



**MPO**  
**Newsletter/Action Sheet**  
**October 14, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Chris Arbutine called the meeting to order.

**II. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Mayor Dave Eggers conducted the services for the MPO.

**III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

There were no citizens to be heard.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

The MPO approved the consent agenda, which included the September 9, 2009 MPO meeting minutes; invoices from Tindale/Oliver and Associates, Renaissance Planning Group, City of St. Petersburg concerning the Intermodal Center, and Data Transfer Solutions.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDMENTS TO THE FY 2009/10 – 2013/14 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)**

The MPO approved two amendments to the TIP, which were a modification to the safety project at Enterprise Road and U.S. 19 and the addition of a sidewalk project on St. Petersburg Drive in Oldsmar.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

The MPO reviewed in depth the recommendation for the Long Range Transportation Plan and then took action to endorse the Plan and open up the public comment period, with the intent of taking action on the Plan in December. It was noted that some nomenclature corrections were needed for the Trailways graphic in the Plan.

**VII. DESIGN UPDATE FOR 118<sup>th</sup> AVENUE/C.R. 296 – FDOT Presentation**

The MPO received a full report on the improvements to the 118<sup>th</sup> Avenue corridor. It was noted that this corridor is now being designated as S.R. 690. The MPO staff agreed to check the traffic generation numbers for the AIRCO project that was indicated in this project presentation.

**VIII. MPO RESOLUTION REQUESTING FDOT MOVE UP THE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT EVALUATION OF THE HOWARD FRANKLAND BRIDGE**

**A. Resolution**

The MPO approved a resolution calling for the rescheduling of the PD&E study of the Howard Frankland Bridge in the TIP to have that project moved up in the Program from 2013 to 2010. It was noted that, as agreed to at the joint MPO meeting with Hillsborough County, the Hillsborough MPO had taken this action at their October 6 meeting.

**B. Alternatives Analysis**

The MPO conceptually agreed to the Scope and funding for the Alternatives Analysis for rail for the “Y” project connecting Clearwater through Gateway to St. Petersburg, with a connection to Gateway over the Howard Frankland Bridge to Hillsborough County. It was also agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding would be developed to accomplish this. It was further noted that, in light of the action on the Bridge and the fact that State funding was involved with the TBARTA program, FDOT might also be included as a partner in the Memorandum of Understanding with the MPO, PSTA, and TBARTA.

**IX. PEDESTRIAN SAFETY INITIATIVE – PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAM**

The MPO briefly reviewed the public outreach program for this initiative. The MPO also discussed the safety concern with respect to pedestrians crossing U.S. 19 in the Gateway Center area to access the bus stops located in that vicinity. PSTA and FDOT agreed to work with the City on a solution to that concern.

**X. CITY OF ST PETERSBURG CITY TRAILS FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM UPDATE**

The City of St. Petersburg staff reviewed in depth the City’s program concerning bike/pedestrian facilities and what had been accomplished in the five-year program the City had established for those improvements.

**XI. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The MPO approved the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) recommendation that no action be taken on the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee proposal for the reasons documented in the staff report. It was further noted this situation could be reviewed as part of the major update to the fee program in the future.

**XII. TRANSPORTATION IMPACT FEE ORDINANCE – 2010 UPDATE**

The MPO staff reported that the new State law requires that a Mobility Plan be established for the County within two years, which would be the MPO plan, and that a mobility fee should be considered as part of that program. It was also noted that the MPO should begin its bi-annual update to the Transportation Impact Fee and that these three initiatives should be done together. The TCC will be reviewing the impact fee update this month. The MPO staff indicated they are putting together a program to accomplish these responsibilities for review by the MPO at its December meeting. This would include the procedure for review and adoption.

**XIII. LOCAL COORDINATING BOARD RECOMMENDATION – State Submittal of the Annual Operating Report**

The MPO approved for submittal to the State the Annual Operating and Expenditure Report for the Transportation Disadvantaged Program.

**XIV. CONCERN WITH CELL PHONE USE WHILE DRIVING**

The MPO discussed the concern with respect to cell phone and texting while driving and agreed this would be an agenda item for the December MPO meeting, where the MPO would define its position on these concerns and actions it might pursue. During the discussion, it was also identified that the MPO would consider the red light running concern as part of that agenda item in December.

**XV. PINELLAS MOBILITY INITIATIVE (PMI) COMMITTEE REPORT**

The MPO received a brief report on the PMI meeting of September 28 and noted the MPO had already taken action on two of the Committee recommendations concerning the Long Range Transportation Plan and Alternatives Analysis. It was further noted this Committee agreed to have rail technology as a major item at their December meeting and also had elected Dave Eggers as Vice Chairman.

**XVI. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The MPO appointed Gay Gentry as a Largo representative on the Citizens Advisory Committee and Largo Commissioner Gigi Arntzen as the PSTA representative on the Local Coordinating Board.

**XVII. PSTA ACTIVITIES**

The MPO received a brief report on PSTA activities from Tim Garling, PSTA Executive Director.

**XVIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Seel reported that she has proposed a Transportation Task Force similar to the previous U.S. 19 Task Force and also what Hillsborough County was using for transportation and that Task Force would be focused on a transit surtax program. She requested comment on the Task Force membership from the MPO members.