

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF FEBUARY 10, 2016**

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, February 10, 2016 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

- Jim Kennedy – *Chairman* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
- John Morrone – *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 (arrived at 1:06 p.m.)
- 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
- Brian Beaty, non-voting advisory – (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

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
- John Gilberto – Cherry Bekaert
- Lauren Martin – Cherry Bekaert
- Julie Bond – Center for Urban Transportation Research
- Heather Sobush – PSTA
- Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
- Evan Morey – City of St. Petersburg
- Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
- Kyle Simpson – City of St. Petersburg
- Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
- Casey Morse – Pinellas County Public Works, Transportation
- Erick Trull – Coast Bike Share
- Ray Chiaramonte – TBARTA
- Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County MPO
- Brian Smith – BPAC Chairman
- Sarah Perch – 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

Councilmember Rice performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

****Mayor Bradbury arrived at 1:06 p.m.****

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 January 13, 2016

B. Approval of Gannett Fleming Invoice

C. Approval of CAC Bylaw Modification

D. Approval of Committee Appointments – Mimi Jefferson as an education representative on the Local Coordinating Board and Karen Cunningham as a Clearwater representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Merz moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the minutes (Vote 13-0).

V. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. Proposed Amendments to the FY 2015/16 – 2019/20 Transportation Improvement Program

Brian Beaty, FDOT, summarized the two proposed amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The first amendment is a Bus Facilities Section 5337 Program Grant for \$16,571 that will be used towards maintenance. The second amendment is for a safety project at the intersection of S.R. 686/Roosevelt Boulevard at Lake Carillon Drive that will add an additional right-turn lane into the complex at a cost of \$398,020. These projects will not impact existing projects in the TIP.

There was some discussion clarifying the intersection project.

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

Regarding the Bus Facilities Section 5337 Program Grant, ***Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendment by roll call vote (Vote 13-0).***

Regarding the intersection project, ***Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendment to the TIP by roll call vote (Vote 13-0).***

B. Amendment to the Surface Transportation Program Project Priorities List

Chelsea Favero, MPO staff, indicated that the Board approved a modification to the LRTP last month to include I-175 at 4th Street as an unfunded need. In order for it to be eligible for funding; the project needs to be included on the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Priority List; therefore, staff included it at the bottom of the list along with a footnote indicating that STP funding will not be used for this project; however, its inclusion on the priority list would make it eligible for other funding.

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

Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendment to the STP Priority List by roll call vote (Vote 13-0).

C. Amendments to the Long Range Transportation Plan

Chelsea Favero, MPO staff, explained that this was an amendment to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to move the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit project from the unfunded Transit Vision Plan into the Cost Feasible Plan.

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

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendment to the LRTP by roll call vote (Vote 13-0).

D. Public Participation Plan Update – Action

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, explained the board received an in depth presentation on the plan at their July meeting. He reviewed comments received from the public, advisory committees, and federal review officials. The changes include:

- Referencing efforts of the unification of the MPO and PPC, such as a common website and public participation outreach materials;
- Response to federal review agencies to expand information as to how citizens can get involved and/or participate with the advisory committees;
- Update current efforts regarding social media tools and strategies;
- Further explanation as to how and when the public can get involved with the Long Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program process (including notification information); and
- An appendix detailing the strategies and quantitative measures based on comment from the federal review agencies, including ways to reach out to the underserved areas.

Mr. Blanton added that staff continues to seek assistance in identifying minority candidates for the advisory boards, including those communities with transportation challenges. Staff will be bringing changes to the appointment process for the Citizens Advisory Committee at a future meeting to make it a more formal process. The appointment process will be reflected in future materials, including the Public Participation Plan.

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

Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the updated Public Participation Plan (Vote 13-0).

VI. PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS

A. FY 2014/15 MPO Audit – Action

John Gilberto and Lauren Marten, both of Cherry Bekaert, provided an overview of the results of the FY 2014/15 MPO Audit. They explained the audit is not complete due to a question regarding an adjustment relating to the amount due to the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC). He asked that any printed copies of the audit report be passed to the MPO staff and that a final audit report will be transmitted once the issue is addressed. A question recently arose that the amount due to the PPC recorded in the financial statements is not correct and they are looking at that amount. Mr. Gilberto reported that they followed the Generally Accepted Auditing Standards OMB Circular A-133 and Section 218.415 of the Florida Statutes and the result is a clean opinion, which means everything included in the audit report is true and materially presented to the best of their knowledge. He explained how they tested the major federal grants and internal controls. Ms. Martin reported on key factors and assumptions that were found to be reasonable and reviewed the adjustments necessary. They did not find any misstatements or uncorrected statements. Ms. Marten reported that the audit was an unmodified report issued on compliance under OMB Circular

A-133 and Chapter 10.650, *Rules of the Auditor General of the State of Florida*, the MPO was considered a high risk auditee as defined by OMB Circular A-133, no deficiencies were identified in the federal or state programs tested, and the data collection form is scheduled to be completed by February 29, 2015. The MPO is a high risk auditee due to a finding two years ago, which will go away next year based on two years of a clean report. Ms. Marten summarized the changes that will begin next year for federal awards after December 26, 2014. The intent behind the changes is to reduce the administrative costs to those agencies that receive federal grants. Mr. Gilbert added that this will affect all entities nationwide and raises the threshold for a single audit to \$750,000.

