

PINELLAS COUNTY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
MINUTES - MEETING OF JUNE 9, 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, June 9, 2010 in the chambers of the Pinellas County Commission, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

David Eggers – *Vice Chairman* – Mayor, City of Dunedin Commission  
Neil Brickfield – Board of County Commissioners  
Jeff Danner – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council  
Frank Hibbard – Mayor, City of Clearwater  
William Mischler – Mayor, City of Pinellas Park  
Herbert Polson – Councilman, City of St. Petersburg Council  
Kenneth Welch – Board of County Commissioners (arrived at 1:04 p.m.)  
Don Skelton – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) (*ex officio*)

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chris Arbutine – *Chairman* – Mayor, City of Belleair Bluffs, representing PSTA  
Karen Seel – *Secretary/Treasurer* – Board of County Commissioners  
Harriet Crozier – Commissioner, City of Largo  
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)  
Ming Gao – Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
Tim Garling – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)  
Rob Meador – Pinellas County Public Works  
Bob Bray – City of Pinellas Park  
Paul Bertels – City of Clearwater  
Bob Klute – City of Largo  
Tom Whalen – City of St. Petersburg  
Joe Kubicki – City of St. Petersburg  
Wilfred Sergeant – Citizens Advisory Committee  
Jim Green – Care Ride  
Giovardham Muthyaljon – HNTB  
Tom Ferraro – BAC Chairman  
Heather Sobush – Planning/MPO  
Carolyn Kuntz – MPO Recorder

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Chairman Eggers, in the absence of Chairman Arbutine, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Councilman Polson performed the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board members introduced themselves.

**\*\*At 1:04 p.m., Commissioner Welch arrived\*\***

**\*\*At this time, Vice Chairman Eggers recognized Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) Chairman Tom Ferraro on behalf of the BAC for the award they recently received from the Florida Bicycle Association as Committee of the Year. Mr. Ferraro made a few comments.**

**\*\*Vice Chairman Eggers recognized Brian Smith for his 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary with Pinellas County and 42<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary on June 8.**

**III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens who came forward.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Meeting of May 12, 2010**

**B. Approval of Invoices –**

**1. Tindale-Oliver and Associates**

**2. Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority**

**C. Approval of Revised PSTA Planning Funds Joint Participation Agreement**

**D. Endorsement of Pasco County Section 5307 Transit Grant**

***Mayor Hibbard moved, Mayor Mischler seconded, and motion carried to approve the Consent Agenda (Vote 7-0).***

**V. PUBLIC HEARING FOR JARC AND NEW FREEDOM PROGRAM OF PROJECTS**

Mr. Smith indicated the Pinellas County is the designated recipient for this area, which includes Pasco and Hillsborough Counties. The Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom are regional programs encompassing the three counties. There is a review process to prioritize the projects and identify which projects should receive funding. The New Freedoms listing included six projects but only five were prioritized to receive funding. It was determined there was not enough funds for the Quality of Life Services project. This listing was reviewed by the other two MPOs; however, when the Hillsborough MPO reviewed the list, they recommended the Quality of Life Services project receive partial funding, which Quality of Life Services agreed to. The JARC and New Freedom projects listing were reviewed by the Pinellas County Local Coordinating Board (LCB), including the recommendation from the Hillsborough MPO, and they recommended the Quality of Life Services project be approved for funding, including an additional \$300,000 from the HART ADA access bus project since that project could potentially receive funding from another source. The LCB action was further reviewed by the Hillsborough MPO and they did not agree with the additional \$300,000 from the HART ADA access bus project and, instead, recommended \$189,000 be applied to the Quality of Life Services project and keep the HART project totally funded. MPO staff recommends concurrence with the Hillsborough MPO recommendation.

Vice Chairman Eggers, speaking as Chairman of the LCB, indicated the LCB felt the HART project should be funded through the use of their own funds but did determine it was an eligible expenditure for the New Freedom funds.

Michael Moses, Quality of Life Community Services, 5900 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg, spoke briefly regarding the recommendation.

No one else from the public came forward.

