

**PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES - MEETING OF DECEMBER 13, 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, December 13, 2006 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

**Members Present**

Karen Seel, *Chair* - Board of County Commissioners  
Chris Arbutine - Mayor, City of Belleair Bluffs, representing Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority  
John Bryan - City of St. Petersburg Council  
Harriet Crozier - City of Largo Commission  
Jeff Danner - 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  
Don Skelton, *ex officio* - Secretary, Florida Department of Transportation, District 7

**Members Absent**

None

**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  
Bob Bray - City of Pinellas Park  
Bob Clifford - Florida Department of Transportation, District 7  
Rick Eggers - City of Pinellas Park  
M. Frederick - City of St. Petersburg  
Joe Kubicki - City of St. Petersburg  
Rob Meador - Pinellas County Public Works  
David Sadowsky - Pinellas County Attorney's Office  
Wilfred Sergeant - Transit Consultant, Largo  
Heather Sobush - MPO Staff  
Bill Steele - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority  
Phil Stevens - MACTEC  
Pete Yauch - Pinellas County Public Works  
Carolyn Kuntz - MPO Recorder  
Harriet McKay - MPO Staff Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Seel called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

## II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Vice Mayor Crozier gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

There was no citizen comment.

## IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2007

Mayor Mischler, chair of the nominating committee, reported that the committee had voted unanimously to recommend that the following board members serve as the MPO's officers in 2007: Mayor Hibbard as chairman, Mayor Arbutine as vice chairman, and Commissioner Duncan as secretary/treasurer.

**ACTION:** Councilmember Bryan moved to approve the recommendation of the nominating committee. Vice Mayor Crozier seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes - Meeting of November 8, 2006
- B. Approval of Invoices
  - 1. Tindale-Oliver & Associates
  - 2. HNTB
  - 3. Renaissance Planning Group
- C. Approval of Coordination Contract with R'Club Childcare, Inc.

**ACTION:** Councilmember Bryan moved to approve the consent agenda, Mayor Mischler seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

## VI. PUBLIC HEARING-PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FY 2006/07 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Brian Beaty of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) presented for approval eight amendments to the FY 2006/07-2010/11 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). They were for the following projects:

- FPN 418870-1 is for the design of several bike path projects in St. Petersburg. Design is programmed for FY 2007 for a cost of \$390,000. Funds will come from a 2005 federal earmark.
- FPN 257154-1 is for the cost increase of a road project on Ulmerton Road/SR 688 from El Centro/Ranchero to west of US 19. The cost increase is \$5,214,884. Funds will come from the District's Other Arterial Contingency Reserve Funds.
- FPN 418846-1 is for an intersection in Palm Harbor. The project was earmarked for federal funds in FY 2005 but was rolled forward to the State's current fiscal year. The project will be completed under the Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement between FDOT and Pinellas County. Cost is \$702,796.

- FPN 418847-1 is to reconstruct 27 pedestrian walkovers and 3 boat ramps in Treasure Island. The project was earmarked for \$446,400 in federal funds in FY 2005 but was rolled forward to the State's current fiscal year. The project will be completed under the Local Agency Program (LAP) agreement between FDOT and Pinellas County.
- FPN 420628-1 is to execute Phase II, Stage I of the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) for Pinellas County. The design phase is scheduled for FY 2007. It was earmarked for SAFETEA-LU funds of \$450,000 in FY 2005 but was rolled forward to the State's current fiscal year.
- FPN 420628-2 is for the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Primary Control Center for the County. The amendment will execute the design phase of the Traffic Management Center, scheduled for FY 2007. The project was earmarked for SAFETEA-LU funds of \$750,000 in FY 2005 but was rolled forward to the State's current fiscal year.
- FPN 413005-1 is to construct bicycle/pedestrian facilities and landscaping/scenic beautification at intersections along Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. The cost is \$76,000, and funding is through the Transportation Enhancement Program.
- FPN 406484-6 is for Phase 2 of the Clam Bayou Trail in St. Petersburg. The cost is \$110,000, and funding is through the Transportation Enhancement Program.

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

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

\*At 1:14 p.m., Mayor Arbutine arrived.

