

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF MARCH 9, 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, March 9, 2016 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Kennedy	– <i>Chairman</i> – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg
John Morrone	– <i>Vice Chairman</i> – Board of County Commissioners
Doreen Hock-DiPolito	– <i>Treasurer</i> – Councilmember, City of Clearwater
Cookie Kennedy	– <i>Secretary</i> – 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
Cliff Merz	– Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor, representing Safety Harbor/ Oldsmar/Tarpon Springs (arrived at 1:10 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 Tornega	– Commissioner, City of Dunedin
Ed McKinney, non-voting advisory	– (representing the Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dave Eggers	– 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
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
Danny Taylor – City of Pinellas Park
Casey Morse – Pinellas Traffic
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Evan Morey – City of St. Petersburg
Brad Miller – PSTA
Cassandra Borchers – PSTA
Bill Jonson – PSTA, City of Clearwater
Bob Henion – MPO CAC/TBARTA CAC
Brian Smith – BPAC Chairman
Ray Chiamonte – TBARTA
Aaron Metz – Palm Harbor Umake Reality Project
Alicia Parinello – Pinellas County MPO
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 1:04 p.m.

II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance and everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

III. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens who came forward to be heard.

IV. **PRESENTATION TO PLAQUE TO OUTGOING MPO MEMBER KEVIN PICCARRETO**

The MPO presented a plaque to Deputy Mayor Piccarreto for his service on the MPO, noting this was his last meeting.

V. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of February 10, 2016

B. Approval of Title VI Program

C. Approval of Crash Data Management System Contract With Tindale-Oliver

D. Approval of Committee Appointments – Aaron Lounsberry as an AHCA representative on the LCB, Kristina Tranel as a PSTA alternate on the BPAC, Edward Ameen as a Mid-County/Pinellas Park representative on the CAC, and Caroline Lanford as Pinellas County Planning Department representative with an alternate of Scott Swearengen on the TCC

E. Approval of Resolution Regarding De-Obligation of UPWP Funding

Commissioner Merz arrived at 1:10 p.m.

Following a response to a question regarding deobligating UPWP funding and an explanation of the Title VI Program by Mr. Blanton, *Commissioner Morroni moved, Mayor Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the minutes (Vote 11-0).*

VI. **PRESENTATION AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Draft FY 2016/17 – 2017/18 Unified Planning Work Program – Transmittal Action**

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the FY 2016/17 – 2017/18 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Bartolotta described the document, the schedule, tasks and end products, and funding sources and allocations.

Councilmember Rice moved, Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to approve the draft UPWP for transmittal to reviewing agencies (Vote 11-0).

B. **FY 2014/15 MPO Audit Report – Acceptance**

Mr. Blanton explained the difference due to the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) from the MPO as part of the MPO and PPC audits has been reconciled and emphasized the MPO has had two years of clean audits. The FY 2014/15 MPO audit report is on the agenda for acceptance.

Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to accept the FY 2014/15 MPO audit report (Vote 11-0).

C. **Proclamation Recognizing March as Florida Bicycle Month – Action**

Following a brief description of the proclamation declaring March as Florida Bicycle Month by Mr. Blanton, *Commissioner Seel moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the proclamation (Vote 10-0).*

D. St. Petersburg Resolution Concerning I-275 Improvements – Action

Evan Morey, City of St. Petersburg Transportation Director, explained that the City of St. Petersburg Council received a presentation from FDOT in December regarding a PD&E study that they conducted on the interstate through the city. The recommended improvements included continuity alignments to make the interstate flow smoother, as well as some limited lane widening. The City Council asked that FDOT implement the recommended improvements as quickly as possible; however, the improvements are currently unfunded. The City Council passed a resolution requesting FDOT to prioritize funding for the improvements identified in the PD&E study and to implement additional measures to reduce congestion on the interstate within the City of St. Petersburg. The City is requesting the MPO's support.

Discussion followed regarding the use of toll lanes to pay for the improvements, the cost of the project, and what project would be substituted in order to prioritize this project. Mr. Blanton noted staff will be starting the process to prioritize projects, which will be reviewed by the advisory committees with the MPO taking action on the priority lists at their September meeting. Mr. Blanton suggested that the Board concur with the City's position but not prioritize the project until after staff has completed the process to prioritize projects in order to see where this project fits with the other projects the MPO has already prioritized.

Following discussion, *Councilmember Rice moved, mayor Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to accept and support the City of St. Petersburg resolution and to have further discussion to begin the prioritization process for the Surface Transportation Program (Vote 11-0).*

E. Confirm Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Purpose and Organization Statement – Action

Following Mr. Blanton's clarification of the role of the Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group as an advisory group that provides recommendations to the individual MPOs for action, *Councilmember Rice moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to confirm the TMA Leadership Group purpose and organization statement (Vote 11-0).*

F. Support of PSTA/HART Application for the Regional Fare Collection Project for TIGER Funding – Action

Cassandra Borchers, PSTA, provided a PowerPoint presentation on PSTA/HART's application for the regional fare collection project for TIGER funding. Ms. Borchers provided an overview, rider benefits, agency benefits/efficiencies, scope of effort, contract and funding overview, and the next steps.

