

AGENDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2012
1:00 P.M.
BOARD ASSEMBLY ROOM – 5th FLOOR
CLEARWATER COURTHOUSE
315 COURT STREET, CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
- II. **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**
- III. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**
Citizen comments to the MPO are invited on items or concerns not already scheduled for public hearing on today's agenda. Please limit comments to three minutes.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of April 11, 2012
 - B. Approval of Printing of Transportation Disadvantaged Trip Verification Forms
- V. **PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MPO'S TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**
 - A. 30th Avenue North Bicycle Facility From 58th Street to Martin Luther King Street
 - B. S.R. 682 (Bayway) From Gulf Intercoastal Draw Bridge to Pine Bayway Toll Plaza
 - C. Nursery Road From Oakadia Drive East to Belcher Road
 - D. City of St. Petersburg on Street Bicycle Lanes – Phase II – Various Locations
- VI. **PRESENTATION ON ST PETERSBURG TRAILS PROGRAM**
- VII. **UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)**
- VIII. **INITIATION OF THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**
- IX. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**
- X. **REQUEST FOR FUNDING** – Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)
- XI. **COMMITTEE ACTIONS**
 - A. Citizens Advisory Committee – Encourage Ban on Texting While Driving
 - B. Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee – Gulf Boulevard Pedestrian Treatments
 - C. Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - 1. Gulf Boulevard Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities
 - 2. Recognizing May as National Bike Month – Including Resolution
 - 3. Recognizing St. Petersburg's CityTrails Program – Recommended the City Present this Program to the MPO
- XII. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**
- XIII. **PSTA ACTIVITIES**
- XIV. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - A. Follow-up on Federal Transit Administration Financial Management Oversight Review
 - B. MPOAC Report
 - C. Correspondence
 - D. Other
- XV. **ADJOURNMENT**

CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting of April 11, 2012

ATTACHMENT: [Minutes of April 11, 2012](#)

B. APPROVAL OF PRINTING OF TD TRIP VERIFICATION FORMS

Additional trip verification forms are needed for the Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) Program. Staff requests approval for printing 10,000 copies at a price of approximately \$240. The MPO will use the County Print Shop.

ATTACHMENT: None

MPO: 05/09/12

PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MPO'S TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) is proposing four amendments to the Pinellas County MPO FY 2011/12 – 2015/16 Transportation Improvement Program. These are described below.

1. **FPN# 424532-8 – 30th Avenue North Bicycle Facility from 58th Street North to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street North with Share the Road Signs**
This amendment adds \$290,000 in FY 2012/13 for the design phase of a project to construct a four-foot wide bicycle lane along 30th Avenue North. The funding source for this phase of the project is from the Transportation Enhancement fund.
2. **FPN# 424532-5 – SR 682 (Pinellas Bayway) from the Gulf Intercoastal Draw Bridge to Pinellas Bayway Toll Plaza**
This amendment adds \$290,000 in FY 2012/13 for the design phase of the construction of a multi-use trail, Bayway Trail North (Phase II). The funding source for this phase of the project is from the Transportation Enhancement fund.
3. **FPN# 430405-2 – Nursery Road Sidewalk from Oakadia Drive West to Belcher Road**
This amendment adds \$580,000 in FY 2012/13 for the construction phase of a sidewalk project. The funding source for the construction phase is the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) fund.
4. **FPN# 424532-1 – Bicycle Facilities at multiple locations in St. Petersburg**
This amendment adds \$40,175 in FY 2012/13 for the design phase of a project to construct bicycle lanes at multiple locations within the City of St. Petersburg. The funding source for this phase of the project is from the Transportation Enhancement fund.

Both the Technical Coordinating Committee and Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed the TIP amendments at their April meetings. Both committees recommended that the MPO approve the amendments.

ATTACHMENTS: [TIP Amendment Forms and Maps](#)

ACTION: MPO to approve TIP amendments by roll call vote

MPO: 05/09/12

PRESENTATION ON ST PETERSBURG TRAILS PROGRAM

Several years ago, the City of St. Petersburg began a concerted effort to address bicycle and pedestrian issues, including high pedestrian and bicyclist crash rates. The initiative began with the development of a Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan designed to create a long-term vision of how the City would continue to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, convenience, and accessibility. The Master Plan was adopted in 2003 and, since that time, the City has greatly expanded its bicycle and pedestrian network through a combination off road trails, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. In addition to providing additional facilities, the City increased it education and enforcement efforts at all levels, targeting motorists, bicyclist, and pedestrian. As a result, the City has seen a significant reduction in crashes, while the usage of these facilities has increased.

