

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES – MEETING OF NOVEMBER 9, 2011**

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, November 9, 2011 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Eggers – *Chairman* – Mayor, City of Dunedin Commission  
Karen Seel – *Vice Chairman* – Board of County Commissioners (arrived 1:06 p.m.)  
Neil Brickfield – Board of County Commissioners  
Julie Bujalski – Commissioner, City of Dunedin, representing PSTA  
Frank Hibbard – Mayor, City of Clearwater  
William Mischler – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park  
Herbert Polson – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council (arrived 1:04 p.m.)  
Jim Ronecker – Mayor, City of Oldsmar representing Oldsmar/Safety Harbor/Tarpon Springs  
Kenneth Welch – Board of County Commissioners  
Don Skelton, ex officio – Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Harriet Crozier – Commissioner, City of Largo  
Jeff Danner – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sarah Ward – MPO Interim Executive Director  
Brian Smith – outgoing MPO Executive Director  
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office  
Lee Royal – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Ming Gao – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Al Bartolotta – Pinellas County MPO  
Gina Harvey – Pinellas County MPO  
Chelsea Favero – Pinellas County Planning/MPO  
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg  
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg  
Bob Klute – City of Largo  
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater  
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park  
Brad Miller – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
Nick Fritsch – CAC  
Vivian Peters – TAC  
Ed Mierzejewski – Gannett Fleming  
Jim Green – CareRide, LLC  
Bill Jonson – PSTA/Clearwater  
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Eggers called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Chairman Eggers performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

\*\*Councilman Polson arrived at 1:04 p.m.\*\*

\*\*Commissioner Seel arrived at 1:06 p.m.\*\*

**III. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BRIAN SMITH**

Chairman Eggers read an MPO resolution recognizing Brian Smith's accomplishments of his 34 years of service on the MPO and 41 years of service for Pinellas County. Chairman Eggers, MPO members, staff, and others offered thanks for his service, vision, and accomplishments and congratulated him on his retirement. The MPO members then presented Brian with a plaque thanking him for his service.

**IV. APPOINTMENT OF SARAH WARD AS MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chairman Eggers read the memo from Brian Smith that it would be appropriate to appoint Sarah Ward as the Interim MPO Executive Director to carry out the necessary administrative functions.

Following comments of support, *Mayor Mischler moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve Sarah Ward as the Interim MPO Executive Director (Vote 9-0).*

Ms. Ward thanked the MPO Board for their support and trust and introduced Al Bartolotta and Gina Harvey as Transportation Planning Managers who will be sitting at the staff table and sharing the staff support duties.

**V. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No citizens came forward to speak.

**VI. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of October 12 , 2011
- B. Approval of Invoice – PSTA
- C. Approval of TD Coordination Contract With WorkNet Pinellas, Inc.
- D. Approval of Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Agreement With WorkNet Pinellas, Inc.
- E. Approval of Funds for MPOAC Legislative Advocacy Activities for FY 2011/12
- F. Approval of Invoice for Organizational and Administrative Services for the Chairs Coordinating Committee

*Commissioner Welch moved, Mayor Hibbard seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 9-0).*

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2011/12 – 2015/16 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Lee Royal, FDOT, reviewed the TIP amendment to include a \$5 million grant for PSTA to purchase replacement buses.

Upon call for public comment, no members of the public came forward.

*Commissioner Welch moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the TIP amendment by roll call vote (Vote 9-0).*

**VIII. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FALL UPDATE OF THE FISCAL YEARS 2011/12 – 2015/16 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Al Bartolotta, MPO staff, reviewed the County and municipal projects as part of the fall update of the TIP. He reviewed the projects scheduled as part of the Advanced Traffic Management System and Intelligent Transportation System and the various trail projects. He noted the

location for the Druid Road Trail was not correct on the map. The limits for the project are from the existing Pinellas Trail to the Glen Oaks Park and not as far east as the map indicates.

Upon call for public comment, no members of the public came forward.

