

**PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

AGENDA ITEM: V B.

MEETING DATE: July 21, 2010

SUBJECT:

Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee – Status Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Council Review, Discuss and Provide Direction to Pinellas Planning Council Committee Members

I. BACKGROUND

The Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee has now held four of its five scheduled meetings. The overall outline of tasks and schedule is included as Attachment 2. The minutes of the June 4th meeting, and the agenda for the most recent July 9th meeting, are included in Attachment 3.

At the meeting of July 9th, Managing Assistant County Attorney Jewel White Cole reviewed a series of legal issues, and identified potential changes to the PPC Special Act that could address certain of the Committee's objectives. Largo Community Development Director Carol Stricklin reviewed items discussed by the staff group and shared with the Planners Advisory Committee – in particular, a potential three-tiered system for Countywide Plan amendments that would serve to reduce the number of amendments and streamline the process.

The Committee discussed the key points with respect to the consolidation of the MPO and the PPC boards into one board, and whether the staffing for such new board should be independent or not. The Committee was polled on both points, with a majority of the Committee in favor of consolidating the boards and providing for independent staff. The Committee then agreed to have Committee Chair Commissioner Seel and legal counsel prepare a list of the points of agreement on which there was consensus to be brought back to each of the three separate boards participating for their discussion, input and direction. That list is attached as Attachment 1.

PINELLAS PLANNING COUNCIL ACTION:

COUNTYWIDE PLANNING AUTHORITY ACTION:

SUBJECT: Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee – Status Report

Planning Council staff has attempted to summarize our understanding of the items that have been discussed and agreed to, as well as the additional items that need to be considered and acted on in order to implement the overall direction.

Basic Organizational Changes:

- Create a single, new board to combine the functions and carry out the duties of the PPC and the MPO;
- Establish an independent staff to serve this new board;
- Amend the Special Act to provide for the new board, independent staff and a streamlined, more policy-driven Countywide Plan and Plan amendment process;
- Provide for membership on the new board in the Special Act pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement that meets MPO requirements and includes all municipal jurisdictions in an equitable manner;

Process to Achieve Changes:

- Amendment of the Special Act to include, among other things:
 - ✓ Delete the provision for the Administrative Hearing (Chp. 120) process between the PPC and CPA actions;
 - ✓ Delete the Ability to Serve Report for annexations over 10 acres in size;
 - ✓ Provide for three main Countywide Plan components – land use, transportation, and intergovernmental coordination;
 - ✓ Retain the current PPC millage/taxing authority;
 - ✓ Provide for means to transition from current Plan to new Plan and local government consistency therewith;
- Upon agreement and recommendation of the Joint Committee, direct preparation of amendments to the Special Act for review by the Committee to then be forwarded to the Legislative Delegation for consideration and action in the 2011 legislative session; and
- Continue the Joint Committee to oversee the transition issues and procedures in moving from current to proposed structure.

The Council's representatives to the Joint Committee solicit Council input and direction in support of the Committee's preliminary direction as expressed above and in the attached outline of consensus points.

**Joint Land Use/ Transportation Committee
Consensus Points**

- The MPO and PPC should work together more closely on transportation and land use issues to create a more streamlined and integrated process;
 - This new process should identify and eliminate any redundancies or inefficiencies in the current system;
 - This new process should also address issues to facilitate more transit oriented development, particularly with regard to the Alternatives Analysis;
- The boards of the MPO and the PPC should be consolidated and empowered to carry out the functions of both the MPO and the PPC (i.e., a single board wearing two “hats”);
- The new consolidated board should consist of elected officials and ensure adequate representation for the smaller municipalities;
 - There will be no direct representation for the school board, however the new consolidated board’s staff will work closely with staff of the school board to obtain its input where relevant;
 - The PSTA will continue as a member of the new consolidated board, as required by MPO legislation;
 - The new consolidated board should be comprised of at least thirteen (13) members to ensure adequate representation, recognizing that it can be increased to fifteen (15) members before an additional county commissioner must be added;
- The countywide plan should be reconstituted into a more policy/broad based plan
 - The new plan should focus on purely countywide issues;
 - The new countywide plan will have fewer land use categories;
- The new plan will encompass a tiered approach to plan amendments;
 - Certain local land use amendments will only be reviewed administratively since the new plan will have fewer land use categories, thereby creating the need for fewer amendments;
 - Certain local land use amendments will have a countywide impact, thereby requiring a full public hearing;
- The new consolidated board will be supported by a consolidated, independent staff;
 - An independent special district will not be created due to the taxation/referendum implications;
 - An Executive Director will be chosen/hired by the new consolidated board;

