

PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MINUTES - MEETING OF FEBRUARY 10, 2010

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, February 10, 2010 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Arbutine – *Chairman* – Mayor, City of Belleair Bluffs, representing PSTA
David Eggers – *Vice Chairman* – City of Dunedin Commission (arrived 1:04 p.m.)
Karen Seel – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Board of County Commissioners (arrived 1:20 p.m.)
Neil Brickfield – Board of County Commissioners
Jeff Danner – City of St. Petersburg Council
Harriet Crozier – Vice Mayor, City of Largo
Frank Hibbard – Mayor, City of Clearwater (arrived 1:18 p.m.)
William Mischler – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park
Herbert Polson – City of St. Petersburg Council
Kenneth Welch – Board of County Commissioners
Don Skelton, *ex officio* – Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation District 7

MEMBERS ABSENT

Andy Steingold – Mayor, City of Safety Harbor representing Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Springs

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Smith – MPO Executive Director
Sarah Ward – MPO Transportation Planning Division Manager
David Sadowsky – County Attorney's Office
Brian Beaty – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Scott Collister – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg
Wilfred Sergeant – Citizens Advisory Committee
Rick Eggers – City of Pinellas Park
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park
John Barnes – City of Pinellas Park
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater
Vivian Peters – Citizen
Lynn Rives – City of Oldsmar
Govardham – HNTB
Bob Klute – City of Largo
Tim Garling – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Rob Meador – Pinellas County Public Works
Dave Fechter – Pinellas County Public Works
Karl Guenther – Citizens Advisory Committee
Heather Sobush – MPO Staff
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Welch performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board members introduced themselves.

III. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING CAC MEMBER KARL GUENTHER

Chairman Arbutine noted that Mr. Guenther was not yet present and he would present the plaque upon his arrival.

IV. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens who came forward.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of January 13, 2010

B. Approval of Invoices –

1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates

2. Renaissance Planning Group

C. Approval of JARC and New Freedom Subgrantee Agreement – HART

D. Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Family Services Center Agreement

E. Approval of Agreement With PSTA

F. Approval of Coordination Contract With Sunrise Community, Inc.

Mr. Smith indicated staff is recommending deferral of Item E (agreement with PSTA) until the next meeting to allow for some language modification.

Councilman Polson questioned why the MPO was contracting with an agency from Miami (Item F – coordination contract with Sunrise Community, Inc.). Mr. Smith responded they are a local agency although their headquarters is located in Miami.

Commissioner Welch moved, Councilman Polson seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda with the deferral of Item E to the next meeting (Vote 7-0).

Mayor Eggers arrived at 1:04 p.m.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2009/10 – FY 2013/14 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Smith noted the committees have recommended approval of the amendments.

Brian Beaty, FDOT, reviewed the two proposed amendments. The first amendment is the design of the entire Oldsmar Trail, which is the Number 1 priority on the 2006 Enhancement List. The cost is \$391,000 from current year Transportation Enhancement funds. Three of the five construction segments are in the FDOT Tentative Work Program. The second amendment is a safety project to mark and stripe designated bike lanes on Walsingham Road from Gulf Boulevard to 119th Street. The cost is approximately \$52,732 from the District Arterial Safety Contingency Funds.

Upon a call for public comment, Lynn Rives, Oldsmar Leisure Service Director, appeared indicating Oldsmar's support for the Oldsmar Trail project and the City is ready to move forward with the project.

Mayor Mischler moved, Commissioner Crozier seconded, and motion carried to approve the two amendments to the FY 2009/10 – FY 2013/14 Transportation Improvement Program by roll call vote (Vote 8-0).

VII. 2060 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION PLAN (FTP)

Brian Beaty, FDOT, distributed copies of the 2060 FTP brochure and noted comment cards were available to the public, as well as the MPO members. Mr. Beaty played a video of the FPT, which included its development and schedule. An interactive statewide webinar will be held on March 10 at 2:00 p.m. FDOT has partnered with MPO staffs to allow for citizen participation at publicly-accessible sites for those citizens who do not have access to the internet. The webinar is accessed via internet. Comments can be submitted at any time.

****Mayor Hibbard arrived at 1:18 p.m.****

****Commissioner Seel arrived at 1:20 p.m.**

Upon query by Councilman Polson as to who the representative was from District VII on the FTP Steering Committee, Mr. Skelton responded Louis Miller of the Tampa International Airport.