***Commissioner Seel moved, Commissioner Bujalski seconded, and motion carried to approve the fall update of the TIP by roll call vote (Vote 9-0).***

**IX. FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FY 2012/13 – 2016/17 FIVE YEAR DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

Ms. Royal reviewed a PowerPoint presentation for the FDOT FY 2012/13 – 2016/17 Five Year Draft Tentative Work Program. This included the FDOT mission statement, the process followed for updating the Work Program, and priority for projects (safety and security, maintenance, capacity) to be included or advanced, and the projects included in the fifth year of the Work Program. A webinar was held October 13, jointly with the MPOs so that people could participate at the MPO and FDOT locations if they did not have access to a computer. The Program is currently going through an executive review process, a statewide public hearing will be held on January 19, 2012, with the Work Program being adopted by July 1.

Mr. Skelton noted the Program was prepared before knowing the impacts of the Revenue Estimating Conference where it was indicated there will be a revenue shortfall statewide of \$1.2 billion that will need to be addressed. The Work Program will be adjusted to reflect the impacts and the modified Work Program

Ms. Ward indicated the Pinellas Park staff had earlier requested the addition of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Street connector from 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 40<sup>th</sup> Street and that segment has also been included in the Tentative Work Program.

Mayor Hibbard had asked Mr. Skelton earlier about the segment of Courtney Campbell Causeway located in Hillsborough County and Mr. Skelton responded that project is included in this year's program. Ms. Royal added that project will be let in June 2012 and construction will occur several months later.

Mayor Hibbard had a question about the Alternate U.S. 19 project on Page 112, last item, as to the location of the project. Ms. Royal responded she would check out the project and get back to him.

Mayor Hibbard requested that a correction be made to change Druid Street to Druid Road.

Upon query by Mayor Hibbard as to how the landscaping budget is derived, Mr. Skelton responded they follow the State Statute that 1.5% of the construction budget be set aside for landscaping working in coordination with the local jurisdiction identifying projects and maintenance agreements.

Mayor Hibbard asked for clarification as to how the Tampa International Airport receives their funding since there was \$167 million included in the Work Program. Ming Gao, FDOT, responded that commercial aviations receive funding from three sources: Federal Aviation Authority for federal funding, passenger facility charge for the local match, and discretionary state funding because it is a Strategic Intermodal System facility. In addition, the airport is allocated capacity funds that other airports don't receive because of their size and the market they serve, which is \$5 million a year.

Commissioner Bujalski noted that Dunedin is attempting to allow golf cart crossings within their community and indicated there is a project in the Work Program for Skinner Boulevard intersection improvement from west of Douglas Avenue to east of MLK Junior Avenue. The City has been working with FDOT and would like to coordinate this intersection improvement with FDOT to allow for golf cart crossing if the Dunedin City Commission approves it. Ms. Royal responded FDOT will follow-up and coordinate with their traffic operations staff. Mayor Eggers wanted to make sure FDOT coordinated with Dunedin City staff regarding the removal of the westbound right-turn lane. Both Ms. Royal and Mr. Skelton responded yes.

Based upon query by Councilman Polson regarding the prioritization of projects as a result of the reduction in estimated funds, Ms. Royal responded they will coordinate with staff and bring back the modified Work Program to the MPO for review. Mayor Hibbard asked if the cost estimates were up to date. Ms. Royal responded the cost estimates are constantly being revisited and adjusted accordingly. Mr. Skelton added that they are still seeing some bids come in lower than estimated in the Work Program. In addition, they do an official engineer's estimate just before each bid opening and they are close to the actual bids; however, there are some instances where the bids are higher than the estimates.

Chairman Eggers reported the Technical Coordinating and Citizens Advisory Committees recommended approval of the Work Program. Those committees also recommended approval of the previous public hearing items.

***Mayor Hibbard moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the FDOT Tentative Work Program by roll call vote (Vote 9-0).***

#### **X. ITS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING HIGH CRASH ROADS**

Ms. Ward indicated this item was deferred at the last MPO meeting. She provided background regarding the ITS Committee's responsibilities, which is to prioritize congestion management operational improvement projects with a focus on congestion relief and crash reductions. FDOT has compiled a list of the top 5% of local road crash locations. Although there have been workshops, the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) had not reviewed the list; therefore, the TCC had requested this item be deferred at the last MPO meeting to allow them an opportunity to have a further review and discussion regarding the methodology FDOT used to identify the locations. At the TCC meeting, FDOT provided a presentation and, in response to concerns raised, agreed to continue working with the local agencies to refine the methodology. At that meeting, the TCC recommended to the ITS Committee and MPO that they approve the initial recommendation to recognize these roadways on the MPO's Congestion Management Process Priority List with a notation that some of the data is still under review and to specifically identify the locations of concern and that the list is subject to change. The reason it's important to reference the 5% list is in case local governments want to apply for safety funds made available by FDOT. The list includes the notation that the data is being reviewed by FDOT and that the ITS Committee and TCC have recommended approval with the understanding the list may be modified based on the results of the review and that Clearwater has concerns regarding the roundabout and St. Petersburg has concerns at all locations in their City.