- The new consolidated staff will, to the extent possible, be comprised of current staff of the MPO and PPC to ensure continuity;
- The new consolidated organization will carry out the core functions as set forth on page one (1) of the staff recommendations memo dated June 4, 2010 (see attached)

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**Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee
Staff Recommendations
June 4, 2010**

The following recommendations for the roles and responsibilities for a combined Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) agency and board were prepared based upon discussion by the staff listed below as requested by the Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee. The proposal envisions a new, single agency governed by a representative board consisting of elected officials, designed to better integrate the countywide land use and transportation functions, with broad oversight and approval by the Countywide Planning Authority (CPA) on land use matters.

Core Functions - The principal functions of the new entity should include:

Transportation (MPO)

- Required federal and state work program items, including Unified Planning Work Program, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Five-Year Transportation Improvement Program;
- Other MPO programs such as congestion management, air quality planning, bicycle and pedestrian planning, citizen outreach, Transportation Disadvantaged program, and the Transportation Impact Fee program;
- Continued participation and support for the FTA Alternatives Analysis and subsequent transit planning and implementation phases, in concert with FDOT, TBARTA and PSTA;
- Incorporating into the LRTP an analysis of land use alternatives and their transportation implications, with a focus on transit.

Land Use (PPC)

- Countywide Vision Plan/Concept Map – Establish a basis for and prepare a new long-range Future Land Use Plan fully integrated with revised a LRTP, including provision for participation of local governments in constructing and approving the new plan;
- Revision of the current Countywide Future Land Use Plan and Rules to emphasize policy direction and broad plan framework, and deemphasize case-by-case regulatory function;
- Create a tiered review process that provides for differentiation between plan amendments that are consistent or compliant with the broader conceptual plan that could be handled administratively, and those that alter the conceptual plan that would be considered by the policy-making board comprised of elected officials;
- Define a revised Countywide Planning Authority (CPA) role that would include provision for approval of the proposed new, more conceptual and fully integrated countywide plan and procedures, as well as a defined threshold for their review or appeal of plan amendments;
- Maintain and enhance the provision of local assistance, particularly through common, model tools with transferability among local governments.

Both

- Incorporation of other countywide functions, such as GIS, socio-economic data, etc., within the countywide planning framework;
- Coordination of community plans across jurisdictions: mobility planning, corridor planning, station area planning;
- Consideration to broadening and utilizing MPO Citizens Advisory Committee for both functions, as well as the possible reconfiguration of the existing MPO advisory committees;
- Consideration of integrating the MPO Technical Coordinating Committee and the PPC Planners Advisory Committee into a single body, with subcommittees as necessary, to better integrate planning and transportation disciplines.

Joint Land Use / Transportation Committee
Outline of Five Main Steps/Questions To Be Answered

Approach/Tasks

Meetings/Timeline

A. Policy Measures:

1. What Do We Do Now?
 - Confirm Committee's Intended Scope and Approach
 - Explain Principal and Required Functions of the MPO and PPC
 - Define Legislative Issues Involved – and What May Require Changing
 - Identify Any Follow-Up Questions to be Answered/Information Needed
2. What Are The Opportunities for Synthesis?
 - Other Organizational Examples/Best Practices
 - Identify Existing Deficiencies/Redundancies
 - Identify Options for Remediating Deficiencies/Redundancies
3. What Do We Need/Choose To Do?
 - Identify Preferred Direction(s) and Corresponding Implementation Requirements

Friday, April 30, 2010
1:30 – 3:30 PM

Friday, May 7, 2010
9:00 – 11:00 AM

Friday, June 4, 2010
1:30 – 3:30 PM

B. Appropriate Entity(ies):

4. What Needs To Be Done To Implement Preferred Direction(s)?
 - Identify Any Changed Function, Membership and Authority
 - Identify Administrative, Statutory/Charter and Financial Steps
 - Identify Timetable and Responsibilities
5. What Are The Recommendations/Next Steps?
 - Identify Final Committee Recommendations, Next Steps and Responsibilities for Follow-Up