## **VII. FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM**

Bob Clifford of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reviewed the FDOT's Tentative Work Program for FY 2007/08-2011/12. Escalating construction and materials costs have affected the program. Also, at the current time, approximately 70% of the bids are being bid on by only one or two bidders. To alleviate this situation, the DOT is re-examining how it bids jobs and schedules work. Also, a policy of adhering to the essential scope of the job, without adding other jobs later, will keep projects closer to their original cost estimates.

When building the program, the DOT considers: 1) safety and security; 2) maintaining and preserving the current system; and 3) meeting capacity. Leveraging funds is accomplished through the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) and the County Incentive Program (CIP). Projects included in the program for Pinellas County over the next five years total \$720 million. Mr. Clifford reviewed the major projects. The draft of the program was included with meeting materials.

Two public hearings were held, one in Pasco County on December 5 and one in Hillsborough County on December 7. Written comments from the MPOs will be received through January 22, 2007. The Work Program is scheduled for adoption by the State Legislature on July 1, 2007.

Councilmember Bryan said that the 118th Avenue Connector Project will have a huge impact on the Gateway area. However, the project is now scheduled for funding in 2012. The PD&E is finished, and it is ready to go into design. Job growth in the Gateway area could end if the connector doesn't go through sooner. Joe Kubicki of the City of St. Petersburg described the project as a linchpin for development of the whole Gateway area. If the Gateway is not developed in the near future, development will come to a halt. The City of St. Petersburg would like to see the project accelerated.

Bob Bray of the City of Pinellas Park explained the impact of the project's delay on that city.

Mr. Clifford explained the funding issue. To receive TRIP funds, the project must be ranked by the Chairs Coordinating Committee. This has occurred, but there was no funding shown in the CIP. There must be a match from the County. If funds are shown in the CIP, then the project would meet the criteria for the TRIP funds. Staff noted that the BCC would have to act on a CIP change. The next BCC meeting is January 9.

Staff reviewed that the total PE cost for the project is \$12 million. The County must contribute \$6 million of that amount, which is the amount that must appear in the CIP. Rob Meador of Pinellas County Public Works said that Public Works has requested a Congressional allocation in the amount of \$2.5 million for 118th Avenue.

Mayor Hibbard said that the County needs a limited access road through the entire County. The connector project is the only way the County will get there. Work continues on US 19 north and the connector is needed to get to I-275 South.

Commissioner Seel said that the allocation to this project from the Penny renewal has been increased to \$70 million. Also, the DOT is attempting to get this project on the Strategic Inter-modal System, which would allow additional monies.

Regarding the Skyway fishing piers, the money will be used for work to uphold the substructure of the piers. The agreement is that the DOT would be responsible for maintenance of the substructure, the deck and below. The Department of Environmental Protection would be responsible for maintenance above the deck and anything associated with the buildings.

Mayor Hibbard asked why the TCC and the CAC did not have the papers before their meetings. Secretary Skelton said that the DOT had to re-price some jobs 3-4 times and they were late in finishing the document and getting it to print. Therefore, they couldn't present it to those committees for review.

Regarding the public hearings, the DOT rotates them among all of the counties in District 7. This year was not Pinellas County's turn. Turnout was fair, perhaps 45-50 people in Pasco and 40 people in Tampa. Attendance was about the same as last year. People asked about specific projects. In terms of good input and overall comment, this really comes through the advisory committees and the MPO boards themselves. Input comes through the DOT's website, too.

DOT staff will check the description and project limits for Project #FPN 411457-2, appearing on page 139.

**VIII. PEDESTRIAN CROSSING PRESENTATION BY THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG**

Joe Kubicki and Mike Frederick of the City of St. Petersburg gave a presentation on the City's program for pedestrian and bike safety. The presentation included the demonstration of a pedestrian crossing signal.

At its meeting on November 20, the PTAC passed Motion #06-2 taking action to recommend that the MPO support this program and encourage local governments and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to implement this method and equipment on the roadways within Pinellas County. It was further incorporated into the Committee's recommendation that this technique be applied in the Gulf Boulevard corridor where there is the interest in applying special procedures for pedestrians.