The City has been recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. To that end, the City staff has been invited to provide a presentation to the MPO Board about its activities.

ATTACHMENT: None

ACTION: None required, informational item

MPO: 05/09/12

MPO AGENDA ITEM VII.

UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP)

As required by federal and state law, the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) identifies all transportation planning activities to be undertaken by the MPO over the next two fiscal years, including tasks identified by the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District 7 Office. The UPWP also identifies federal, state and local planning funds allocated for each of the tasks included in the MPO planning program. In addition to executing the policies and objectives of the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, the UPWP supports the national planning priorities set forth by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and FDOT. Major tasks that will be emphasized in the FY 2012/13 and 2013/14 UPWP and funding allocations are shown below.

- Long Range Transportation Plan Update, including Integration of LRTP with Countywide Future Land Use Plan.
- Biennial State of the System Report.
- Regional planning activity associated with the Chairs Coordinating Committee and the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA).
- Public Participation Plan Evaluation.
- Completion and implementation of Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Pinellas Alternatives Analysis (AA) follow-up activity.
- Development of Countywide Mobility Plan.

Fiscal Year	FHWA PL (Sec. 112)	FHWA STP	FTA Sec. 5303	FTA JARC Sec. 5316	FTA NF Sec. 5317	CTD	Total
2012/13	\$1,043,467	\$350,000	\$412,023	\$27,674	\$6,579	\$36,211	\$1,876,044
2013/14	\$1,042,903	\$350,000	\$412,023			\$36,211	\$1,841,137
Total	\$2,086,370	\$700,000	\$824,046	\$27,674	\$6,579	\$72,422	\$3,717,181

Notes:

- 1) FHWA = Federal Highway Administration
- 2) FTA = Federal Transit Administration
- 3) JARC = Jobs Access Reverse Commute
- 4) NF = New Freedom
- 5) CTD = Florida Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged
- 6) Table does not include matching funds
- 7) Sec. 5303 allocations are projections

At their meeting on March 14, 2012, the MPO approved a draft FY 2012/13 - 2013/14 UPWP for review by the Federal Transit and Highway Administration agencies, the Florida Department of Transportation, and the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Comments received from the review agencies with corresponding staff responses are included in the appendix. The review agency comments have been incorporated in the document.

ATTACHMENTS: [FY 2012/13 and 2013/14 UPWP \(MPO members only\)](#)

ACTION: MPO to approve the FY 2012/13 and 2013/14 UPWP

MPO: 05/09/12

MPO AGENDA ITEM VIII.

INITIATION OF THE LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE

The MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is required by law to be updated every five years. The most recent update with the horizon year 2035 was adopted by the MPO in 2009. The 2040 LRTP update is scheduled for adoption in December 2014 and staff has already begun some early activities to begin the update. As an initial part of the update process, MPO staff has been providing data to the Florida Department of Transportation to input into the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Model. Staff has also begun the development of planning assumptions and a review of the adopted goals, objectives, and policies in the LRTP. To continue forward with the LRTP update, staff will begin engaging the community and working with the local governments in Pinellas County to develop socioeconomic data projections. Staff was authorized to move forward with these tasks by the MPO Board at its February 2012 meeting. At this time, the Scope of Services for those tasks is presented to provide details concerning the community engagement that is planned.

A large part of the public involvement effort associated with the 2040 LRTP will include targeted community outreach and coordination with the local jurisdictions in the Pinellas Alternatives Analysis (AA) study area. In addition, the Locally Preferred Alternative from the AA will provide an alternative land use scenario for the 2040 LRTP update and will further engage the community in a discussion about the results of the AA study and about other transportation issues important to all citizens of Pinellas County. These early tasks serve to revalidate the planning assumptions necessary for the development of the 2040 LRTP, help the MPO to provide input into the update of the Countywide Land Use Plan, and help guide the direction of the next LRTP update as a whole.

Staff has developed a comprehensive Scope of Services to cover all work for the primary consultant who will assist with the LRTP update. In order to begin work on Tasks 1 and 2 early, they are being separated from the rest of the Scope. The remaining parts of the Scope will be presented to the MPO as individual tasks are initiated.

