

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES - MEETING OF JUNE 14, 2006**

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, June 14, 2006 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Seel, *Chair*- Board of County Commissioners
Richard Kriseman, *Vice Chair*- City of St. Petersburg Council
Chris Arbutine - Mayor, City of Belleair Bluffs, representing Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
John Bryan - City of St. Petersburg Council
Ronnie Duncan - Board of County Commissioners
David Eggers - City of Dunedin Commission
Frank Hibbard - Mayor, City of Clearwater
William Mischler - Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Jim Ronecker - City of Oldsmar Council, representing Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Tarpon Springs
Robert Stewart - Board of County Commissioners
Bob Clifford, *ex officio*- Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT

Harriet Crozier - City of Largo Commission

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Smith - MPO Executive Director
Sarah Ward - MPO Transportation Planning Administrator
Brian Beaty - Florida Department of Transportation, District 7
Paul Bertels - City of Clearwater Traffic Engineering
W. T. Bowman - Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Jim Byers - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Claude Dharamraj, M.D. - Pinellas County Health Department
Mike Finnegan - Spoto's Steak Joint
Gina Harvey - MPO Staff
Ken Jacobs - Pinellas County Traffic Engineering
Joe Kubicki - City of St. Petersburg Transportation Department
Charlie Robbins - DMJM Harris
David Sadowsky - Pinellas County Attorney's Office
Roger Sweeney - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Steven Tindale - Tindale-Oliver and Associates
Tom Whalen - City of St. Petersburg
Carolyn Kuntz - MPO Recorder
Harriet McKay - MPO Staff Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Seel called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Eggers gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE

On behalf of the MPO, Chair Seel presented a plaque to former MPO member Mayor Pat Gerard and thanked her for her service on the board as the representative of the City of Largo.

IV. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There was no citizen comment.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes - Meeting of May 10, 2006
- B. Approval of Invoices
 - 1. Renaissance Planning Group
 - 2. Tindale-Oliver and Associates, Inc.
 - 3. HNTB Corporation
- C. Approval of PSTA Section 5303 Joint Participation Agreement
- D. Approval of Joint Participation Agreement with Tampa Bay Partnership
- E. Approval of Printing Costs for Updated Transportation Disadvantaged Brochure

ACTION: Mayor Mischler moved to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
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VI. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. FY 2006/07-2010/11 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Ward presented the FY 2006/07-2010/11 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for approval and adoption. She reviewed the changes made to the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Tentative Work Program, which the board had approved last December. She noted that the Bayway Bridge, appearing as a construction project in FY 06/07, is not a new project but was delayed from an earlier year. There were cost increases for several projects. An ITS project for the Sunshine Skyway Bridge has been added for FY 06/07. Safety improvements are scheduled for Tampa Road. The Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan for St. Petersburg is included. Also, the MPO will be the receiving agency for a federal grant awarded to the Tampa Bay Partnership.

The program includes projects along US 19, on almost all segments of Ulmerton Road, on Roosevelt Boulevard in the I-275 area, and on Gandy Boulevard. The work on the road segment from northbound I-275 to 118th Avenue is scheduled for construction in 08/09. There will be activity on almost all of the bridges.

Eventually, there will be a realignment of SR 686, and a decision will have to be made regarding who will be responsible for the old segment of 686 that would no longer be part of the State system.

It was clarified that the interchange project at US 19 and 118th Avenue/CR 296 is funded for construction for the current fiscal year, 05/06.

*At 1:25 p.m., Mayor Arbutine left.

Councilmember Bryan referred to a project that has been discussed for the Gateway area. He noted that costs have increased substantially since initial discussions but that an affordable project is needed now. Bob Clifford of the FDOT responded that the project is currently in the Cost Feasible Plan for 2020/25. At the next MPO meeting, the board and the FDOT will review this project. The city will present its concept.

*At 1:29 p.m., Mayor Arbutine returned.

The Belleair Causeway, although not under construction at this time, was programmed for construction this fiscal year and is shown that way on the Work Program map.

Both the Technical Coordinating Committee and the Citizens Advisory Committee passed motions recommending approval of the TIP

The Chair opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed.

ACTION: Mayor Hibbard moved to approve the FY 2006/07-2010/11 TIP. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The roll was called, and the board voted as follows: Commissioner Seel - Yes; Mayor Arbutine - Yes; Councilmember Bryan - Yes; Commissioner Eggers - Yes; Mayor Hibbard - Yes; Mayor Mischler - Yes; Commissioner Stewart - Yes; Commissioner Duncan - Yes; Councilmember Ronecker - Yes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Transportation Improvement Program Priority Lists

*At 1:37 p.m., Councilmember Kriseman arrived.

Ms. Ward reviewed the Surface Transportation Program (STP) and the Congestion Management System (CMS) Project Priority Lists. The Transportation Enhancement (TE) Project Priority List will be presented to the MPO in August. By law, all the lists must be submitted to the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) by October 1. The FDOT will use the priority lists to develop the Tentative Work Program due to the MPO in December.

The status column of the STP list is being updated. The priorities remain the same. Both the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) and the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) recommended approval of this list. The CAC also recommended that the MPO look beyond the projects currently on the list and consider US 19 north of Curlew Road.

The CMS list documents the six corridor strategy plans completed under CMS. This list is in sequential order and has not been ranked by the advisory committees. Staff works with the other agencies to find funding for these projects.

Several years ago, a study was made of the McMullen-Booth Road corridor. Improvements were recommended, and they were mostly operational improvements. That is because according to the County's Comprehensive Plan, McMullen-Booth Road is not scheduled to go

beyond six lanes, so alternatives to widening the road had to be found. Ms. Ward reported that over half of the recommended improvements are programmed or underway. There is no dedicated funding source for CMS projects. Projects are programmed as federal, state and local funds are identified.

Staff will check to see if the project on McMullen-Booth Road at Drew Street is on schedule. Construction is scheduled for 2006. This intersection is considered the biggest bottleneck on the corridor.

The Chair opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed.

ACTION: Councilmember Kriseman moved to approve the TIP priority lists. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The roll was called, and the board voted as follows: Chair Seel - Yes; Councilmember Kriseman - Yes; Mayor Arbutine - Yes; Councilmember Bryan - Yes; Commissioner Eggers - Yes; Mayor Hibbard - Yes; Mayor Mischler - Yes; Commissioner Stewart - Yes; Commissioner Duncan - Yes; Councilmember Ronecker - Yes. The motion carried unanimously.

C. TIP Amendments

*At 1:54 p.m., Commissioner Duncan left.

Brian Beaty of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presented two requests for amendments to the FY 2005/06-2009/10 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

First, it was reviewed that the State fiscal year begins on July 1 and the federal fiscal year begins on October 1. During the three-month gap between the two fiscal years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regards the earlier TIP—in this case, the FY 2005/06–2009/10—as the one in effect. Any new project requiring federal authorization that is added to the new FY 2006/07-2010/11 TIP during the gap period must be amended into the earlier, still effective TIP. It was noted that this procedural step occurs every year.

The first amendment requested would incorporate into the FY 2005/06-2009/10 TIP eleven new projects that were added to the first year of the FY 2006/07-2010/11 TIP. The TIP remains financially constrained.

The second amendment would add to the FY 2005/06-2009/10 TIP Project FPN 418770-1, a pedestrian trail extension project in downtown St. Petersburg. The project would be funded by an earmark. The amendment would move all of the funds into the design phase. Construction funds are being sought.

The Chair opened the public hearing. There was no public comment. The public hearing was closed.

ACTION: Councilmember Kriseman moved to approve the amendments to the TIP as requested by the FDOT. Councilmember Bryan seconded the motion. The roll was called, and the board voted as follows: Commissioner Seel - Yes; Councilmember Kriseman - Yes; Mayor Arbutine - Yes; Councilmember Bryan - Yes; Commissioner Eggers - Yes; Mayor Hibbard - Yes; Mayor Mischler - Yes; Commissioner Stewart - Yes; Councilmember Ronecker - Yes. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Traffic Signal Request - City of Seminole

Paul Bertels, chairman of the Traffic Signal and Median Control Committee (TS&MCC), reported that the City of Seminole had requested that a traffic signal be installed at 4900 Park Street. This would serve a retail center now under development and scheduled to open in 2007. It is projected that the signal would meet three of four applicable warrants when the retail center is open. There would be two traffic signals at two entrances controlled by the same controller. There would be limited access at the driveways. This would reduce the signal's phases and its impact on mainline traffic. The design would accommodate the County's plans to widen the road. The Pinellas County Traffic Engineering Department supports this design. At their meeting on May 24, the TS&MCC unanimously voted to recommend approval of the signal.