Following PSTA's summary of the application and discussion, *Councilmember Rice moved, Ms. Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to support the PSTA/HART application for TIGER funding and to authorize staff to draft a letter that can be used as a model for other governments that take similar action of support.*

Chairman Kennedy moved to the PSTA report

K. PSTA – Update

Mayor Bujalski as the PSTA representative provided an update on PSTA-related activities, noting PSTA received positive results from a customer satisfaction survey and PSTA continues to be part of a benchmarking group based on their volume and low costs. PSTA began a direct connect service utilizing taxi companies and Uber for north county and Pinellas Park service. PSTA approved the work order for the Central Avenue BRT and is moving forward with the technical assistance work. Several PSTA board members and staff will be meeting with Congressional Delegation members and Federal Transit Administration next week to discuss the regional fare box project, funding for buses and bus facilities, and the Central Avenue BRT project. PSTA continues to seek funding for service between Clearwater Beach and the Tampa International Airport. PSTA will hold a workshop on May 6 from 9:00 a.m. to noon to discuss advancement of transportation initiatives. PSTA is looking at changes to the Jolley Trolley so that it runs 7 days a week.

The Board thanked PSTA for moving the hub system in Williams Park to a grid system for downtown St. Petersburg and FDOT for allowing a bus stop on Gandy Boulevard to help with getting employees to and from work during construction. Whit announced that they have begun holding regular monthly meetings with PSTA and FDOT staff and will keep the board updated on those meetings.

G. Clearwater's Resolution Concerning Funding to Update the 2010 Transit Alternative Study – Information

Mr. Blanton explained that the MPO, at its January meeting, directed staff to prioritize updating the 2010 Downtown Clearwater to Clearwater Beach Transit Alternatives Study and to work with stakeholders to identify potential funding sources. Mr. Blanton indicated MPO staff presented an update of the study at a Clearwater City Council workshop and would like Clearwater to take ownership to advancing the project. The City adopted a resolution requesting the MPO prioritize the funding for the update to the study and the funding is included in the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program as part of the enhancing beach access emphasis area. Ms. Ward of MPO staff will be leading the effort and drafting a Scope of Services and guiding this effort. The updated study will also include the Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard (S.R.60) corridor incorporating regional transportation to the Tampa International Airport and not just downtown Clearwater to Clearwater Beach. The updated study will identify the best solutions to cross the Clearwater Memorial Causeway looking at multi-modal connections and solutions. The MPO will be utilizing one of their General Planning Consultants for this effort and, in addition, PSTA has committed to assist with funding.

Mayor Bujalski asked that options to alleviate congestion on Alternate 19 also be included in the study in coordination with FDOT's study of Alternate 19.

L. Current Water Borne Transportation Plans and Operations – Information

Mr. Blanton noted that Madeira Beach has issued a Request for Proposals for water taxi service. The City of St. Petersburg is also looking at water taxi service. The question being asked is what the MPO's role in guiding water borne transportation in Pinellas County. Mr. Blanton indicated a modification to the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan to address waterborne transportation will be brought back to the MPO for action.

The Board asked staff to get in touch with the State P3 organization to present to the Board as part of a primer on structuring effective public-private partnerships.

The MPO asked Trisha Rodriguez, owner of the Clearwater Ferry, to provide information on the Clearwater Ferry service. Ms. Rodriguez provided information on the ferry service, their partnership with the city of Clearwater and their plans to add a third vessel, and ridership numbers.

Mayor Bujalski asked the MPO's assistance in expanding the Jolley Trolley service to seven days a week to help alleviate congestion.

Following discussion about the role of the MPO and public agencies in providing for waterborne transportation, ***Commissioner Kennedy moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to direct staff to internally evaluate a holistic model that would include waterborne transportation and updated information and bring it back to the Board (Vote 11-0).*** This approach would help facilitate a countywide framework to guide local governments in planning suitable waterborne facilities and designing for a seamless approach to align services and transportation networks.

M. Committee Recommendations (CAC)

1. Full Membership for TBARTA CAC Ex-Officio Representatives

Bob Henion, CAC member, indicated he was the MPO's representative to the TBARTA CAC and had previously been the MPO's representative on the Chairs Coordinating Committee Joint CAC (JCAC). With the integration of the JCAC with the TBARTA CAC, the intent was that each representative would be a voting member; however, current legislation for the TBARTA CAC needed to be changed to expand membership in order for the JCAC members to be voting members. Mr. Henion stated he

attends the TBARTA CAC meetings and provides input even though he can't make motions, second motions, or vote. The TBARTA Board had a concern that expanding the TBARTA CAC membership to 22 members would make it too large. Mr. Henion explained that the MPO's CAC has 26 members and it is able to conduct business. Mr. Henion asked for assistance in providing for full membership of the TBARTA CAC ex-officio representatives. Ray Chiaramonte, TBARTA, added that TBARTA staff recommended the TBARTA CAC be increased to 22 members; however, the TBARTA Board did not want the membership more than 16 members. Mr. Chiaramonte let the Board know there wasn't an MPO representative on the TBARTA CAC but the TBARTA Board felt there was adequate representation. Mr. Chiaramonte would like an opportunity to bring this up as part of next legislative session.