Following some discussion regarding eligibility requirements (noting it must be a new project and requires a 50% match) and if the three MPOs have to concur (would give that MPO an opportunity for further review), **Mayor Hibbard moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the staff recommendation (Vote 7-0).**

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE 2010/11 – 2014/15 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

Ms. Ward reviewed the Transportation Improvement Program, noting this included the FDOT Tentative Work Program that was reviewed by the MPO in December.

**\*\*Commissioner Brickfield left the meeting at 1:19 p.m.\*\***

The Revenue Forecasting Conference is anticipating reduced revenues; therefore, some of the projects have changed since the MPO last reviewed the Work Program in December. She highlighted projects, noting FDOT is following the MPO's priorities and their policy to maintain existing facilities.

**\*\*Commissioner Brickfield returned at 1:23 p.m.\*\***

Following some discussion regarding the Ulmerton Road projects, Ms. Ward highlighted the non-roadway projects; i.e., Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), trails, transit, and airport.

Upon query by Councilman Polson whether there is an opportunity to utilize the right-of-way along the Pinellas Trail for fiber optics to avoid right-of-way acquisition for the use of cameras as a secondary use, Mr. Smith responded he would have to check.

There was no public comment.

**Mayor Hibbard moved and Councilman Danner seconded a motion to approve the TIP.**

Mr. Smith noted the Technical Coordinating Committee recommended approval, as well as the Citizens Advisory Committee along with comments.

Mayor Hibbard emphasized the need for the Sunset Point Road sidewalk projects, noting the donation of a pedestrian bridge from the ChiChi Rodriquez Golf Course. Mr. Smith responded there is a grant proposal but he wasn't sure if it had been approved yet.

Following discussion, **the motion carried by roll call vote (Vote 7-0).**

**\*\*Mr. Smith indicated there was a request to amend the current TIP to add the North Bay Trail Project from 54<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue for approximately \$1.5 million.**

**Councilman Polson moved, Mayor Hibbard seconded, and motion carried by roll call vote to approve the TIP amendment (Vote 7-0).**

**VII. REPORT ON DEVELOPMENT OF MOBILITY PLAN**

Mr. Smith indicated recent legislative action, Senate Bill 360, requires areas like Pinellas County to develop a Mobility Plan. The Technical Coordinating Committee formed a subcommittee to work on developing a plan, which is proceeding forward. A full report will be provided at the July MPO meeting.

**VIII. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A. Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) Evaluation**

Mr. Smith noted an annual evaluation of the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) is required annually. Since the MPO is the CTC for Pinellas County, they contracted with Tindale-Oliver and Associates to perform the evaluation. Tindale-Oliver and Associates developed a comprehensive report that was reviewed by the Local Coordinating Board (LCB), which recommended approval.

***Councilman Polson moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the report for forwarding so it can be filed with the State.***

**B. Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan 2010 Update**

Mr. Smith indicated the policies and procedures in the Plan were reviewed and updated, including an assessment of services. The update also includes a change in the Medicaid Net provider rates that the MPO will take action later on the agenda. The LCB recommended approval of the update.

Upon query by Vice Chairman Eggers whether Table 8 regarding the rate change should be included in a motion, Mr. Smith responded that could be deferred until action on the rate change occurs.

***Mayor Mischler moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the Service Plan Update for 2010, not including Table 8.***

**C. Coordinator Contractor and Non-Profit Operator Contracts**

Mr. Smith stated the coordination and non-profit operator contracts were up for renewal and a list of the agencies was included in the backup material.

***Commissioner Brickfield, Mayor Mischler moved seconded, and motion carried to approve the coordination and non-profit operator contracts.***

**D. Medicaid Net Provider Rate Review**

Mr. Smith reported that, last year, the Medicaid program was running in a deficit with the costs more than the amount of revenues being received. In order to provide more stability to the program, the provider rate for the for-profit agencies was reduced by 10% on a temporary basis. In addition to the rate reduction, several cost saving measures were implemented. The combination of reduced demand, cost savings, and rate reductions has resulted in revenue being more than expenses. Staff reviewed several options with the LCB, with their recommendation to reduce the provider rates by 5% instead of continuing with the 10% reduction.

Vice Chairman Eggers, speaking as Chairman of the LCB, noted the providers have been working with the 10% rate reduction and reducing it to 5% would help.

***Mayor Mischler moved, Commissioner Brickfield seconded, and motion carried to approve the 5% reduction.***

**IX. PTAC MOTION REGARDING PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALK ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS**

Mr. Smith noted the Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) reviewed markings for mid-block pedestrian crossings and recommended an additional stripe to provide additional safety. In addition, they felt there should be more enforcement of motorists who don't recognize the fact they should stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks. These

recommendations would supplement the ongoing FDOT program. Staff is recommending the PTAC recommendation be forwarded to the Technical Coordinating Committee for further review and additional communication.

**By consensus, it was agreed the PTAC motion would be forwarded to the TCC for review.**

**X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Ward indicated a legislative summary from the MPO Advisory Council was included in the backup material. House Bill 1271 has been signed by the Governor and renames the Charter County Transportation System Surtax to Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax to allow any county with a regional transportation entity to implement up to an additional one cent transit surtax. In addition, House Bill 1271 authorizes FDOT to permit commercial vehicles with additional weights on certain roadways. This bill also requires the use of universally accepted contactless fare media for new rail systems and public transit systems connecting to rail, which means the same type of fare system from one mode to another. The Governor vetoed the transfer of transportation trust fund to the general fund. The red light running camera bill has been approved. House Bill 971 has also been signed by the Governor and requires bicycles to be ridden in the lane marked specifically for bicycles under specified circumstances or as close to the curb as possible, which is a concern to the bicycling community. This bill also allows local governments to enact by ordinance a process that would allow golf carts and other vehicles to operate on sidewalks.

Upon query by Councilman Polson regarding the \$160 million, Mr. Skelton responded, if the Governor had not vetoed the transfer from the transportation trust fund to general revenue, \$500 million worth of projects would have had to been removed from the Transportation Improvement Program. The Governor's veto keeps the projects intact.

**XI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Smith noted there were vacancies on the Bicycle Advisory and Pedestrian Transportation Advisory Committees. In addition, MPO staff included a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) membership list in the members' folders, noting there is now a vacancy in the Beach Area.

Commissioner Brickfield indicated one of the previous applicants for the At Large Area for the CAC was Kevin Hing who was from the beach area. He will make contact with Mr. Hing so his name can be placed for the opening at the next MPO meeting.

**XII. PSTA ACTIVITIES**

Tim Garling, PSTA Executive Director, indicated PSTA held a lengthy FY 2011 budget workshop this morning to discuss the estimated \$3.6 million deficit. Part of the discussion included a plan for fare increases and service reductions to address the deficit. Over the next month and a half, PSTA will be holding a series of workshops and public hearings to receive public comment. Information will be posted on PSTA's website (PSTA.net), on the buses, and all their main facilities. PSTA is seeing an increase in ridership, last month they had a 10% increase. PSTA is attempting to minimize the impacts on their uses but need a long-term sustainable funding source. This Friday, 1:30 p.m. at the EpiCenter, will be the first Transportation Task Force meeting to begin those discussions.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Alternatives Analysis – Project Advisory Committee**

Mr. Smith noted the TBARTA Board still needs to make their appointments. PSTA has made their appointments. The first meeting is planned for Monday, July 12. In addition,

letters were sent to the Hillsborough MPO and HART to request they make their appointments (ex officio) to the Committee.

**B. Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee and Joint Meeting with the Central Florida Alliance Meetings of June 11, 2010**

Mr. Smith noted the Joint Chairmen's meeting is this Friday, June 11.

**C. Correspondence**

**D. Other**

Mr. Smith indicated the Joint Transportation/Land Use Committee is ongoing and are continuing to look at options to merge transportation and land use together and, potentially, how the structures of the two agencies can be modified. Final recommendations will be brought to the MPO for their action.

Vice Chairman Eggers added there are a lot of things being discussed but the idea is to look at ways to simplify, streamline, and reduce costs. This is a work in progress, with the next meeting in early July. Part of the discussions is looking at the Countywide Plan to look at ways to make the process simpler.

Upon query by Mayor Mischler as to whether the MPO will meet in August, Mr. Smith responded that meeting is cancelled and Vice Chairman Eggers indicated there will be a meeting in July.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

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Chris Arbutine, Chairman