Commissioner Brickfield asked how the members of the Steering Committee were chosen. Mr. Skelton responded that each agency nominated a representative and the FDOT Secretary made the appointments.

Mr. Smith noted the webinar will be held at the same time as the March MPO meeting.

****Chairman Arbutine noted Karl Guenther was now in attendance****

III. PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING CAC MEMBER KARL GUENTHER

Chairman Arbutine presented a plaque to outgoing Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) member Karl Guenther. Mr. Guenther made a few comments.

VIII. U.S. 19 UPDATE

Mr. Smith noted an updated map was included in the members' folders.

Scott Collister, FDOT, provided a brief update on the U.S. 19 construction project from Whitney Road to north of S.R. 60, highlighting the maintenance of traffic (MOT) during construction. FDOT will be meeting with the businesses and residents regarding the traffic changes and/or detour during construction. During construction, intersections will be temporarily closed as beams are actively being installed at those interchanges. They will be maintaining the sidewalk and Americans With Disabilities accessibility as much as possible for the pedestrians on a block-by-block basis. FDOT has been coordinating with PSTA regarding bus stop locations and any associated impacts and this will be an ongoing process. The construction will last approximately five years with a completion date in the summer of 2014. Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) are being used to let motorists know of the traffic changes in advance.

Mr. Collister indicated he would provide a copy of the presentation to the MPO members.

Regarding questions concerning temporary closures and detours (especially S.R. 60) during active installation of the beams, Mr. Collister responded he would get

the information to the MPO in advance of the road closures and which phase of construction; and, in addition, he would discuss this further with the MPO and the City of Clearwater.

Responding to a question regarding the differential in grades at Nursery Road and U.S. 19, Mr. Skelton offered to discuss this in more detail to those interested. Mr. Collister and Mr. Skelton responded this is a temporary phase and, once the construction is complete, the grades will be the same.

IX. JOBS FOR MAIN STREET ACT – 2010 – Transportation Enhancement Priority List

Mr. Smith indicated, at the last MPO meeting, the priority list was amended to include the Bayway Bridge; however, the Transportation Enhancement Priority List was referred to the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) for review and recommendation back to the MPO. The TCC recommended retaining the 2006 Priority List and adding the new projects to the bottom of the 2007 Priority List so they are eligible to receive any Federal Stimulus funds. The projects are not prioritized; however, the TCC could prioritize the projects and bring them back to the next MPO meeting. The MPO has several options before them.

Mayor Mischler noted there was a Bicycle Advisory Committee recommendation regarding prioritization of the St. Petersburg project.

Mr. Skelton stated, if funds become available, FDOT will need to move forward with the projects and needs to know their priority order (last five projects).

Paul Bertels, TCC Chairman, came forward and indicated, at the TCC meeting, Largo staff did not want to substitute their project with another project already on the Priority List. Since this was a new project, some of the TCC members questioned why other cities did not have the opportunity to add projects; therefore, cities were given until February 5 to submit projects that could be construction ready in 90 days and meet the other federal requirements to be added to the Priority List. If there is not enough funding, then the TCC could prioritize the projects. In addition, the TCC recommendation was that those projects be removed from the list if the federal funding is not received or once the federal funding has been depleted.

Commissioner Seel questioned how the cities were notified that they could submit projects. Ms. Ward responded that most of the cities are represented on the TCC and Mr. Bertels announced it at the meeting and, in addition, staff had communication with some of the cities after the meeting regarding specific projects.

Mr. Bertels clarified that the TCC had been tasked at looking at the project that Largo wished to substitute with their existing project on the list and were instructed to not open the process up to additional projects. However, after Largo staff made it clear they did not want to substitute the project but, instead, add it as an additional project to the priority list, several members commented other cities should have the same opportunity to submit projects that fit the criteria. Therefore, the TCC requested that other projects be submitted by the February 5 deadline. In addition, Mr. Bertels noted the BAC recommendation did not come before the TCC meeting and it should have since it involved a technical recommendation.

Commissioner Seel asked if the cost estimates were included in the review. Mr. Bertels responded they did not have that information. Joe Kubicki, Director of Transportation for

the City of St. Petersburg, came forward and noted there were five criteria, including the requirement the project must be 100% design; meets NEPA compliance; and reviewed by FDOT. The cost for the St. Petersburg project is approximately \$790,000 from 5th Avenue North to 18th Avenue North. Commissioner Crozier indicated the cost for the Largo projects is approximately \$750,000. Mayor Eggers could not provide information for the Dunedin projects.

