

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF APRIL 13, 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, April 13, 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 Morroni – *Vice Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners
- Doreen Caudell – *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 (arrived at 1:55 p.m.)
- Cliff Merz – Commissioner, City of Safety Harbor, representing Safety Harbor/ Oldsmar/Tarpon Springs
- Darden Rice – Councilmember, City of St. Petersburg
- Karen Seel – Board of County Commissioners (arrived at 1:08 p.m.)
- Tom Shelly – Deputy Mayor, Town of Belleair, representing the in land communities of Belleair, Belleair Bluffs, Gulfport, Kenneth City, Seminole, South Pasadena
- 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

None

OTHERS PRESENT

- Whit Blanton – MPO Executive Director
- Sarah Ward – Pinellas County MPO
- Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO
- Rodney Chatman – Pinellas County MPO
- Dave Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
- Lori Marable – FDOT
- Cassandra Borchers – PSTA
- Commissioner Janet Long - Pinellas County BCC
- Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
- Evan Mory – City of St. Petersburg
- Tom Washburn – Pinellas County Engineering
- Vivian Peters – Citizen
- Avera Wynne – TBRPC
- Sean Sullivan – TBRPC
- Nancy McKibben - Pinellas County Public Works Transportation Engineering
- Anthony Matonti – TBARTA
- Valerie Brookens – Largo
- Tom Nocera – BeachTran, LLC
- Dana White – Big Sea Design Group
- Adrianna – Big Sea Design Group
- Maria – Big Sea Design Group
- Rebecca Stysly - 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 1:00 p.m.

II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

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

III. **WELCOME NEW MPO MEMBER REPRESENTING INLAND COMMUNITIES (TOM SHELLY)**

The MPO welcomed Belleair Commissioner Tom Shelly representing the Inland Communities. Everyone on the dais introduced themselves.

IV. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

Tom Nocera, BeachTran, LLC, 3173 Drew Street, Clearwater, provided comments regarding NASA developed technology and funded by *Google's* Chairman called Sky Tram as a potential solution to transportation issues, especially as it relates to the congestion to the beaches. He showed a rendering of the concept and provided details of the system, noting it is solar powered. He requested an opportunity to present this concept on a future agenda.

V. **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of March 9, 2016

B. Approval of Resolution Establishing Travel Reimbursement Rates

C. Approval of Committee Appointments – CAC: Steven Beal representing Largo, Jack Nazario representing Gulfport/Kenneth City/Seminole/Belleair/South Pasadena, and Michael Lehman and Carson Zimmer representing At Large; BPAC: Frank Lopez representing Largo and Jim Parent representing St. Pete Beach; TCC: Danny Taylor representing the City of Pinellas Park with an Alternate of Kathy Gademer; and LCB: Vivian Peters reappointed representing the Over 60 Age Group

Commissioner Seel arrived at 1:08 p.m.

Mr. Blanton noted staff is in the process of formalizing the appointment process for the Citizens Advisory Committee and they are looking at the best procedure to evaluate candidates when there is more than one citizen interested in serving in a specific area. Staff will continue to reach out to local governments and communities to identify minority candidates to be involved. Once the procedure is finalized, staff will bring it back to the MPO.

Councilmember Caudell moved, Mayor Bradbury seconded, and motion carried to approve the minutes (Vote 12-0).

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

A. **Introduction of New Tamp Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) Executive Director Sean Sullivan**
Sean Sullivan, TBRPC Executive Director, introduced himself as the new Executive Director for the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and provided some background information. He began working with TBRPC in January of this year. He distributed a brochure that identifies services TBRPC offers.

B. **PSTA Activities Report – Update**

Mayor Bujalski as the PSTA representative provided an update on PSTA-related activities, noting PSTA recently approved a three-year contract with the PSTA employee union. Mayor Bujalski invited the Board to attend the grand opening of the new transit center on April 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the southeast corner of Roosevelt Boulevard and U.S. 19. She reported on the meeting with Congressional members that PSTA staff and PSTA board members, along with HART representatives, attended on March 13 -15 where PSTA

discussed their innovative partnership with Uber and the PSTA/HART application for TIGER funds for the regional farebox system and mobile app. Mayor Bujalski requested letters of support from all local governments for the regional farebox system. PSTA Chairman Darden Rice asked that they receive the support letters soon due to the deadline for the TIGER application.

C. Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority (THEA) – Presentation

Joe Waggoner, THEA Executive Director, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that included a short video. The PowerPoint provided an overview of the Expressway Authority, community investments, information on the West Selmon extension project to Gandy Boulevard, and a bus toll lane concept that would follow the New Starts guideline working with FDOT. The extension would be a two-lane facility built within the existing right-of-way to and from Gandy Bridge connecting the Selmon Expressway and would remove between 30% to 40% traffic off Gandy Boulevard onto the extension. During an evacuation, they would use reversible lanes to assist with evacuating people out of Pinellas County.

MPO Board members made various comments regarding the bus toll concept, evacuations, connected vehicle technology, and Gandy Boulevard in Pinellas County, including the segment near the dog track where a traffic signal will disrupt free-flowing travel. The Board asked Mr. Waggoner to send the link to the legislation he referred to that allowed THEA to operate regionally. In addition, Councilmember Caudell encouraged everyone to access Thea's website for information on autonomous vehicles. Mr. Waggoner agreed to forward the requested information. Mr. Blanton commented on the possibility that the extension of the Selmon Expressway to Gandy Boulevard would be going at the same time as the anticipated construction of the Tampa Bay Express project in 2019 and that Gandy Boulevard would serve as maintenance of traffic during that construction. Mr. Waggoner responded that THEA is working closely with FDOT. The Board invited Mr. Waggoner to attend the Gateway listening session on May 16.

During discussion, Commissioner Eggers arrived at 1:55 p.m. and Councilmember Caudell left at 1:58 p.m.

D. Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Needs Plan – Update

Lori Marable, FDOT SIS Coordinator, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) Needs Plan Update. The PowerPoint described the purpose of the plan that is to identify the unfunded major transportation capacity improvements needed for designated and proposed Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) facilities, projects are identified as unconstrained needs, summarized coordination and outreach activities, funding strategy, and schedule. FDOT will bring the plan to the MPO at their September or October meeting for approval. Ms. Marable highlighted the SIS facilities in Pinellas County.

During the presentation, Councilmember Caudell returned at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Seel noted that a facility must be removed from the SIS in order for facilities to be added, noting a segment of U.S. 19 near Gandy Boulevard will be removed from the SIS in order to add the Roosevelt Connector and Gateway Express to the SIS.

E. Proposed Modification to the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Action

Following Mr. Blanton's description of the proposed modification to the MPO's 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan LRTP) to address waterborne ferry service, aerial propelled service, and bike share as transportation options, *Councilmember Caudell moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to approve the modification (Vote 13-0).*

F. Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program – Update

Brian Beaty, FDOT, indicated FDOT has made modifications to the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Program. FDOT is no longer in the position to be able to fund cost overruns for TA projects. In the past, they were able to find money to cover those costs. Mr. Beaty reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that provided an overview of the modifications. FDOT will work closely with the local governments in order to receive good estimates for projects. Although FDOT requires engineer-level estimates, projects were being programmed with planning-level estimates that caused projects to be inadequately funded. FDOT has

changed the process to make it more efficient and developed a TA addendum that each local government must fill out that has a TA project on the candidate list. All projects funded and in the Work Program are grandfathered under the old process. An application validation form is for use on project applications that have been submitted to FDOT but not funded and requires updated staff hour design and engineering estimates and updated certification/signature page. The reason is to make sure those with budget authority are aware of the cost of the project and that FDOT will only fund the project for the amount in the application and that any cost overruns will be paid by the local government. This also allows the local government to enter into a maintenance agreement with FDOT as needed and the local government will follow all state and federal requirements. The intent is to have projects that are ready on the priority list. The updated application is for funding programmed out five years with an application deadline of March 31 to FDOT to allow FDOT enough time to do a feasibility review and program the projects in the Five Year Work Program. Since FDOT was late in getting the addendum out to the local governments, they have extended the deadline to April 30. The new application form includes a new certification/signature page and staff hour design and engineer estimates. FDOT has a link to a tool that helps the local governments determine the staff hour design estimate. FDOT will update design and construction costs to make sure the appropriate amount is programmed in the Work Program. FDOT will make the local government aware of the final amount for the project that's included in the LAP agreement.

Mr. Blanton noted there are only a few of the larger local governments that are LAP certified and the smaller local governments will need to be sponsored by a LAP certified local government to get TA projects done. The MPO can help with guidance and direction. Mr. Blanton suggested a more strategic approach to advance projects on the TA priority list that would further the MPO's mission of economic development. Mr. Beaty noted they had a meeting with the County staff and they are open to discussions regarding sponsoring smaller local governments. Mr. Beaty added that regional trail projects that are on the TA priority list must also be on the Office of Greenways and Trails map in order to qualify for SUNTrail funding. Mr. Blanton noted there is a TMA priority list for TA projects as well that that will be prioritized.