After a review of each of the General Planning Consultants (GPCs) proposals and additional information provided regarding each of their approaches to various activities required for the LRTP update, MPO staff has determined that the Tindale-Oliver and Associates (TOA) team has the most experience in LRTP development and would be best suited to serve as the primary consultant assisting MPO staff with the 2040 LRTP update. The TOA team includes TOA, Jacobs Engineering Group, and Jane English Design.

This item will include a staff review of upcoming tasks relating to the LRTP update.

ATTACHMENT: [Pinellas County MPO Long Range Transportation Plan Scope of Services, Tasks 1 and 2](#)

ACTION: None required, information item

MPO: 05/09/12

MPO AGENDA ITEM IX.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Attached is the 2012 summary of State transportation-related legislation. Staff will highlight items of interest to the MPO.

ATTACHMENT: [2012 Summary of State Legislation](#)

ACTION: None required, informational item

MPO: 05/09/12

MPO AGENDA ITEM X.

REQUEST FOR FUNDING – Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority

The Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) was created by the Florida Legislature in 2007 and charged with, among other things, developing a regional transportation master plan for the seven-county area that includes Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando, Sarasota, Manatee, and Citrus Counties. Since TBARTA's creation, the Florida Department of Transportation has provided some funds for technical studies, including the funding needed to develop the Master Plan. TBARTA also received a legislative appropriation for administrative costs, a portion of which was cut by the Governor in 2011.

The TBARTA Board recently took action to request that local governments/MPOs in the region provide local funding support for TBARTA operations. The amount of funds requested from each local entity is based on the county's population. The request for Pinellas County is \$37,905.

This item was tabled last month to allow a representative of TBARTA to attend the meeting to respond to any questions members may have.

ATTACHMENT: None

ACTION: As deemed appropriate based on discussion

MPO: 05/09/12

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

A. Citizens Advisory Committee – Encourage Ban on Texting While Driving

At their regularly-scheduled meeting of March 22, 2012, the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) passed a motion recommending that the MPO send a letter to the Legislature indicating the MPO’s disappointment that the Legislature did not approve legislation banning texting while driving. At the April 11, 2012 MPO meeting, the MPO discussed the CAC’s proposal and decided to send it back to the CAC to discuss the possibility of broadening the recommendation to include other types of distracted driving as well.

At their regularly-scheduled meeting of April 26, 2012, the CAC confirmed their March 22, 2012 motion and recommended that the MPO view the video that was shown at the April 26, 2012 CAC meeting.

ATTACHMENT: [CAC Motion #12-3](#)

ACTION: MPO to approve CAC recommendation or take other action based on discussion

MPO: 05/09/12

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

B. Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee – Gulf Boulevard Pedestrian Treatments

At its March 19, 2012 meeting, the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) hosted a Stakeholders Workshop for pedestrian safety along the Gulf Boulevard corridor. Stretching along the barrier islands of Pinellas County and connecting eleven beach communities, Gulf Boulevard is a unique roadway that serves walkers, bicyclists, and transit users as well as motorists and is adjacent to beach access facilities, restaurants, hotels, convenience stores, and other commercial establishments. The various trip generators and destinations result in frequent pedestrian crossings of Gulf Boulevard. In addition, the Gulf of Mexico beaches attract many tourists making pedestrian safety education a major challenge.

FDOT has made significant investments both in design and construction of high-emphasis mid-block pedestrian crossings to improve the pedestrian facilities along this corridor. Currently, FDOT has proposed median modifications to improve the safety of midblock pedestrian crossings between Treasure Island and Walsingham Road/S.R. 688.

At its April 16, 2012 meeting, the PTAC discussed the Stakeholder's Workshop for Pedestrian Midblock Median Improvements and noted the comprehensive evaluation for each proposed median location. The Committee agreed that a consistent approach to midblock pedestrian crosswalk treatments improves motorist expectation and increases safety for the entire community. The PTAC noted that concrete medians and pedestrian refuge areas help reduce crashes by over 45% and are recognized by the Federal Highway Administration as one of the most effective crash countermeasures (<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/>).

The PTAC commends FDOT District 7 for its commitment to reduce pedestrian-related crashes, injuries, and fatalities and would like to thank FDOT for the pedestrian safety initiatives along Gulf Boulevard including midblock crosswalks and concrete pedestrian medians.