Steven Tindale and W. T. Bowman of Tindale-Oliver, the consultant for this signal project, explained the design of the signal and intersection. Traffic queuing was considered. The left-turn design would facilitate traffic movement. A median design would restrict neighborhood traffic driving through. The design would accommodate the County's widening plan for Park Street, as noted by Mr. Bertels. Tindale-Oliver's work indicates that the signal would meet all four warrants.

Mr. Bertels said that the neighborhood traffic issues were discussed at length by the TS&MCC, and they were told that the County had already worked this out. The neighborhood would have access to 80th Street N/S which connects to 46th Street. Peter Yauch of Pinellas County Engineering has informed Mr. Bertels that he does not want to change the traffic patterns that have been decided upon for the widening of Park Street and the access circulation. This signal design would fit into the County's design for the widening.

Tindale-Oliver met with the property owner and to ensure that the design would meet the requirements of the County's widening plans. The developer would pay for the signal's installation. The lights would go in before the six-laning is done, and the six-laning would overlay the signals.

The board discussed a possible signal at 46th Avenue in the future. Ken Jacobs of Pinellas County Traffic Engineering said that the intersection was analyzed for present and future conditions, and it didn't meet any warrants. Therefore, a signal wasn't planned or designed as part of the widening project.

The Chair opened the public hearing.

Mike Finnegan, owner of Spoto's Steak Joint, asked the board to approve the signal installation. He said that the businesses in the shopping center support this signal, especially since the road will be widened. It will make crossing the road safer. Any problem with people driving through their parking lot will occur in the morning. They are not concerned about traffic getting out but about traffic getting in.

There was no other public comment. The public hearing was closed.

Mr. Bertels said that that TS&MCC understood that the signal would be installed only if the retail center were built. With MPO approval, the City or the developer will hire a contractor to make the installation as the retail center is being built so that it will be ready when the center opens.

Mayor Mischler said that the signal should be activated ahead of the opening so that the general public can adjust to it.

ACTION: Mayor Mischler moved approval of the recommendations of the TS&MCC and that the signal be activated 30 days before the opening of the retail center. Mayor Hibbard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Seel and Mayor Mischler said that the neighborhood's residents and businesses should be advised that their median will be restricted.

E. Program of Projects for Congressional Earmark

This agenda item was included with the discussion of the Pinellas Mobility Initiative Report–Update. See Agenda Item VIII of these minutes.

VII. HEALTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION - FLORIDA ON THE MOVE

This agenda item was originally published as Agenda Item VIII.

*At 2:32 p.m., Chair Seel left.

Dr. Claude Dharamraj, Assistant Director of the Pinellas County Health Department, gave a presentation on "Florida on the Move in Pinellas County", part of the national program "America on the Move."

*At 2:34 p.m., Chair Seel returned.

The program's goal is to foster better health and disease prevention by encouraging people to eat less, focus on more healthful foods, and exercise more. The County has initiated the 100 Mile Club, a walking program.

*At 2:39 p.m., Commissioner Stewart left and Commissioner Duncan returned.

The City of Clearwater has initiated programs as well. People who wish to join "Florida on the Move" can do so online. Information brochures were distributed to the board.

VIII. PINELLAS MOBILITY INITIATIVE REPORT–UPDATE

This agenda item was originally published as Agenda Item VII. It includes the discussion of Agenda Item VI-E.

Ms. Ward presented the program of projects for the Congressional earmark. Staff is working with federal agencies regarding how the earmark will be administered. At this time, the full \$2.9 million earmark appears in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the MPO. At its March meeting, the board allocated \$2.3 million to the PSTA for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, with the remaining funds to be used for a Countywide BRT plan and the fixed guideway study for Clearwater.

*At 2:45 p.m., Commissioner Stewart returned.

Staff has received word from the federal agencies and the Department of Transportation that the earmark can be split. Therefore, there is a TIP amendment to move the \$2.3 million that is to go to the PSTA. The program of projects for the MPO will remain the BRT plan and the Clearwater guideway study. Also, the Joint Participation Agreement in the consent agenda will be unnecessary now because no pass-through arrangement is needed.