Mr. Blanton stated that the final report will be on the March MPO agenda for action.

B. Bike Share Feasibility Study – Action

Rodney Chatman, MPO staff, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that provided information on the bike share feasibility study. He explained that the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) formed a subcommittee to look at the feasibility of a bike share program in Pinellas County that could be implemented on a countywide basis. The presentation reviewed the purpose of the study, implementation consideration, methodology, conclusions, and recommendations. The study concluded that bike share is appropriate for portions of Pinellas County where bike sharing makes sense. The challenges include securing funding/sponsorships, developing implementation plan/organization structure, land development regulations, and addressing the “car” culture. The opportunities include an active biking community, positive feedback from the community and stakeholders, numerous tourist destinations, and good bike infrastructure. The study concluded that it should be an administrative non-profit with private operating contractors business model and should be a 4th generation bike share system. There should be an implementation plan with the first phase in the greater downtown Clearwater area and would enhance beach access by providing a mobility option along Gulf Boulevard. The recommendations from the study are that there should be a Bike Share Implementation Task Force and the MPO should coordinate the implementation plan with participating municipalities.

Chairman Kennedy announced that the City of St. Petersburg will be holding a meeting at the Public Service and Infrastructure Building on February 25 at 9:15 a.m. to discuss the potential of their bike share program.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the potential of the bike share program, how it could affect existing bike shop businesses and how they can work with such a program, making sure it's a seamless experience from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, bike share would help solve the first mile/last mile issue for transit since there is a shortage of bike racks on buses, bike share would help solve mobility issues such as access across the bridge from Clearwater to Clearwater Beach and back, adaptability of the program from a single area to a larger area (incremental approach), discussion regarding the Tampa bike share program and the proposal for St. Petersburg (Evan Morey, St. Petersburg, and Eric Trull, Coast Bike Share, were in attendance and provided additional information in response to questions from board members.), make presentations on bike share program to beach communities (BIG-C, non-profits, etc.), presentation to City of Clearwater, importance of getting the bike share program started as quickly as possible, the bike share program needs to be regional, importance of delivering the message to the communities, discussion of safety component and the number of bicyclists being killed (the MPO is considering a Vision Zero approach), discussion with ferry to allow bikes to cross (Eric agreed to work with the ferry), portability of the bike stations (customizable), begin discussions regarding a comprehensive safety program (Commissioner Seel met with Bert Valery and Brian Smith), connect people to jobs and students to colleges, look at return on investment, making sure there are adequate bikes where needed, noting there is no foolproof way in dealing with liability or risk.

Mr. Blanton summarized the discussion: the MPO would like to begin an outreach to identify potential non-profit entities and engage the willingness and desire of local communities and bring back a financial plan.

There was further discussion that staff should begin looking at the beaches and communities where the Pinellas Trail is located and plays an important role; that it should be a valid evaluation at a location that is well suited for a bike share program and implemented properly, and to also look at areas where there are parking issues such as downtown areas where bike share could be an option to supplement trolley and other modes.

During discussions, Commissioner Eggers, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito, and Commissioner Morroni left and returned

C. Committee Recommendations

1. Courtney Campbell Trail Amenities (BPAC) – Action

Mr. Blanton indicated that staff is requesting this item be deferred to allow additional time to coordinate with the County regarding additional amenities for the Courtney Campbell Trail. Commissioner Seel requested staff to check with Hillsborough County on what they're doing.

Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to defer the recommendation (Vote 13-0).

2. Safety Improvements to Rosery Road in Largo (BPAC) – Action

Brian Smith, BPAC Chairman, reported the Committee reviewed the safety issues for bicycles and pedestrian crossing at Rosery Road and Alternate 19 and the Committee would like to commend Largo for their support to provide a safer situation.

Commissioner Eggers moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the PTAC recommendation to transmit a letter to Largo thanking them for their efforts to improve vulnerable user safety along Rosery Road and Missouri Avenue (Vote 13-0).

3. Staffing Needs for Pinellas Trail User Safety and Security (PTSTF) – Action

Mr. Blanton indicated that staff is requesting this item be deferred to allow additional time to coordinate with the County regarding staffing needs for the Pinellas Trail.

Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to defer the recommendation (Vote 13-0).

D. Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Meeting of February 5, 2016

Mr. Blanton indicated the Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group is assisting in the Scope for the Tri-County Premium Transit Study that is being led by HART with FDOT providing the funding. They are in the process of scheduling meetings to discuss scoping that effort. TBARTA and other MPO staffs will also be assisting with the scope. The scope will be brought back to the TMA Leadership Group at their April meeting. The TMA Leadership Group also discussed clarifying their purpose and organization where their advisory recommendations will be brought to the individual MPOs for action. The TMA Group also received a presentation on the extension of the Selmon Expressway from Tampa to the Gandy Bridge.