ATTACHMENT: [Memo Dated April 30, 2012 From PTAC Chairman](#)

ACTION: MPO to approve PTAC recommendation

MPO: 05/09/12

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

C. Bicycle Advisory Committee

1. Gulf Boulevard Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities

At its meeting of April 23, 2012, the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) had a discussion about their ongoing concerns with the bicycle and pedestrian facilities installed in the area of Gulf Boulevard between Walsingham Road and Park Boulevard. First raised with the MPO at its October 2010 meeting, the Committee has expressed ongoing concern with the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians along this section of roadway, which presents a unique challenge with limited right-of-way, significant drainage issues, and a history of bicycle and pedestrian related crashes. This section of Gulf Boulevard, which is often refers to as the “Narrows”, was reconstructed several years ago but, because of right-of-way constraints and the associated cost of acquiring additional right of way, the Florida Department of Transportation was unable to install “traditional” bicycle and pedestrian improvements. As such, an innovative application of permeable asphalt was employed to assist with drainage. In addition, a wide paved shoulder was provided to accommodate both bicyclists and pedestrians instead of traditional urban style gutters, concrete curbs, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. Colorized asphalt was utilized on pedestrian walkways to highlight and emphasize its use, and standard width bicycle lanes were striped and designated.

After receiving information that motorists were using the paved area intended solely for bicyclists and pedestrians to pass stopped vehicles, FDOT installed long sections of quick curb with bollards between the bicycle lane and the pedestrian walkway. The BAC felt the raised quick curb created a hazard and obstruction for bicyclists. The BAC, instead, prefers an installation with thin posts and bases rather than the initial quick curb/bollard treatments. They feel this is safer for cyclists and more visible to motorists.

MPO staff recently participated in meetings with representatives of the BAC, FDOT, and the Mayors of Indian Rocks Beach and Indian Shores wherein the Mayors asked FDOT to consider removing the bollards and replacing them with a modified design. FDOT has indicated to the cities that it will replace the bollards during routine maintenance but, based on surveys of users in the area, did not feel it was warranted at this time. The Mayors are continuing to work with FDOT on this issue.

The BAC recommends that the MPO request that FDOT replace the remaining quick curb and bollards as soon as possible and replace them with the thin post and bases which are more visible to motorists. The BAC feels that the newer thin post treatments provide increased safety and awareness of pedestrians, while also providing a clear, unobstructed 5-ft path for cyclists.

2. Recognizing May as National Bike Month- Including Resolution

At its April 23, 2012 meeting, the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) observed that the month of May is National Bicycle Month. The Committee discussed the extreme need for bicycle safety and education. The Committee also noted the number of serious bicycle crashes so far in 2012, including recent bicycle fatalities.

National Bicycle Month was developed to promote bicycling as a viable and responsible transportation choice. National Bicycle Month activities raise awareness of cycling, the need for bicycle facilities, bicycle education, and the many health benefits associated with this type of physical activity. Riding a bicycle benefits everyone from individuals to the entire Tampa Bay community as bicycle commuters save money and gas, stay fit, and reduce traffic congestion.

The BAC recommends that the MPO approve the attached resolution in support of National Bicycle Month, May 2012.

COMMITTEE ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

C. Bicycle Advisory Committee

3. Recognizing St. Petersburg's City/Trails Program – Recommended the City Present This Program to the MPO

At its April 23, 2012 meeting, the BAC received a brief update regarding the trail projects within the City of St. Petersburg. The status update included project information about the North Bay Trail, the Clam Bayou/Skyway Trail System, the Bayway Trail, and the Historic Booker Creek Trail. The Committee was also informed that St. Petersburg was recognized as one of the Top 10 Cities for Cycling (www.shermanstravel.com/top-tens/top-10-cities-for-cycling/st-petersburg-florida), constructing over 35-miles of trails and 75-miles of on-street bicycle lanes.

During the updates, the BAC emphasized that the City has greatly expanded its trail network and has constructed many miles of new bicycle lanes and sidewalks since the CityTrails Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted in 2003. In addition, the Committee noted that recognition as one of the Top 10 Cities for Cycling was a major accomplishment. With all of the less than complimentary publicity regarding bicycling in the Florida, the BAC felt this was a major step in the right direction.

The BAC requested the City of St. Petersburg be acknowledged for its achievements and decisive policies to provide bicycle, pedestrian, and trail facilities throughout the City. The Committee also requested St. Petersburg staff provide the MPO with an updated status of the CityTrails program at its next meeting.

A representative from the City of St. Petersburg will provide the MPO with an update of the CityTrails program. The review will include the Clam Bayou Trail, North Bay Trail, Bayway Trail Phase I, and Historic Booker Creek Trail Phase I that are expected to be completed in 2012.

ATTACHMENTS: [BAC Memo Dated May 2, 2012 From BAC Chairman Tom Ferraro](#)

[MPO Resolution #12-4](#)

[BAC Motion #12-1](#)

ACTION:

MPO: 05/09/12

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

A. Local Coordinating Board

The MPO office has received notice that Aaron Lounsberry, who was serving as the Agency for Health Care Administration, Area 5 Medicaid Office, representative on the Local Coordinating Board (LCB) has accepted a new position and is recommending Jim Callaway as his replacement.

ATTACHMENT: [LCB Membership](#)
[Email Recommending Jim Callaway to the LCB](#)

ACTION: MPO to appoint Jim Callaway as the Agency for Health Care Administration representative on the LCB

B. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The CAC has three vacancies: two for St. Petersburg and one for the Beaches area. The City of St. Petersburg is recommending David Harris be appointed as a St. Petersburg representative. The CAC meets on the 4th Thursday at 7:00 p.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room, located at 600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750, Clearwater, FL.

ATTACHMENTS: [CAC Geographic Listing](#)
[Background Information for David Harris](#)

ACTION: MPO to appoint David Harris as a St. Petersburg representative on the CAC

C. Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

The BAC has two vacancies: one for Clearwater and one for North County. The BAC meets on the 4th Monday at 8:30 a.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room, located at 600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750, Clearwater, FL.

ATTACHMENT: [BAC Geographic Listing](#)

ACTION: As deemed appropriate based on discussion

D. Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC)

The PTAC has vacancies for the Mid-County and At Large areas. The PTAC meets on the 3rd Monday at 8:30 a.m. in the Planning Department Conference Room, located at 600 Cleveland Street, Suite 750, Clearwater, FL.

ATTACHMENT: [PTAC Geographic Listing](#)

ACTION: As deemed appropriate based on discussion

MPO AGENDA ITEM XIII.

PSTA ACTIVITIES

In accordance with the usual practice, this item will be a report as to the recent PSTA activities as they relate to the MPO. This is also an opportunity for any MPO member to take up any business as it relates to the PSTA and the MPO Board.

ATTACHMENT: [April 2012 PSTA Board Meeting Summary](#)

ACTION: As deemed appropriate based on discussion

MPO: 05/09/12

OTHER BUSINESS

A. Follow-up on Federal Transit Administration Financial Management Oversight Review

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) continues to move forward with its Financial Management Oversight (FMO) Review of the MPO and its New Freedom Program subrecipient Quality of Life Community Services, Inc. (QOLCS). On April 24, the FTA and its contracted auditors held an exit conference with the MPO to review preliminary findings. They provided the attached “Preliminary Summary of Exceptions” document describing some of the more significant findings relating to procurement and grants management by QOLCS. The FTA emphasized that these findings are preliminary and will not be considered official until the final report is delivered. The next steps involve development of a draft report which will be transmitted to FTA by the auditors within 30 days of the exit conference. Once FTA approves that report, they will transmit it to the Pinellas County MPO. The MPO then has 30 days to provide comments on the draft report. The FTA has 21 days after receipt of comments to incorporate them into a final report.

Staff met with QOLCS on April 26 to review the preliminary summary of exceptions. QOLCS said they wanted to provide a written response to the document and MPO staff agreed to forward anything provided by QOLCS to the FTA. Staff also attended the Hillsborough County Local Coordinating Board (LCB) meeting on April 26 where this issue was also discussed. The Hillsborough LCB expressed concern about the length of time it’s taken for FTA to complete this review. Staff also has expressed its concerns to FTA about the need to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

ATTACHMENT: [“Preliminary Summary of Exceptions”](#)

B. MPOAC Report

The MPOAC meeting was held on April 26 in Orlando. MPO staff and/or Councilman Danner, MPOAC representative, will provide a report.

ATTACHMENT: [MPOAC Agendas](#)

C. Correspondence

At this time, the MPO may take up other matters that might be identified by the members.

ATTACHMENT: [Letter Dated April 23, 2012 From Paul Bertels, City of Clearwater, Responding to Safety Concerns on the Pinellas Trail at Court Street](#)

D. Other

At this time, the MPO may take up other matters that might be identified by the members.

