

**PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

AGENDA ITEM: VI A.

MEETING DATE: July 15, 2009

SUBJECT:

A. Other Council Business - Chairman/Member Items

RECOMMENDATION:

Council Identify and Discuss As Determined Appropriate

BACKGROUND:

1. Letter from City of St. Petersburg Council Chair Jeff Danner re: Regional Transportation

PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL ACTION:

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY ACTION:



CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG

OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
Jeff Danner, Chair
Council Member, District 8

June 26, 2009

The Honorable Beverley Billiris, Mayor
City of Tarpon Springs
Chairman, Pinellas Planning Council
P.O. Box 5004
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688-5004

Dear Mayor Billiris:

Transportation is one of the most critical issues on the minds of Pinellas County citizens. Pinellas County has a number of agencies who play a role in the planning, implementation and operation of the transit and transportation elements for our future. Each of these agencies plays an important role in the mobility of our residents today and tomorrow.

In addition to the on-going efforts in Pinellas County, Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) has put a regional Master Plan in place and is now beginning the process of prioritizing regional projects.

How projects, internal to Pinellas County, are implemented and how they connect to the regional projects, is **essential** to insuring that our County is well positioned to accommodate future growth and economic prosperity as well as maintaining the high quality of life, enjoyed by our citizens today.

To achieve this goal, we must bring together the transportation and transit agencies that serve Pinellas County citizens to (i) focus on a short and long term plan for internal projects (ii) to agree on the prioritization of the various elements of the plan and (iii) to determine how these projects will connect with the regional projects.

I believe that the public is keenly interested in improving transportation and being connected to the region. Therefore, I am inviting the following agencies to join together for a Transit/Transportation workshop to assimilate their respective plans, interests and roles to achieve this short and long term common plan. Invited agencies are:

Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
Pinellas Suncoast Transit System (PSTA)
Pinellas County Commission
Pinellas Planning Council

Mayor Beverley Billiris

June 26, 2009

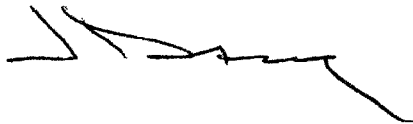
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This will probably not be a "one time" meeting but the importance of the moment requires that we begin a dialogue of planning, funding, and implementation that will no doubt continue toward this common plan as our mission.

Communication and discussion among all of the stakeholders is key to the success of this initiative. I look forward to working with you to establish both the logistics as well as the agenda for this workshop. And I look forward to your input and comments as we move this dialogue to a new and cumulative level.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Danner". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeff Danner
Chair, St. Petersburg City Council
Chair, Pinellas County Transit Funding Committee
Vice Chair, PSTA
Board Member, MPO
Board Member, TBARTA