The MPO wanted to ensure the local governments wouldn't be responsible for increases in cost estimates for design or construction until the project has been programmed. Mr. Beaty responded that FDOT annually updates the cost estimates until the project has been programmed. Before the local government signs the agreement that includes the cost estimates, the local government has an opportunity to review the cost estimates and either agree or disagree with the estimate. Based on discussion, Mr. Blanton suggested that the MPO discuss a process to deal with cost overruns at a future meeting. Commissioner Smith requested FDOT to make a presentation at their City Commission meeting.

During discussion, Commissioner Kennedy left at 2:37 p.m. and returned at 2:39 p.m.

G. City of St. Petersburg Resolutions – Possible Action (Walk On Item)

Evan Mory, Director of Transportation for the City of St. Petersburg, presented the two resolutions the St. Petersburg City Council passed at their March 17 meeting. The first resolution (No. 2016-128) concerns the SUNTrail and asks FDOT to adopt eligibility and selection criteria for the SUNTrail network and to work with the Florida Greenways and Trails Council to prioritize funding for the completion of the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail that includes portions of the Pinellas Trail. Mr. Mory placed a couple maps on the overhead that showed the local regional trails and the regional trail network. Mr. Mory indicated that the Southwest Coastal Regional Trail was ranked Number 3 and the City is looking for funding to move forward as quickly as possible. There is \$25 million a year designated for trail projects that is divided into thirds with one-third for the Coast-to-Coast Trail, one-third for the top ranked trails, and one-third for the remainder of the trails. Following some discussion, Mr. Mory presented the second resolution (No. 2016-129) that requests the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners to implement the recommendations for the Project Development and Environment Study for the San Martin Bridge Over the Riviera Bay that includes a portion of the Pinellas Trail in St. Petersburg in a timely manner and a request for a capital improvement project to add bike lanes on the San Martin Boulevard on both sides of the bridge that will connect to other trails in the area. Mr. Mory showed several maps of the area and a conceptual design of the facility. Mr. Mory thanked the County staff for their work on the bridge development.

Following Mr. Mory's review, *Councilmember Caudell moved and Councilmember Rice seconded a motion to support both resolutions.* Following further discussion, *the motion carried (Vote 13-0).*

VII. Reports/Update

A. Director-s Report

1. Performance Based Outcome Driven Planning Process

This item was deferred to the May meeting.

2. SPOTlight Update

Mr. Blanton updated the Board on the recent listening sessions for U.S. 19 and thanked staff for their hard work in putting this together. It was suggested that another listening session be held for the mid-county area of U.S. 19. The Board also asked staff to make presentations at community and chamber meetings already scheduled. Mr. Blanton indicated that FDOT's response letter regarding the MPO's U.S. 19 request is expected soon.

VIII. PPC/MPO JOINT ITEMS FOR APPROVAL (this item was taken up after Items VIII B and IX A)

A. Support Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) With Pinellas County Clerk for Meeting Minutes – Action

Mr. Blanton reported the staff who prepares the MPO minutes is retiring; therefore, staff worked with the Clerk's Office to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding for the Clerk's Office to handle the MPO minutes in addition to the PPC minutes that they are already transcribing. The agreement is for one year and then can be re-evaluated after that time.

Commissioner Morroni moved, Commissioner Kennedy seconded, and motion carried to authorize the Executive Director to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Clerk and then re-evaluate after one year (Vote 12-0).

B. Big Sea – Presentation of Brand Unveiling

Dana White, Project Director, Adriana, Creative Director, and Maria, Communications and Content Director, all of the Big Sea Design Group, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted the brand identity elements for the unified PPC/MPO. Some discussion followed regarding the name and some of the elements, especially the colors for the logo and the expense of utilizing more than one color. Mr. Blanton assured the Board they would be cost conscious.

IX. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Meeting of April 8, 2016

Mr. Blanton reported they received the Scope of Service for the premium transit study and that the TMA Leadership Group was omitted from the scope. HART is leading the study that is being funded by FDOT and he has provided his comments to HART. HART will go through the Request for Proposals process and they hope to have a vendor selected after July 1.

During Mr. Blanton's report, Commissioner Seel left at 3:15 p.m.

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 3:15 p.m.

Jim Kennedy, Chairman