The board then discussed the BRT study and the Clearwater guideway project. Chair Seel said that the BRT study should be made in conjunction with PSTA. Mr. Smith said that staff had assured federal agencies that the study is coordinated.

Mayor Hibbard said that when the City of Clearwater committed \$400,000 to a \$1.6 million PMI project, it thought it would be getting the remaining \$1.2 million from the earmark. However, the MPO has taken a different path. Therefore, the \$400,000 is no longer committed and will be used at the discretion of the City. Mr. Smith said that after Phase I, the MPO will have more information to make financial decisions.

Commissioner Duncan said that this was discussed at the PMI meeting. The PMI Steering Committee requested that staff initiate a Request for Proposal for this project. The committee wanted an RFP because the Scope of Work for that particular project is in segments, and they want to see what the segments would cost and what they could buy with the monies from the earmark, the City, and any future monies from the additional appropriation over the next four years.

Mayor Hibbard reported that he had attended the Conference of Mayors and had met with the mayors of Denver, Salt Lake City, and Seattle. These cities have successful light rail systems. He hoped that the MPO would be a leader in the Tampa Bay area because the transportation problems need to be solved through mass transit as well as roads.

The public hearing was opened.

City of Dunedin Commissioner Deborah Kynes, chairperson of the PSTA Board of Directors, thanked the MPO for moving forward on the BRT project.

There was no other public comment. The public hearing was closed.

ACTION: Mayor Hibbard moved approval of the two agenda items, which included: a) To approve the MPO program of projects as modified; b) to approve a TIP amendment to show \$2.3 million for the PSTA for the Downtown BRT project; c) to approve the Scope of Services for the Clearwater guideway project; and d) to authorize the Request for Proposal process for the Clearwater guideway project. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion. The roll was called, and the board voted as follows: Councilmember Kriseman - Yes; Mayor Arbutine - Yes; Councilmember Bryan - Yes; Commissioner Eggers - Yes; Mayor Hibbard - Yes; Mayor Mischler - Yes; Commissioner Stewart - Yes; Commissioner Duncan - Yes; Commissioner Ronecker - Yes; Commissioner Seel - Yes. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. ENHANCEMENT PROJECT LISTS

*At 2:55 p.m., Mayor Hibbard left.

Ms. Ward reviewed a table of updated cost estimates for pending Enhancement projects and for former Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) projects that could be considered for Enhancement funds. The advisory committees will review and prioritize these projects, and their recommendations will be presented to the MPO in August.

*At 2:56 p.m., Mayor Hibbard returned.

The list is comprised mostly of bicycle and pedestrian facility projects. A developer contribution will be made to the Skyway Trail in St. Petersburg, and this will reduce the request from the City.

There is not a lot of money in Enhancement reserves. In outer years, there are approximately \$1.5 million per year. This is about 1/3 of what used to be received via CMAQ. The Penny for Pinellas is another possible source of funds.

Bob Clifford of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) said that the Department is interested in the projects that have been through the review and approval process and are ready to go so that they can be programmed in the fall by the FDOT. The advisory committees should first prioritize the projects that are ready to go and then prioritize the ones pending more information. Or, they could program the projects that are ready to go until they run out of money.

Paul Bertels of the City of Clearwater said that several projects were CMAQ projects that were deemed eligible, feasible, and ready to go before the CMAQ funds ended. Therefore, some of these projects may just need paperwork to transfer them to the Enhancement category. Ms. Ward responded that the old CMAQ projects must be reviewed under the Enhancement criteria. Also, nothing precludes an agency from working with the FDOT now on a project-related issue.

Chair Seel said that there remains some urgency in getting this work done quickly so that the MPO doesn't lose FY 05/06 funds.

Joe Kubicki of the City of St. Petersburg provided information on the Clam Bayou project. Originally, this was a single project being built in conjunction with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD). The project area is split by 22nd Avenue South. The City has been able to proceed faster than SWFWMD with its part of the project. Therefore, the northern half of the project—Phase I—could be started ahead of the southern half—Phase II. The City wants to split the project so that Phase I won't be delayed by Phase II. There has been enough money for Phase I, but Phase II is \$400,000 short. The City is requesting those monies.

Chair Seel noted that several CMAQ projects had been funded in the final years of the program, but eventually there was not enough money for them. According to last month's materials, there are many funded CMAQ projects that didn't make it onto the TE chart. Mr. Smith responded that several of those projects were separately funded in other ways. Staff will report back on what happened to those.

Chair Seel said that to be fair, the MPO should first look at the projects that were originally funded in the program as higher priority, because that was the MPO's plan. Those projects should then be combined with the TE projects that were already determined eligible and feasible. She asked staff to review the chart of available reserves, the TE eligible and feasible projects that are programmed, and then consider the new list and also the other CMAQ projects from prior years, including how they were prioritized at the time. The original priority should be communicated to the advisory committees. They should get the May and June information, which would be the most complete information.

Staff will review the full CMAQ list looking for projects that would be TE eligible.

ACTION: Commissioner Duncan moved that the MPO send the list to the advisory committees for prioritization and also check the funded CMAQ projects of the final year of the program, FY 05/06, for eligibility. The motion was seconded, and it carried.

X. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

A. CTC Evaluation

Under Florida statutes, the Designated Official Planning Agency (DOPA) for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program must make an annual evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC). The evaluation report is then forwarded to the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD).

At its March 28 meeting, the Local Coordinating Board requested MPO staff to conduct the annual evaluation of the CTC. The evaluation found that the CTC is in compliance with all TD Program requirements. At its May meeting, the LCB recommended that the MPO approve the evaluation report.

ACTION: Mayor Hibbard moved to approve and forward the CTC Evaluation Report. Mayor Mischler seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

B. Coordination and Provider Contracts

Staff reported that the MPO's current contracts with the operators who provide the ambulatory and wheelchair transportation services under the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program will expire on July 31. The coordination contracts with the social service agencies providing transportation to their own clients will also expire on July 31. The Local Coordinating Board (LCB) recommended that the MPO renew these contracts for a two-year period from August 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008.

TD Program funds received from the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) are tied to the number of trips reported in the Annual Operations Report (AOR). By adding the PSTA to the system, the MPO would be better able to secure additional funding for the TD Program in the future. The PSTA did not sign a contract last year. However, the LCB would still like to have a contract with them and is pursuing such action.

Roger Sweeney, Executive Director of the PSTA, said that they had a contract with the MPO mainly as a result of the Medicaid bus program. When there was no longer a Medicaid bus program, the PSTA had no need for a contract. If there were another reason for the PSTA to form a contract, they would be happy to discuss it.

ACTION: Councilmember Bryan moved to approve the renewal of the operator and coordinated agency contracts for August 1, 2006 to June 30, 2008. Councilmember Kriseman seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

XI. ADVANCED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Charlie Robbins of DMJM Harris, consultant to the MPO, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the final draft of the master plan for the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS), the traffic signal system component of the Countywide Intelligent Transportation System (ITS). The presentation included summaries of an assessment of what has been done to date in the program; a benefit/cost analysis; an implementation plan; and operations and maintenance recommendations.

Staff reported that the ITS Advisory Committee recommended that the MPO authorize the development of the remaining components of the ITS master plan. These components are: 1) Law Enforcement; 2) 911/Emergency Communications; 3) Emergency Medical Services; 4) Fire Administration; and 5) the technical advisory committees of the MPO.

Chair Seel noted that the Board of County Commissioners had approved a 1 cent increase in the County gas tax. This was not in the work plan. Staff will use the new phasing and staging of the implementation, give an idea of when this could be accomplished, and lay out the work program.

Chair Seel asked board members to be thinking of a name for the ATMS system. One suggestion is "Pathways."

ACTION: Mayor Hibbard moved to approve the ATMS master plan and to initiate the development of the other components of the ITS master plan. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

XII. BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Pinellas Trails Naming Proposal

At its meeting on May 22, the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) considered a recommendation initiated by Pinellas Trails, Inc., a non-profit citizen group. They noted that the original Pinellas Trail, begun in 1990, was a corridor from Tarpon Springs to St. Petersburg. Over the years, many segments with different names have been added to this corridor; and now, a loop of trails of almost 80 miles exists within the County. The BAC also recognized that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) operates and maintains the Pinellas Trail. Therefore, the BAC passed their Motion #06-1, urging the MPO to recommend to the BCC that the existing loop of trails be named the "Pinellas Trails."

Several board members questioned the appropriateness of this action. They also expressed concern that Pinellas Trails, Inc., which has no affiliation with the MPO, would have naming rights. Several members said that they had not had sufficient time to discuss this with their constituencies.

Chair Seel noted that Pinellas Trails, Inc. started the Pinellas Trail and continues to work to add enhancements to it. Their concern seems to be the connectivity of the many segments.

ACTION: Mayor Hibbard moved to table the item to a future meeting. Councilmember Kriseman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

B. Priority of Pinellas Trail Loop

At its meeting on May 22, the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) passed Motion #06-2 to recommend that the MPO establish as a priority the completion of the Pinellas Trail loop. The Penny extension was suggested as a source of funds. Costs to complete the loop are unknown.

Commissioner Stewart said that prioritizing the Penny projects and funds is solely the purview of the municipalities and that the MPO should not be making recommendations in this regard.

ACTION: Councilmember Bryan moved to receive BAC Motion #06-2 for file. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

XIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Florida Senate Bill 2236 has revised the membership of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board of Directors. It is expected that County Commissioners Duncan, Harris, Latvala and Morroni will serve on that board.

*At 3:44 p.m., Commissioner Eggers left.

Councilmember Bryan said that while the new PSTA board will need time to adjust, this legislative action was a good move for the future of transportation in the County. He thanked all the agencies for their work and cooperation.

Mayor Arbutine said that the PSTA is the mass transit authority in the County and that he hopes the County will rely on them as such.

XIV. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

ACTION: Councilmember Kriseman moved: a) to appoint Cheryl Stacks to both the Bicycle Advisory Committee and the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee as the City of St. Petersburg's technical representative; and b) to appoint Ms. Stacks to the Technical Coordinating Committee as the City of St. Petersburg's alternate representative of the Department of Transportation and Parking. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ACTION: Councilmember Kriseman moved to appoint Sharen Jarzen to the Technical Coordinating Committee as the representative of the City of Seminole. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

XV. PSTA ACTIVITIES

The PSTA's Board of Directors met on May 24. Minutes were included with meeting materials. Mayor Arbutine noted that it is hurricane season. Pets will be permitted on the PSTA's buses, if space is available, in the event of an evacuation. They must be in pet carriers. Passengers who intend to take a pet to a shelter must register in advance with Pinellas County Animal Control, whose phone number is 727-582-2600.

XVI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. TS&MCC Procedural Considerations

At the request of the Traffic Signal and Median Control Committee, staff will clarify the MPO's expectations regarding the TS&MCC's review of requests for traffic signal installations and their recommendations. Staff will make a report to the MPO in August.

B. Tierra Verde Bridge

The board discussed the malfunction of the Tierra Verde bridge over the Memorial Day weekend, at which time it was stuck open.

Bob Clifford of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) said that currently there are no funds to replace the bridge. There is a PD&E study underway to determine the long-term solution for the bridge. Beyond that, there is a program of maintenance projects to keep that bridge operating until the FDOT decides what to do about the bridge, which could be a major rehabilitation, or to replace parts, or to build a new bridge.

Councilmember Bryan noted that the bridge is the only access to Tierra Verde. There is no way to drive around the bridge. This bridge should be a high priority, particularly because of its importance during hurricane emergencies. If it stays open during a hurricane, people will be trapped there.

Mr. Clifford said that the bridge would be locked down in a hurricane situation. The exact time would be decided by the emergency directives.

At Commissioner Duncan's request, the FDOT will inform the citizens of Tierra Verde what plans are in place for a repair.

C. Status of Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Spending

A chart showing Medicaid NET expenditures through April 2006 was included with meeting materials.

D. Joint CCC

The Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee met on June 9, 2006. On the same day, the CCC met with the Central Florida MPO Alliance. The CCC is going to set up a group to work on drafting transportation legislation.

E. Correspondence

A letter was received from the Board of County Commissioners regarding installing mast arm signals at West Bay Drive and Indian Rocks Road.

F. Other

Councilmember Bryan requested that the MPO allot time at the September board meeting for a report on Gandy Boulevard.

G. Next Meeting

The MPO will not meet in July. The board's next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 16, at 1:00 p.m.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Karen Williams Seel, Chair