Following discussion regarding the prioritization of the five additional projects and noting the TCC would hold a special meeting to prioritize the projects, ***Mayor Hibbard moved and Councilman Danner seconded a motion to prioritize the projects as follows: St. Petersburg, Largo, and Dunedin subject to the TCC review and recommendation.***

Councilman Danner asked for additional background information to help with the prioritization, in addition to criteria.

Chairman Arbutine noted there should be a caveat included in the motion that these projects drop off from the priority list if this Federal funding does not become available.

Mayor Hibbard accepted the amendment to the motion that the five projects drop off the list if the Federal funding does not become available. Councilman Danner as the seconder concurred. The motion carried (Vote 109-0).

Chairman Arbutine asked if this included Item XI A and Mr. Smith responded yes.

X. MEDICAID NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Mr. Smith indicated the 10% reduction to the providers and the other cost-saving measures have been working to keep the Medicaid Program within the available funding; however, the 10% reduction needs to remain in place along with the other cost savings to stay within budget. The Local Coordinating Board is recommending continuing with this approach and review the program again in April.

Mayor Eggers moved, Mayor Hibbard seconded, and motion carried to approve the continuation of the 10% reduction to the providers (Vote 10-0).

XI. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. BAC Memo Regarding the North Bay trail Funding Priority – Jobs for Main Street

Chairman Arbutine noted this was taken up under Item IX.

B. PTAC Motion Concerning Pedestrian Safety Law FS 3316.130

Mr. Smith indicated the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC), at their last meeting, recommended the wording “stop for pedestrians” be included on all signage at marked intersections and marked pedestrian crossings to make it clear that motorists are required to stop for pedestrians, in conformance with the Pedestrian Safety Law.

It was noted that yield means to stop for pedestrians. In addition, there was some clarification needed regarding the law’s intent and who stops for the pedestrian. It was clarified the law’s intent was that the motorist stop while the pedestrian is crossing his lane of direction. Mr. Smith indicated this recommendation could be deferred to the next meeting.

Paul Bertels, TCC Chairman, came forward and indicated this recommendation should have been placed on the TCC agenda for review. In discussion with FDOT Traffic Operations staff, there is no difference between yield and stop for pedestrians. To change the signs from yield to stop would cost money at a time when local governments are reducing their budgets. The issue is enforcement.

It was determined this item would be deferred until the next MPO meeting to allow for clarification on the intent and a TCC review.

C. PTAC Motion Concerning Pedestrian Safety at S.R. 586 and S.R. 580 Intersections

Mr. Smith indicated the PTAC was reviewing the intersections at S.R. 586 and McMullen-Booth Road and S.R. 580 and McMullen-Booth Road. The crosswalks are marked at the S.R. 580 intersection; however, it's difficult to see the hash marks since they are marked diagonal for the pedestrian, which causes it to blur together making it difficult to see. The PTAC is recommending the markings be perpendicular to the vehicle to make it more visible. Regarding the intersection of S.R. 586, the PTAC is recommending the crosswalks be marked similar to the S.R. 580 intersection.

Mr. Skelton responded the stop bars are staggered due to the fact the crosswalks are diagonal and the storage for the left-turn lanes. In response to Commissioner Seel, he responded the recommendation is a good idea. FDOT has a contract that they will be opening bids for pedestrian crosswalks and striping; although this crosswalk is not part of that contract, FDOT will make sure this corridor is added to that contract.

Mayor Hibbard moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the PTAC motion (Vote 10-0).

XII. PINELLAS MOBILITY INITIATIVE (PMI) UPDATE

Mr. Smith reported on the recent PMI meeting. The PMI Committee reviewed the high speed corridor from Orlando to Tampa, with the station locations, including the schedule that indicates the service is to be operating by October 2014. The PMI wanted to make sure there is direct service to Pinellas County and there is a need to look at the timing for the Pinellas County study. The Alternatives Analysis would provide for a connection and the Scope of Work would detail how this should be done. The Clearwater evaluation should include a consultant task for the Very Small Starts funding application; however, this was deferred to the next meeting to look at the requirements and what can be accomplished with the available funding. The Committee looked at the livable community initiatives and the land use principles that TBARTA will be acting on at their February 19 meeting. The Funding Committee recommendation was to pursue the transit surtax and Commissioner Seel will be setting up a Transportation Task Force. In addition, a Transportation Summit will be held March 22.

