



# **MEETING SUMMARY**

From the Meeting of the  
**SCHOOL PLANNING WORK GROUP**  
September 28, 2007, at 10:00 am

Welcome and Introductions

**I. Proposed School Closures and Proposed Program Changes**

As the School Board has not come to a final decision regarding student assignment for the 2008-2009 school year, school closures and program changes are unknown at this time. Once the Board takes final action on student assignment plans in November, the Work Group can reconvene to discuss any implications that the adopted changes will have on school concurrency and adjust plans accordingly.

**II. Proposed Changes to Attendance Areas and Concurrency Service Areas**

It was decided that we will retain the current Concurrency Service Areas as they are. The School District suggested that the group take a 'wait-and-see' approach to the altering of Concurrency Service Areas. Until a final student assignment plan is in place and any grandfathering of students has ended, it will not be known what the actual makeup of the Concurrency Service Areas will be. Altering the Areas too often may serve to confuse those seeking concurrency approvals for development. There are simply too many unknowns at this time to proceed with any alteration of the Concurrency Service Areas.

**III. Creation of the Development Tracking System**  
**a. Current Status**

The County has received approval to move forward with the development tracking system, despite recent budget cuts. However, the Information Technology department tasked with the system's development will not be able to begin working on the system until January. Gordon has been in contact with the person

responsible for the system's development, as has asked if there is anything the Work Group could be doing in the meantime to prepare for the tracking system's development. He is awaiting an answer and will forward any information received to the rest of the Work Group. The City of St. Petersburg mentioned that they already report a large amount of information to the School District which may suffice for the tracking system data requirements. Gordon stated that he will take a look at the format they use and the data they report. St. Pete's system may be able to serve as a model for other communities to report data to the County for the development tracking system.

#### **IV. Preparation of Procedure Manual for School Concurrency and Implementation of the Public Schools Interlocal Agreement**

##### **a. Creation of a sub-group to develop the manual**

While waiting for the development tracking system to come online, Gordon proposed that the Group begin developing the Procedural Manual for school concurrency, as agreed to in the Interlocal Agreement. It was suggested that the members of the development tracking system sub-group begin working on the manual in the coming weeks, with a draft to be completed by the end of the year. Gordon developed a hand-out of the items that he believes should be covered in Procedural Manual, and gave this out to the Group for their review and comment.

#### **V. Development of a Level of Service Report**

Although Pinellas County will not be required to create a Level of Service report this year, it would be a good time to develop a standardized method for the development of the form and create a scaled-down version of the report for this year, to be completed in December. Marshall indicated that while he is currently very busy with developing the new student assignment plan, he should be able to develop such a version of the Report. The Pinellas County Planning Department offered their assistance in the Report's development if necessary.

#### **VI. Update on Student Transportation**

There may be some significant changes to student transportation, depending upon the student assignment plan chosen by the School Board. One plan under consideration would require more children to walk to school or to provide their own transportation to

other schools. This could have implications for the safety of children as they walk to and from schools, and for the roadways throughout the County as more and more students are being driven to school in private vehicles. There may be a need for more crossing guards, sidewalks, etc. depending upon the student assignment plan chosen.

### **Assignments and Next Meeting Date**

The School Board recently adopted the Five-Year Work Program. It was decided that each local government should alter their Public School Facilities Elements to state that the Five-Year Work Program will be adopted in its entirety, instead of specifying certain sections for adoption. Appendix C will incorporate a "Summary of the Five-Year Work Program" and the summary should indicate that it is for informational purposes. The Capital Project Schedules table should be the basis for this summary.

The next meeting date will be scheduled for January, unless something comes up at an earlier date, at which time the Work Group will reconvene.