Chairman Kennedy added that Gandy Boulevard is an evacuation route and the Selmon Expressway extension is expected to be completed in 2020. They are able to complete one lane in each direction without requiring additional right-of-way.

E. Vision Zero – Presentation

Julie Bond, Center for Urban Transportation Research, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Vision Zero. Prior to her presentation, she invited anyone interested in a tour of the bike

share program for the University of South Florida to contact her. Vision Zero is a concept that recognizes that traffic fatalities are preventable and is a commitment to ensure that no one is killed in traffic. Cities that adopt Vision Zero set out to end traffic deaths within a specific timeframe. She reviewed different Vision Zero plans in New York, Fort Lauderdale, and Tampa. The Pinellas MPO is incorporating Vision Zero in their emphasis SPOTlight areas. The Bike/Walk Tampa Bay is a regional coalition and was formed to unite people working to positively impact biking and walking in the Tampa Bay area. The first summit was held December 2 and the next summit is scheduled for June in Pinellas County. She reviewed the priorities from the December 2 summit for education, encouragement, engineering, enforcement, and evaluation.

During the presentation, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito left at 3:09 p.m.

Discussion followed as to how to implement Vision Zero and to get on the map, whether a county could be included on the map in addition to the cities (Ms. Bond indicated she would check), the importance of working with and involving all entities to make this successful, the importance of providing outreach to the community, making it a grassroots effort, inclusion of teenagers as an at-risk group as a focus (Ms. Bond responded she would work with the high schools), suggestion of a draft resolution that could be presented to the communities that explains Vision Zero.

During discussion, Commissioner Eggers left at 3:26 p.m.

During discussion, Commissioner Seel left at 3:27 p.m.

F. SPOTlight Update

Mr. Blanton indicated the information is in the agenda packet.

1. Gateway – Update

2. U.S. 19 – Update

Mr. Blanton reported staff met with FDOT and they are planning on incorporating safety measures into the design of U.S. 19 intersections. FDOT will be making a presentation to the MPO on the safety measures at a future meeting. Mr. Blanton indicated they are working with the County on a land use plan for unincorporated Pinellas County along U.S. 19. FDOT has selected a design for the next intersections on U.S. 19 and Mr. Blanton requested FDOT to delay the design for a year to allow time on the land use plan with Pinellas County. The issue is that FDOT already selected a consultant and is in the process of negotiating a scope. Staff has questions on the cost/benefit ratio and requested a value engineering study. MPO staff will report back to the MPO.

3. Beach Access – Update

Mr. Blanton reported that the City of Clearwater will have a work session on Friday to look at all strategies to improve access to the beach, which will include asking Clearwater to be a champion of the bus rapid transit concept over the Memorial Causeway Bridge. They will also be talking about the Jolley Trolley enhancements, aerial cable car transit, etc.

Commissioner Eggers returned at 3:31 p.m.

The three listening sessions have been confirmed: March 23, April 11, and May 16. Mr. Blanton asked whether the board members were okay to hold two listening sessions for U.S. 19 on the same day or whether they should look at another day.

The members noted March 23 was spring break and asked that staff look at another date.

Commissioner Seel returned at 3:32 p.m.

G. PSTA – Update

Mayor Bujalski, as the PSTA representative, indicated PSTA staff is in Tallahassee and that they are working with the Chamber to look at grant funding options for the Clearwater Beach to the Tampa International Airport express. The Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit is moving forward. She will email her report to staff.

VII. REPORTS/UPDATE

A. Executive Director Report

Mr. Blanton thanked everyone who attended the joint PSTA/MPO workshop and noted the next meeting is scheduled for July 29. He and Ms. Ward attended a Greenways and Trails Foundation meeting last week in Tampa and Pinellas County won an award. Ms. Ward will be attending the meeting on February 29 in Gainesville where they will be discussing the next round of funding for the SUNTrail program. There is \$25 million set aside annually for the SUNTrail program. The Greenways and Trail Council will make the decision for the next round of funding in March. Pinellas County MPO is requesting that they fund the Pinellas Trail Loop. MPO staff is seeking funding through FDOT for the pedestrian overpass at S.R. 60. Mr. Blanton reported that Chairman Kennedy and Commissioner Kennedy signed a letter to Senator Nelson highlighting the SPOTlight emphasis areas for enhancing beach access and the Vision Zero initiative. They are anticipating a visit with the Senator in Washington, DC, to get his support. He will send a copy of the letter to the board members via email.

B. Legislative Update

The legislative update was given as a part of the Executive Director's report.

VIII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

There is a vacancy on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committees in the beach area. Anyone interested in serving is encouraged to contact staff or a board representative.

B. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

C. Other

There was no other business.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman