

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES – MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 2008**

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, December 10, 2008 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Frank Hibbard, *Chairman* – Mayor, City of Clearwater
Chris Arbutine, *Vice Chairman* – Mayor, City of Belleair Bluffs, representing PSTA
Neil Brickfield – Board of County Commissioners
Jeff Danner – City of St. Petersburg Council
Harriet Crozier – Vice Mayor, City of Largo
David Eggers – City of Dunedin Commission
William Mischler – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Herbert Polson – City of St. Petersburg Council
Robin Saenger – Vice Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs, representing Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Springs
Karen Seel – Board of County Commissioners
Kenneth Welch – Board of County Commissioners
Don Skelton, *ex officio* – Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Smith – MPO Executive Director
Sarah Ward – MPO Transportation Planning Division Manager
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
Mahshid Arasteh – Pinellas County Public Works
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Dave Fechter – Pinellas County Public Works
David Bredahl – American Consulting
Theo Petritsch – Sprinkle Consulting
Bill Ball – Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Wilfred Sergeant – Citizens Advisory Committee
Sue Miller – MPO Staff
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Councilman Herb Polson gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board members introduced themselves.

III. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING MPO MEMBER RONNIE DUNCAN

Chairman Hibbard noted Ronnie Duncan will be presented his plaque at the next meeting.

IV. WELCOME NEW MPO MEMBERS – KEN WELCH AND NEIL BRICKFIELD

Chairman Hibbard welcomed the two new MPO members representing the Board of County Commissioners: Ken Welch and Neil Brickfield.

V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens to be heard.

VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2009

Mayor Mischler moved, Vice Mayor Crozier seconded, and motion carried to approve the following officers for 2009:

*Chairman – Chris Arbutine
Vice Chairman – Dave Eggers
Secretary/Treasurer – Karen Seel*

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of November 12, 2008
- B. Approval of Invoices –
 - 1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates
 - 2. Renaissance Planning Group
 - 3. American Consulting Engineers
- C. Approval of Contract Amendment for MPO Auditing Service
- D. Approval of Tindale-Oliver Contract Amendment
- E. Approval of CUTR Contract Amendment
- F. Approval of For-Profit Provider Contracts

Councilman Polson moved, Commissioner Saenger seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2008/09 – 2012/13 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Brian Beaty, FDOT, briefly described the two proposed amendments: 1) North Bay Trail, 1st Street from 30th Avenue North to 78th Avenue North to add the design phase in the amount of \$270,500 to the current fiscal year for a 10-foot side-path; and 2) City of St. Petersburg – Pinellas Trail Traffic Control at 58th and 49th Streets South – to add the design phase in the amount of \$30,577 to the current fiscal year for the installation of High Intensity Activated Crosswalks (HAWK) beacon signals.

There was no public comment. *Commissioner Brickfield moved and Mayor Mischler seconded to approve the TIP amendments; and, upon roll call, the motion carried unanimously.*

IX. FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed the FDOT Work Program, including new projects introduced in the fifth year (2013/14). The public hearings are scheduled for December 9 in Pasco County and December 11 in the FDOT office beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a formal presentation at 6:00 p.m. There will be an executive review of the Work Program, then a statewide public hearing, and adoption of the Work Program July 1, 2009. There will be an MPO comment period until January 20, 2009.

Mr. Smith questioned the timing of the U.S. 19/Enterprise Road project. Mr. Beaty responded the ultimate option is scheduled for 2013, with the interim safety project scheduled for 2010. Commissioner Eggers noted most of the medians in that vicinity have been closed. Mr. Beaty agreed all medians have been closed except the median serving the Cypress Point Plaza. Mr. Skelton added the local business owners have petitioned against the closing and, therefore, an access management review has been scheduled. Further discussion regarding this project followed.

There was discussion regarding the anticipated funding reductions, which resulted in projects being deferred and removed from the Five Year Work Program.

Mayor Mischler noted his concern with the Gandy Boulevard and 4th and 9th Street projects that have been deferred. Councilman Polson stated this was the number 1 priority for St. Petersburg.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of the federal stimulus program and how projects would be prioritized. Mr. Skelton responded the projects must be production ready, 180 days for bid. U.S. 19 will be a high priority and is on the list since they are nearing the completion of the design phase. If funding is received, U.S. 19 will be advanced. Projects will be prioritized the same as the process for prioritizing SIS (Strategic Intermodal System) projects.

Chairman Hibbard indicated this item will be brought back next month after the committees have had a chance to review the Work Program.

X. TBARTA UPDATE PRESENTATION

Bob Clifford provided an update on the TBARTA activities. They are moving forward with the Master Plan, a draft will be available in January, a public hearing will be held in early February, and TBARTA adoption in late February.

Chairman Hibbard noted Commissioner Karen Seel is the new BCC representative on TBARTA.

XI. REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE EVALUATION FOR PINELLAS TRAIL LOOP SEGMENT A2

Theo Petritsch, Sprinkle Consulting, reviewed the results of the alternative evaluation for the Pinellas Trail from Enterprise Road to McMullen-Booth/Tampa Road connector. The alternatives analyzed were: 1) Progress Energy Corridor; 2) Countryside Boulevard; and 3) Landmark Drive. The recommended alternative is the Progress Energy Corridor/Meadow Woods Drive and then the Countryside Boulevard alignment to McMullen-Booth Road to Tampa Road connection, John Chesnut Park across the c531 canal on the existing pedestrian facility, and then cross Tampa Road on the east side.

Considerable discussion followed regarding the suggested alternative, noting it would have to be reviewed more closely as the next step. There are a lot of safety issues with the number of driveways and the conflicts that creates.

Commissioner Seel indicated she could not support the recommended alternative. She suggested an interim improvement until funding is available. Mr. Petritsch replied there is very limited right-of-way on the north and south sides of the street.

Chairman Hibbard noted there was right-of-way on Countryside Boulevard and then could cut to the Progress Energy Trail near the recreation facility.

Mr. Smith noted the lower portion has less right-of-way and the recommended alternative needs more detailed review and also need to know how the Trail will go through the area.

Commissioner Seel indicated the alternative needs to include an overpass across S.R. 580.

Commissioner Eggers would like more information regarding a bike lane or separate sidewalk and the comparable safety aspects.

Following discussion, ***Commissioner Brickfield moved, Commissioner Eggers seconded, and motion carried to accept the report.***

XII. BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Motion Concerning Alternative Analysis for Segment A2 of the Pinellas Trail Loop

Mayor Mischler moved, Vice Mayor Crozier seconded, and motion carried to accept the BAC motion.

B. Motion Concerning Fishing Restriction on the Trail Portion of the Bunces Pass Bridge

Mr. Smith noted the Dunedin Causeway has the fishing separated from the Trail users and, therefore, the BAC recommended the same type of separation for the Bunces Pass Bridge.

Mr. Skelton indicated they have installed signs to make sure the fishermen keep their items cleared for unobstructed access by the Trail users and they will continue to monitor the situation. In addition, they will continue to work with the MPO and Pinellas County; however, they need to also engage the fishing industry in discussions.

Councilman Polson noted it would be an enforcement issue, which would be difficult to enforce.

Following discussion, ***Commissioner Brickfield moved, Mayor Arbutine seconded, and motion carried to approve the BAC motion and forward it to FDOT for consideration.***

XIII. TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Smith noted the report was included in the agenda packet. Due to the decrease in construction costs, staff is recommending the MPO not take action at this time to change the construction cost fee. However, according to data published by the Institute of Transportation Engineers in their *Trip Generation Manual 7th Edition*, trip generation rates for nine land use categories have changed. The Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) reviewed the report at their December meeting and recommended the research center category be removed from consideration to allow further study. The Tarpon Springs Multi-Modal District is another procedure whereby there would be an agreement between the City and County. In addition, the City of St. Petersburg submitted a letter regarding the affordable housing initiative, which will be taken to the TCC for their review in January.

Following some discussion, **Mayor Mischler moved and Commissioner Saenger seconded the motion to approve the recommended changes contained in the report for forwarding to the Board of County Commissioners.**

Some further discussion ensued regarding St. Petersburg's recommendation for affordable housing. In addition, Mayor Mischler suggested **adding "non-public" in front of libraries. The motion was approved unanimously.**

XIV. PINELLAS MOBILITY INITIATIVE (PMI) MEETING REPORT

Chairman Hibbard indicated the PMI Committee reviewed the five transit alternatives, the Countywide Bus Rapid Transit corridors and service, the appointment of Bob Clifford as the Director for TBARTA, and discussion of new revenue sources.

****At this time, 2:28 p.m., Commissioner Seel left the meeting****

Ms. Ward reviewed the five transit alternatives in detail. Mr. Smith added the Committee concluded discussion by determining Alternatives 4 and 5 should be the focused for further study.

****At this time, 2:30 p.m., Commissioner Seel returned to the meeting****

Following discussion, **Commissioner Welch moved, Vice Mayor Crozier seconded, and motion carried to approve focusing on Alternatives 4 and 5.**

XV. MPO LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

Ms. Ward noted there will be further adjustments as final edition is performed. This document will be included in the updated Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Changes were made based on the federal planning process and input from the advisory committees. The document will be reviewed by all the committees a final time before adopted with the LRTP. The focus is on livable communities and looking at sustainable funding.

Commissioner Brickfield moved, Commissioner Eggers seconded, and motion carried to approve the document.

XVI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

MPOAC Representative and Alternate for 2009

Councilman Danner moved, Vice Mayor Crozier seconded, and motion carried to approve Chris Arbutine as the representative, with Dave Eggers as the alternate.

Mayor Arbutine recommended Frank Hibbard remain the Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) appointment. **Commissioner Seel moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve Frank Hibbard as the CCC representative.**

Citizens Advisory Committee

Commissioner Seel moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to reappoint Earle Cooper for a second term.

Technical Coordinating Committee

Commissioner Seel moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to appoint Dave Fechter as Rob Meador's alternate.

XVII. PSTA ACTIVITIES

It was reported PSTA is continuing to seek funding, they've had two funding Task Force meetings.

At this time, 2:44 p.m., Commissioner Seel left the meeting

Mayor Arbutine suggested the PMI Committee members be invited to attend the joint MPO/PSTA workshop for February 9 at 9:00 a.m. He noted Mr. Garling received a 1% raise.

XVIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Meeting of December 12, 2008

Mayor Hibbard indicated the meeting is this Friday.

Chairman Hibbard noted another BCC member is needed to serve on the Pinellas Mobility Initiative (PMI) Steering Committee. The PMI meetings are the Monday prior to the MPO meeting at 1:30 in the MPO office. **Commissioner Welch responded he would check his schedule for his availability.**

B. MPO and Committee Meeting Schedules for 2009

Mayor Hibbard noted the meeting schedules were included in the agenda packet.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Hibbard indicated a letter from FDOT regarding the Dynamic Message Signs was included in the agenda packet.

Mr. Smith stated FDOT's response was the proposed messages did not conform to their guidelines.

Mr. Skelton responded the messages were not appropriate for limited access roads (i.e., Interstate) but they could be applied to all other arterial roads.

D Other

Chairman Hibbard thanked Commissioner Saenger for her service on the MPO representing Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor, and Oldsmar. He noted this was her final meeting and she would be recognized in January. He then thanked everyone for allowing him to serve as Chairman, that it had been his honor.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Chris Arbutine, Chairman