University High School. Commissioner Eggers reported the purpose of the meeting was to allow further discussions on the FDOT proposal for a roundabout on Alternate U.S. 19. The first meeting included a presentation and there were several people who were outspoken against the roundabout. A follow-up survey after the first meeting was sent and a majority of people indicated they were in favor of the roundabout. The meeting last night included board presentations that had additional information such as flashing lights on the south end of the roundabout. There will be another survey to determine the residents' interest. Staff is still reaching out to the public safety groups for their input. There will be further dialogue and refinement and then brought to the Board of County Commissioners for their input for a final recommendation to FDOT.

Chairman Kennedy asked Lee Royal Beasley, FDOT, to come forward and, on behalf of the MPO, acknowledged her retirement and thanked her for her service and commitment for working with the MPO. Ms. Beasley thanked the MPO Board and staff for working together and acknowledged the many transportation projects that have moved forward.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman