

PINELLAS ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION INTEGRATION TASK FORCE

AGENDA

**October 15, 2003
4:00 P.M.**

**Raymond James
800 Carillon Parkway
Tower 3 – 3rd Floor
St. Petersburg, FL**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Review of Minutes of October 1st.**
A copy of the minutes are attached.
- III. Economic Development/Redevelopment Presentation by Richard Gehring**
- IV. Intergovernmental Relations concerning Traffic Jurisdictions**
A chart summarizing the involvement of the different jurisdictions is attached.
- V. Identify Contents of White Paper to be Drafted.**
Frank Murphy is preparing a list of subjects that the Committee will need to focus on with respect to recommendations. (Frank Murphy intends to provide this list by email to the Committee before the next meeting). It will be the intent of this agenda item for the Committee to define the contents of the White Paper so a first draft can be developed.
- V. Review of Committee Schedule (attached)**
It has been indicated that there may be schedule conflicts in November and December, and that a re-review of the dates would be appropriate.

Pinellas Assembly Transportation Integration Task Force
Raymond James & Associates, 880 Carillon Parkway, St. Petersburg
Third Floor, Tower 3
Wednesday, October 1, 2003, 4:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Frank Murphy, Vice Chairman Kevin Schuyler and Task Force Members Don Crane, Julio Maggi, Brian Smith, Jim Holton, Pete Pensa, Ed Hawkes, Joel Giles, and Joe Kubicki (non-voting member).

Also: Patricia Beneby, City of St. Petersburg

Chairman Murphy called the meeting to order. The minutes of September 3, 2003 were accepted as submitted.

Mr. Crane spoke regarding the funding for additional highway capacity in Pinellas County. He had met with Mr. Ken Hartmann to determine how much money is needed and what can be done for Pinellas County. He also met with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) who provided a book of information with a list of State/Federal Highway Projects. Pinellas County needs exceed \$1 billion for additional roadway improvements over the next 15 years. FDOT does not set priorities for capacity improvement highway projects beyond their five-year work program so projects not in their 5-year program that are identified as "needed now or in the next 15 to 20 years" may be included in a "cost feasible" classification. These estimates suggest many of the projects listed as "Cost Feasible" are in fact not going to be built in the next 15 years without other sources of funding. Some highway projects, such as US 19 north of Countryside to the Pasco County line are not on the list for improvements. He stated it is very difficult to develop a long-term transportation program for all modes of transportation without knowing the funding sources and when the funds will be available. Many of the projects should be built immediately. Several years ago, the funding shortfall for District 7 was \$6 billion and funding has not improved. Mr. Crane stated we must determine where we are going to find funding for Pinellas County and then determine where to spend the money.

Chairman Murphy reported on his meeting with the Pinellas Assembly Leadership. He stated Mayor Robert DiNicola, Co-Chairman of the Pinellas Assembly Steering Committee, and County Commissioners are requesting the Task Forces educate themselves, obtain information and make recommendations where appropriate. The time frame for the Task Forces has been extended by six weeks. Mr. Murphy indicated he shared with the Assembly Leadership the Task Force's discussions regarding quality of life issues, the trails, and information from presentations that had come before the Task Force. The Assembly Leadership requested that the Task Force submit a letter stating its position or recommendation regarding the proposed Gas Tax Proposal.

Mr. Brian Smith indicated Pinellas County has under consideration a proposal to levy up to six cents of the Local Option Gas Tax. This Task Force is being asked to review the proposal and to submit a recommendation. Mr. Maggi announced a public hearing was held a couple weeks ago where eight people were opposed to the gas tax and no one spoke in support of the gas tax. He stated business leaders need to come forward. Mr. Murphy indicated Tampa Bay Partnership is supporting the gas tax and stated this is an important issue for all counties. Mr. Giles commented that it is hard to support these proposals when the money gets spent everywhere but St. Petersburg. Mr. Kubicki stated there are no projects shown for St. Petersburg and suggested some of that money get spent in St. Pete. He commented that mobility, road capacity, quality of life, pedestrian safety, and traffic calming are important issues. Mr. Hawkes indicated the City of Dunedin can use funding to replace sidewalks. Mr. Pensa commented that the concern from the City is that a lot of the money is spent on north County and mid-County and the south County has been neglected. Mr. Crane stated quality of life is moving traffic back and forth along major corridors. Mr. Giles suggested the group recommend a 50/50 split and allow each municipality to decide what quality of life projects they would like funded. Mr. Schuyler stated gas taxes

should be used on transportation projects. Mr. Kubicki stated the County can use their portion for major regional transportation projects. Mr. Smith will draft a letter from the group supporting the six-cent gas tax and recommending the tax be distributed 50/50 between the County and municipalities with the County using their funds for major regional transportation projects and allowing municipalities to decide what quality of life issues to fund.

Mr. Smith presented a chart of Traffic Control Jurisdictions for review. This item will be added to the next meeting Agenda.

Subjects expected to be included in the White paper were provided for review by the Task Force.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.