***Commissioner Welch moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the ITS Committee recommendation as outlined above (Vote 9-0).***

#### **XI. PSTA MANAGEMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISADVANTAGED PROGRAM**

Ms. Ward indicated they have been working with PSTA over the last several months regarding PSTA taking over the Transportation Disadvantaged Program beginning January of 2012. A summary of the scenario if PSTA takes over the program is included in the MPO packet. There would be a number of efficiencies gained through the incorporation of the TD

Program and DART. PSTA would manage the bus pass program; however, it would be operated separately in terms of its eligibility and application process. The MPO would continue to provide funds to the nonprofit agencies (PARC, UPARC, Neighborly Care Network) at least for the near term. Also included in the MPO packet are the responsibilities of the MPO as the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) under Chapter 427, the MPO as the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC), and PSTA as the brokered system manager/operator. Also included is a draft contract that is still under review by the attorneys. The PSTA is scheduled to discuss the matter at their meeting of December 14, which is the morning of the MPO's meeting. Both PSTA and MPO are scheduled to review the contract at their December meeting. PSTA has some concerns and Mr. Miller has been asked to review those concerns with the MPO.

Brad Miller, PSTA Executive Director, indicated the PSTA Board will be discussing the financial aspect of taking over the program at their next meeting. Both the MPO and PSTA Boards have voted to move forward with the transition of the management of the TD Program to PSTA in concept. Instead of the standard contracts that are currently in place, he is proposing an intergovernmental agreement. As currently proposed, PSTA would operate the TD Program per the MPO's approved Transportation Disadvantaged Plan, which means the MPO approves eligibility requirements and other such items after review by the Local Coordinating Board. In exchange, the MPO would give PSTA all the funds it receives from the State for the TD Program minus the funds that would be received by the nonprofit agencies. The PSTA has had two contracts with the MPO for bus passes: Medicaid and TD. The MPO has recently transferred the Medicaid Program back to the State. Last Friday, the State issued an emergency Request for Qualifications with a deadline for responses of November 10 and a selection of a broker by December 1. He has had discussions with several of the responders regarding an arrangement with PSTA to provide bus passes and he feels confident that would probably happen; however, PSTA needs to have a concrete arrangement for that to occur in order to keep the program working financially.

Commissioner Bujalski added that concerns were raised at the PSTA Board meeting regarding their managing of the TD Program. There was a concern regarding the potential that PSTA would need to hire additional staff, a concern with the Medicaid bus pass purchases now that the State has taken back the Medicaid Program, and PSTA has no control over eligibility requirements and rates in order to keep the TD Program sustainable. Mr. Miller was going to research some of these concerns.

Upon query by Chairman Eggers, Mr. Miller responded that the vast majority of the money spent is related to the program. Approximately 90% of the funds go directly to offset the costs of distributing the bus passes. He estimates that \$300,000 will be paid to the providers to provide transportation to those individuals who cannot ride the bus. In discussions with GPTMS, they can expect approximately an additional 2,000 phone calls a month regarding the program and income eligibility requirements. In addition, there are two roles that the Pinellas MPO assumes: DOPA and CTC. In a number of other urbanized areas, the transit operator serves as the CTC. At the PSTA meeting, it was discussed that the PSTA is taking on some of the functions as the CTC and whether PSTA should take on a greater role. In the interim, it is not being proposed that PSTA take on a greater role but continue to work with the Local Coordinating Board, of which PSTA has a representative, and MPO staff. The contract includes wording that the MPO is obligated to work with PSTA and make the program sustainable. The attorneys are continuing to review the contract.

Ms. Ward noted that staff is in agreement with PSTA and the TD Program has the ability to stay within the available funds; whereas, the Medicaid Program has to provide all trips whether or not there is funding available. Staff suggests continuing work with PSTA for them to assume management of the TD Program by January 2012 with the understanding that we

review the CTC functions at a later date and other parts of the program the MPO is maintaining.

\*\*Commissioner Welch left at 2:29 p.m.

## **XII. RENAMING OF COURTNEY CAMPBELL CAUSEWAY TRAIL TO DOLPHIN TRAIL**

Ms. Ward indicated, at the last MPO meeting, staff requested authorization to pursue the naming of the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail to the Dolphin Trail working with the regional partners. At that meeting, the MPO requested staff contact the Clearwater Aquarium. Staff has contacted the Aquarium's Director and he is supportive of the proposal. In addition, staff contacted the Hillsborough MPO the day before their meeting and they indicated they would try to discuss the proposal at their November 1 meeting. She has not received any feedback whether they discussed the proposal or not. The Bicycle Advisory Committee discussed the proposal at their October 24 meeting and they approved BAC Motion #11-8 indicating they are supportive of the name change but that staff still needs to work with the Hillsborough MPO. Once staff receives concurrence by Hillsborough, the matter will be taken to the Chairs Coordinating Committee for discussion.

Mayor Mischler noted that the State Legislation is attempting to curtail naming of facilities due to the additional costs. Mr. Skelton responded the issue deals with roadway designations so he wasn't sure if trails would fall within the same category. The trail does need to be named. In addition, he indicated the Hillsborough MPO did not take up the item at their November meeting so they would take it up at their December meeting. He also suggested staff contact the Scenic Byways Committee for their input since Courtney Campbell Causeway is designated as a scenic highway.

***Commissioner Bujalski moved, Mayor Hibbard seconded, and motion carried to approve the proposal to name the trail corridor as Dolphin Trail and continue coordinating with the other partners (Vote 8-0).***

## **XIII. BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Ms. Ward reported that the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), in addition to supporting the naming of the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail to the Dolphin Trail, recommended the remaining segments of the Progress Energy Trail be added to the Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Regional Multi-Use Trail Map as regional trail priorities. This would allow the potential of pursuing other funding sources. This recommendation would be forwarded to the Regional Multi-Use Trails Committee and then the CCC for consideration.

\*\*Commissioner Seel left at 2:33 p.m.

***Mayor Mischler moved, Mayor Hibbard seconded, and motion carried to approve BAC Motion #11-9 (Vote 7-0).***

\*\*Commissioner Welch returned at 2:34 p.m.

## **XIV. PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ms. Ward reported PAC will meet next Monday, November 14, and is scheduled as an all-day work session from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will discuss costs and revenues and the assumptions regarding potential revenue funding levels from the federal and state government, along with the options for local funding. During November and December, the project will be presented to the various partner agencies (PSTA, MPO, BCC, and TBARTA) so they can review the project in its entirety. Public outreach will occur during December and January for comment regarding the draft Locally Preferred Alternative that the PAC will have taken action on at their December meeting. Several representatives are travelling to Atlanta

tomorrow to provide a briefing to Federal Transit Administration representatives for their feedback with a report back to the MPO regarding the results of those discussions.

\*\*Commissioner Seel returned at 2:36 p.m.

The project should be completed as scheduled toward the latter part of January, 2012.

**XV. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

*Mayor Mischler moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve Fran Briskman as an At Large representative and the reappointment of Robert Detweiler, Michael Welch, and Kasey Cursey to a second four-year term on the Citizens Advisory Committee (Vote 9-0).*

Chairman Eggers noted the vacancies on the other committees.

**XVI. PSTA ACTIVITIES**

Brad Miller, PSTA Executive Director, indicated he had nothing further to report.

**XVII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A Establishment of Nominating Committee for 2012 Election of Officers**

Chairman Eggers appointed Bill Mischler, Neil Brickfield, and Jim Ronecker to the Nominating Committee, indicating they will meet after this meeting is adjourned at the end of the dais.

**B Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee Scheduled to Meet December 9, 2011**

Ms. Ward indicated the Chairs Coordinating Committee will meet December 9 in Clearwater and hosted by Pinellas County MPO.

**C MPOAC Meeting of November 4, 2011**

Ms. Ward noted the MPOAC met November 4 and focused on revenue options for transportation.

**D. Correspondence**

**E Other**

**XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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Dave Eggers, Chairman