

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA MPO  
CHAIR'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2004 MEETING

A meeting of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs' Coordinating Committee was held January 9, 2004 at the Hale Senior Citizen Center in Dunedin, 330 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698.

**The following members were present:**

Bill Dennis	Chairman, Pasco County MPO
John Doglione	Chairman, Pinellas County MPO
Richard Glorioso	Chairman Hillsborough County MPO
Joe McClash	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Gow Fields	Polk TPO
Diane Rowden	Hernando County MPO

**Others present were:**

Gary Maidhof	Citrus County
Brian Smith	Pinellas County MPO
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County MPO
Karen Cunningham	Pinellas County MPO
Hugh Pascoe	Hernando County MPO
Dennis Dix	Hernando County MPO
Doug Uden	Pasco County MPO
Michael Howe	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Robert Eschenfelder	Legal Counsel, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Tom Deardorff	Polk TPO
Lucie Ayer	Hillsborough County MPO
Suzi Dieringer	Hillsborough County MPO
Jim Porter	Hillsborough County MPO Attorney
Ken Hartmann	FDOT District 7
Bob Clifford	FDOT District 7
Lee Royal	FDOT District 7
Ricky Langley	FDOT District 1
Ben Walker	FDOT District 1
Mike Williams	FDOT District 1
Joanne Hurley	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Ken Hoyt	TBRPC
Avera Wynne	TBRPC
Whit Blanton	Renaissance Planning Group
Karen Raihill	Tampa Bay Partnership
Carolyn Kuntz	Recorder

**CALL TO ORDER**

Pinellas County MPO Chairman John Doglione called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m., welcomed everyone to Dunedin, and gave a brief overview of the Hale Senior Citizen building and surrounding area. Chairman Doglione then had everyone introduce themselves.

**APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 16, 2003 CCC MEETING MINUTES**

*Commissioner Glorioso moved, Commissioner Dennis seconded, and motion carried to approve the October 16, 2003 meeting minutes as presented.*

**REVIEW OF FUNDING PRIORITY FOR FY 2004**

Hugh Pascoe, Hernando County MPO, briefly reviewed the regional funding priorities for 2004. He indicated the Technical Review Team, in conjunction with the MPO Staff Directors, developed a methodology to evaluate transportation projects from a regional perspective. The Technical Review Team put a lot of work and effort in developing the methodologies, meeting several times weekly. The MPO Staff Directors Committee then reviewed the methodology. He noted the funding priorities for FY 2004 are before the Chairs' Coordinating Committee for review and approval. Mr. Pascoe indicated the three regional goals are: 1) safe and efficient regional mobility; 2) regional economic vitality; and 3) environmental and quality of life. The evaluation measures for the objectives included: maintain and improve the system; maintain and improve public transit system; efficient intermodal connections; emergency evacuation; improve access to regional activity centers; improvement assess to the State Intermodal System (SIS); support adopted land use plans; obtain federal and state funding; and minimize environmental impacts to communities. A map was developed showing the high priority facilities, with the only change being for Polk County to I-275 to Fowler Avenue. He indicated. The model did not include Sarasota and Manatee Counties but they received input from their staff so they were included in the process. They applied professional judgment from each of the staffs and the Staff Directors' Committee reviewed the data, with some modifications resulting. They ranked priorities from 1 to 21. Polk County did internal ranking for their projects.

Ms. Ward stated that the last Staff Directors' Coordination Team meeting, they recommended adding Project #13 with Project #6 and, therefore, Project #13 should be deleted since it has been added to Project #6.

Mr. Deardorff noted a scribbener's error in that the map showing that segments of U.S. 27 in Polk County is correct; however, the project description should read U.S. 27 from I-4 to the Lake County Line for a widening project to six lanes, with a PD&E Study scheduled for 2008.

Commissioner Dennis requested the description for Project #12 to read ITS and other corridor management projects.

Commissioner McClash requested Project #20 for S.R. 70 to be changed to Lorraine Road to the County Line as opposed to 675.

Mr. Smith requested the Pinellas County project for U.S. 19, Project #10, should also include "and other corridor management projects." Mr. Hartmann stated that the projects have been completed or underway except for the interchange projects, other than ITS projects. Ms. Ward indicated there could be other ITS or other projects that might be pursued for more funding. Mr. Smith stated it should be indicated ITS and other corridor management projects. Mr. Hartmann agreed.

Mr. Hartmann indicated that Projects #2 and #8 need to reflect the advancements that had recently been made; Project #6, Whitney Road to S.R. 60, should reflect the funding status as partial right-of-way has been funded; Project #5, Links Project, needs to be distinguished as to the stages since there are similar project

limits.