The MPO members were supportive of the CAC recommendation. *Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Tornga seconded, and motion carried to transmit the CAC recommendation to TBARTA to encourage TBARTA to increase the TBARTA CAC membership to allow the current ex-officio members to be voting members and recommended this change be included in next year's TBARTA legislative package (Vote 11-0).* The MPO thanked Mr. Henion for bringing this recommendations forward and his service on the TBARTA CAC.

2. **Downtown to Beach Park and Ride Transit Options Proposal**

Mr. Blanton reported that the CAC received a presentation from the Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce on the downtown to beach park-and-ride transit options proposal and the CAC made a motion to support and endorse the proposal.

Councilmember Hock-DiPolito moved, Councilmember Rice seconded, and motion carried to approve the CAC recommendation (Vote 11-0).

N. **Regional Trails – Update**

Ray Chiaramonte, TBARTA, stated that the State Legislature has allocated \$25 million a year to expand the regional trail network. Mr. Chiaramonte was informed that they would have a better chance of receiving funding if the region would work together; therefore, the MPOs within the TBARTA region have indicated their support of the priorities. In addition, the Sarasota MPO asked Lee, Collier, and Charlotte Counties for their support on the priorities. The Florida Greenways and Trails Council met to review the regional trail network on February 29 and, from the 14 networks presented, 7 were advanced for funding consideration. The Council will meet in Tallahassee on March 31 to prioritize the projects for funding.

Ms. Ward, MPO staff, added that Commissioner Seel had convened a group to look at how to fund the Pinellas Trail Loop, which is part of a larger regional network called the Southwest Florida Regional Coastal Trail. Ms. Ward reported that Brian Smith is the Chairman of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council. Ms. Ward also commented on the positive feedback from the presentations they made in Tampa. Mr. Smith, as Chairman of the Florida Greenways and Trails Council, provided comment on the process to prioritize projects.

Following discussion, *Commissioner Seel moved, Councilmember Hock-DiPolito seconded, and motion carried to support the regional trails and the inclusion of the Pinellas Trail Loop as one of the projects to be funded with the SUNTrail funding (Vote 11-0).*

VII. **Reports/Update**

A. **Legislative Report**

Mr. Blanton noted that the MPOAC monitors legislative activities and that staff emailed an updated version of the information included in the agenda packet. Mr. Blanton reported that the transportation bill is moving forward and includes a number of amendments, including shifting the Pinellas Bayway Bridge to the jurisdiction of the Florida Turnpike. The staff isn't sure what affect this shift will have on the residents who pay the Pinellas Bayway toll but staff will continue to monitor this. In addition, there is a minor change to the Long Range Transportation Plan procedures.

B. Director-s Report

1. SPOTlight Update

Mr. Blanton reported an update is included in the agenda packet to advance the initiatives of the emphasis areas. He reported staff has had productive meetings with the Chambers of Commerce, local governments, businesses and others and there are complimentary efforts to further these initiatives. There is the potential for videos and to potentially work with FDOT regarding safety along Gulf Boulevard. The listening sessions are scheduled as follows:

- U.S. 19 north – April 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the St. Petersburg College in Clearwater, ES 104
- U.S. 19 south – April 11 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Allstate Campus, DeSoto Room
- Gateway – May 16 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Pinellas Park Performing Arts Center
- Beach access – May 25 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Madeira Beach City Hall

Mr. Blanton added they want to make sure they invite the right people to these listening sessions and staff will keep the Board updated as to who has been invited.

VIII. PPC/MPO JOINT ITEMS FOR APPROVAL

A. General Planning Consultant Selection – Action

Mr. Blanton thanked staff who served on the Selection Committee for their hard work in ranking the consultants. He provided an overview of the process, noting the consultants will be available to the MPO and PPC and interested local governments.

Following a brief summary of the activities to date, *Councilmember Rice moved, mayor Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the staff recommended General Planning Consultant firms, rate structure, and contract and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the contracts with the selected firms (Vote 11-0).*

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Committee Vacancies

There are vacancies on the Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the Beaches Area and anyone interested in serving is encouraged to contact staff or a board representative.

Mr. Blanton announced that staff developed an application procedure for the Citizens Advisory Committee to make it a formal process that could also be utilized for nontechnical BPAC members.

B. Correspondence

The fatalities map is included in the agenda packet.

C. Other

There was no other business.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

Jim Kennedy, Chairman