**ACTION:** Councilmember Bryan moved approval of PTAC Motion #06-2. Mayor Hibbard seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**IX. APPROVAL OF RANKING OF CONSULTANT FIRMS FOR CLEARWATER-TO-CLEARWATER BEACH GUIDEWAY STUDY**

Three firms submitted proposals in response to the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by the MPO for the Clearwater-to-Clearwater Beach Guideway Study. At the November meeting of the PMI Steering Committee, the firms made presentations. Each firm was scored, and then the firms were ranked. The top-ranked firm was MACTEC, the second-ranked firm was Washington Group International, and the third-ranked firm was Data Transfer Solutions. The PMI recommended that the MPO approve this ranking and authorize the negotiation of a contract with MACTEC. The contract would be presented to the MPO at its January meeting.

Phil Stevens of MACTEC introduced himself to the board and thanked the MPO for the opportunity to make a presentation to the PMI Steering Committee. He said that the firm looks forward to working with the MPO.

**ACTION:** Councilmember Bryan moved to authorize staff to negotiate a contract with MACTEC. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**X. UPDATE ON LOCALLY COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT/HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Staff is developing a plan with the Hillsborough and Pasco Counties MPO staffs. Five workshops have been held with a total of 135 participants. The top needs and potential solutions have been identified. A report entitled "Tri-County LCHSTP Summary of Public Workshops" was included with meeting materials.

**XI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**A. MPOAC Representative and Alternate for 2007**

**ACTION:** Councilmember Bryan moved that the MPO Chair for 2007 serve as the MPO's representative to the MPOAC in 2007. The Vice Chair for 2007 will serve as the alternate representative. Mayor Mischler seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**B. Citizens Advisory Committee**

ACTION: Commissioner Stewart moved that Steve Cohen, George Krause, Larry Marlin, and Jack Weiss be re-appointed to four-year terms on the CAC. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**C. Bicycle Advisory Committee**

ACTION: Mayor Mischler moved to appoint Ron Rasmussen and Bryon Hall to the BAC as representatives of Pinellas Park and Mid-County. Vice Mayor Crozier seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**D. Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged**

ACTION: Commissioner Eggert moved to appoint Nicole Mathis to the LCB as the representative of the Florida Department of Transportation, with Marian Ange and Elba Lopez as the alternate representatives. Commissioner Duncan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

**XII. PSTA ACTIVITIES**

The PSTA's Board of Directors met on November 29. Minutes were included with meeting materials.

Mayor Arbutine reported that the PSTA Board had decided to put a hold on any agreement with Triangle Property. No contract has been signed. The PSTA wants to hear from the County and the City of Clearwater on this matter at its January meeting. Mayor Hibbard thanked the PSTA Board for that decision.

Regarding increased fares, the PSTA will give a 10% discount on any purchase of 200 like passes or more by any 501c3 agency or any government agency. The discount should allow the agencies to serve as many clients as they did last year.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Update on 118th Avenue Interchange**

Chair Seel's letter to Congressman Young was included with meeting materials.

**B. Status of Pedestrian Law**

State Senators Fasano and Kriseman will take the MPO's proposal Statewide for action.

**C. Livable Communities Model Policies and Codes**

This matter will be assigned to a general planning consultant based on proposals. The consultant will examine and define policies for local governments. It was suggested that the Livable Communities Sub-Committee reconvene. Councilmember Danner will fill the vacancy created by Councilmember Kriseman. Also, the biennial review of impact fees is due in April.

**D. MPO Meeting Schedule for 2007**

The MPO's meeting schedule for the coming year was included with meeting materials.

**E. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee**

The Joint CCC met on December 8. The FDOT work plan was presented. There was an update on the Central Florida CSX project. A bill concerning the Regional Transportation Authority is being drafted in the State legislature. A copy of the draft will be forwarded to MPO members.

**F. Intelligent Transportation Systems Advisory Committee**

The ITS Committee met on December 6. The committee discussed before-and-after traffic studies for SR 60 and US 19. A brief presentation will be made at the January MPO meeting. Also, staff will be drafting a plan for the MPO regarding more details of the ITS plan.

**G. Status of Medicaid Non-Emergency Transportation Spending**

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

**H. Correspondence**

Several items of correspondence were included with meeting materials for the Board's review.

**I. Other**

Board members thanked Commissioner Ronecker for his two years of service on the MPO as the representative of Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Springs. The new representative for these cities will be Commissioner Robin Saenger of the City of Tarpon Springs.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Frank Hibbard, Incoming Chair for 2007