Friday, July 9, 2010
9:00 – 11:00 AM

Friday, July 30, 2010
9:00 – 11:00 AM

All Meetings at Pinellas County Public Works Conference Room 111; 440 Court Street; Clearwater

Agenda
Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee

Friday, July 9, 2010
9:00am – 11:00am
Pinellas County Public Works Department
440 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida
Conference Room 111

- I. Call to order – Chair Karen Williams Seel
- II. Approval of minutes – June 4, 2010 meeting
- III. Report by the County Attorney on Special Act modifications
- IV. Report on staff group meeting concerning countywide plan thresholds
- V. Discussion on committee direction
 - A. Agency board reviews
 - B. Special Act schedule if submitted
- VI. Discussion of schedule for follow-up committee meeting
- VII. Next meeting – July 30, 2010
- VIII. Adjournment

Clearwater, Florida, June 4, 2010

The Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee met in regular session in the Pinellas County Public Works Building, Room 111, 440 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida, at 1:35 P.M. with the following members present:

Karen Williams Seel, Chairman, Pinellas County Commissioner (BCC)
Chris Arbutine, City of Belleair Bluffs Mayor (MPO)
Jeff Danner, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember (MPO)
John Doran, City of Clearwater Vice-Mayor (PPC)
Dave Eggers, City of Dunedin Mayor (MPO)
Patricia Gerard, City of Largo Mayor (PPC)
Calvin D. Harris, Pinellas County Commissioner (BCC)
John Morroni, Pinellas County Commissioner (BCC)
Jim Ronecker, City of Oldsmar Mayor (PPC)

Also Present

Jerry Knight, Town of North Redington Beach Vice-Mayor (Alternate for PPC)
David P. Healey, Executive Director, Pinellas Planning Council
Brian K. Smith, Planning Director
Peter J. Yauch, Director of Public Works and Transportation
Jewel White Cole, Managing Assistant County Attorney (Representing PPC)
David S. Sadowsky, Senior Assistant County Attorney (Representing MPO)
Other interested individuals
Arlene L. Smitke, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of the May 7, 2010 Meeting
- III. Review Committee Purpose
 - A. Committee Objectives
 1. To identify the policies, steps or measures that are needed to develop updated and fully integrated future land use and transportation plans for the County as a whole. If consensus is reached, then proceed to:
 2. Defining the appropriate governmental entities to accomplish the task(s).
 - B. Previously Proposed Agenda for Meeting Three
 1. What do We Need/Choose to do?
 2. Identify Preferred Direction and Corresponding Implementation Requirements.

June 4, 2010

- IV. Reporting on Information Request from the Previous Meeting
 - A. Staff Committee Report on Agency Function
 - B. MPO Membership Report
 - C. Policy Steps Chart
 - D. Attorney Report
- V. Committee Discussion as to Direction Based on Item III
- VI. Committee Discussion of the Agenda for Next Meeting
- VII. Next Meeting - June 18
- VIII. Adjournment

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Seel called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M. and welcomed the attendees. A sign-in sheet has been filed and made a part of the record.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2010 MEETING – APPROVED

Upon presentation by Chairman Seel, Mayor Gerard moved, seconded by Councilmember Doran and carried, that the minutes of the May 7, 2010 meeting be approved.

DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION BASED ON INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

City of Largo Community Development Director Carol Stricklin referred to a document titled *Joint Land Use/Transportation Committee Staff Recommendations, June 4, 2010*, a copy of which has been filed and made a part of the record, and indicated that staff from Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Largo, and the County had met with Messrs. Smith and Healey on two occasions to discuss the proposed joint agency; and that they had agreed that the integration of transportation and land use planning would be beneficial to the county, particularly with regard to opportunities related to the Transit Alternatives Analysis. She noted that the core functions pertaining to transportation (the MPO) and land use (the PPC) would not necessarily be changed; and that combining the agencies could be advantageous when preparing the next Long-Range Transportation Plan update.

Ms. Stricklin noted that the current Countywide Land Use Map is really a reflection of existing land uses; and suggested that the new agency prepare a more conceptual, vision map incorporating *Pinellas by Design* Livable Community elements such as activity centers and corridors; that the map include general categories reflective of the Comprehensive