Councilman Danner indicated the same issue came up at the PSTA meeting and Mr. Skelton had indicated it was not necessary to have a direct connection to the high speed rail system. Mr. Skelton clarified his comments that there were a lot of initiatives proceeding forward with HART's Alternatives Analysis for two corridors, Pinellas County is getting ready to initiate their Alternatives Analysis, and FDOT will be performing the Howard Frankland Bridge study and each study will determine how to connect Pinellas County since it will be a regional system and this will be part of that scope.

Mayor Hibbard noted one of the tasks given to staff is that the studies are coordinated to ensure Pinellas County is connected to the high speed rail system.

Discussion followed regarding the need for coordination and there needs to be a connection to Pinellas County although it might not be connected to the high speed system.

Tim Garling, PSTA Executive Director, indicated the discussion at the PMI meeting was to make sure there is language that connects Pinellas County to high speed rail and there is a meeting tomorrow including the various issues to make sure that is the intent and included in the Scope of Work for the Howard Frankland Bridge.

Commissioner Crozier moved, Commissioner Welch seconded, and motion carried to approve the PMI Committee report.

XIII. MPOAC MEETING – Meeting of January 28, 2010

Sarah Ward reviewed the legislative policy positions adopted by the MPOAC that they will be supporting for the upcoming year. There are three categories including financial and funding sustainability. The MPOs have agreed to use a portion of their planning revenue to have CUTR (Center for Urban Transportation Research) look at revenue sources. A portion of the funding from document stamps is being shifted to rail, which would significantly reduce TRIP funding. There is ongoing support for a change to the Charter County Transit Surtax to allow other counties to move forward with a referendum. In addition, there is ongoing support for legislation regarding distracted drivers and providing mandatory funding for driver education programs in high schools. The MPOAC supports looking at a pilot program for counties regarding the mobility fee, which staff will continue to monitor.

XIV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Ward indicated there was a press release from Secretary LaHood announcing a ban on texting for commercial trucks drivers and future action on other regulatory users.

Commissioner Brickfield distributed a copy of the results of a study that indicates laws banning cell phone use while driving fail to reduce crashes.

XV. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Councilman Danner indicated he would like to appoint Andy Hayes as a St. Petersburg representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

Councilman Danner moved, Councilman Polson seconded, and motion carried to approve Andy Hayes as a St. Petersburg representative on the CAC.

Mr. Smith reviewed the other vacancies on the CAC and Bicycle Advisory Committee.

XVI. PSTA ACTIVITIES

Tim Garling, PSTA Executive Director, noted the recent moving forward of the high speed rail initiative; Hillsborough County is moving forward with a tax referendum for rail and transit service; Pinellas County is moving forward with an Alternatives Analysis in partnership with TBARTA, MPO, PSTA, and FDOT; developing over the last few years of a Transit Development Plan for a good bus network. On March 22, there will be a Pinellas County Transportation Summit that will be co-chaired with Commissioner Seel and held at the Hilton Carillon in the Gateway area, with registration beginning at 7:30

a.m. and the program from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., and will involve the community; and the need for community involvement as proceeding forward. The next steps will involve Commissioner Seel setting up a Transportation Task Force to look at the various issues. PSTA has received ridership statistics for January and they have had a 2.25% increase from last January.

Mayor Eggers noted the community is still not aware of a lot of the plans and encouraged continuing to work on getting the information out to the community since there will be the need to have the community buy-in so they need to be educated and aware of what is going on.

XVII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Meeting Scheduled for March 12, 2010

Mr. Smith noted the CCC will meet in Pinellas County on March 12.

B. Correspondence

Mr. Smith noted there were two letters received under correspondence. The first letter was from the PTAC noting they have been working with the City of St. Pete Beach and FDOT for pedestrian safety along Gulf Boulevard and it is now being funded. The other letter is from the BAC reinforcing the need to complete the Progress Energy Trail from the overpass at U.S. 19 and Enterprise Road to the existing Trail by the Bright House Field.

C. Other

There was no other business.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Chris Arbutine, Chairman