West Central Florida CCC Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2004

Page 3

Following discussion, *Commissioner McClash moved; Commissioner Glorioso seconded; and motion carried to approve the modified priority ranked list, with the changes noted above.*

#### **FOLLOW-UP ON OUTER BELTWAY STUDY**

Ms. Ward indicated this was a two-part item in conjunction with Tampa Bay Partnership and requested this item be deferred until they arrived at the meeting.

#### **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT STATUS REPORT**

Ms. Ward stated the Citrus County Commission requested they be added to the CCC as a nonvoting partner entity. At their October 16, 2003 meeting, the CCC endorsed a draft Interlocal Agreement for regional transportation planning in West Central Florida. This agreement was forwarded to the CCC member agencies for review and comment, of which all but Sarasota/Manatee MPO have signed off on the draft. The Sarasota/Manatee MPO has recommended changes to the agreement. Ms. Ward distributed a strike-out/underlined version. The primary issue of the Sarasota/Manatee attorney was initially whether the CCC was being established as an administrative or legal entity through the Interlocal Agreement and, once determination was made, other changes were recommended.

Ms. Ward reviewed the changes proposed by the Sarasota/Manatee attorney: Section 2, Page 1, the last sentence was added to clarify the CCC as an administrative entity; Page 2, Section 5, language was added regarding the conduct of meetings, such as that the staff of the hosting MPO is responsible for notices and ADA requirements; Page 3, Section 6, additional language was added regarding professional services and financial support; Section 7, Record Keeping, additional language was added to indicate the Pinellas MPO is designated as the official records custodian for the CCC; and Section 9, language was added that the CCC cannot sue or be sued. Ms. Ward noted some of the other members had concern with the proposed modifications and noted there is a separate set of Operating Procedures for the CCC. There has been discussion that some of these modifications could be included in the Operating Procedures. She also noted a letter from Citrus County was included in the packet requesting they be a part of the CCC membership as nonvoting. The Staff Directors recommend Citrus County be included as a nonvoting member.

Jim Porter, Hillsborough County attorney, indicated the concerns he had as follows: the proposed language on Page 1 goes further than the Statute would allow, therefore, he recommends an additional "Whereas Clause" to indicate the CCC as an administrative entity; Page 2, he has a concern with the specificity of ADA, therefore, he recommends the language be eliminated or modified to indicate the host MPO shall be responsible for ensuring that the notices of meetings and that the meetings are accessible; Page 3, move the sentence "If the Chair is unable to fulfill the duties of the office for any reason, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair" to the third sentence under Section 5; Section 6, should be "Section 339; and Section 7, remove "pursuant to Chapter 119, Florida Statutes."

Mr. Eschenfelder noted he has spoken with Mr. Porter regarding the above. The two attorneys are in agreement with the intent that the CCC is a separate administrative entity and not a separate legal entity but they have a difference of opinion as to where the language should be stated in the Agreement. He is in agreement with Mr. Porter regarding some of his comments regarding the remainder of the document. The attorneys felt the changes were not substantial and would not have to be taken back to each MPO for approval

Chairman Doglione indicated there is a timeline and there needs to be a consensus and move forward. Commissioner Glorioso noted the agreement with the Governor is that the Interlocal Agreement would be established by the end of 2003 and agreed they need to move forward. Mr. Eschenfelder agreed the modified Interlocal Agreement could be placed under the Consent Agenda.

Following a lengthy discussion regarding the proposed modifications to the Interlocal Agreement, Commissioner Fields suggested the following: 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, add to end of last line "...agree to form a separate administrative entity"; 1<sup>st</sup> Whereas, 2<sup>nd</sup> line, change to "...Sarasota/Manatee MPO have formed an "administrative" regional entity...". The other changes agreed to as per discussion are: Section 2 – delete underlined sentence; Section 5, change underlined sentence to "The host MPO shall be responsible for ensuring that the notice requirements of § Section 286.011 have been met, and that meetings are held in a facility accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act"; move "If the Chair is unable to fulfill the duties of the office for any reason, the Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair" to third sentence of Section 5; Section 6, change "337.175" to "339.175"; Section 6, change last sentence to "The Parties agree to work together to seek new sources of funding to assist the member MPOs with the added costs and expenses associated with the operations of this new administrative entity"; and Section 7, reinsert the original language instead of the underlined section. The more detailed information would be included in the Operating Procedures for the CCC. ***Commissioner McClash moved; Commissioner Glorioso seconded; and motion carried to approve the above modifications and to add Citrus County as a nonvoting member to Section 4.***

Ms. Ward agreed to make the changes and send the modified Interlocal Agreement to the other staff. She agreed to coordinate with the other staffs to seek individual MPO approval but it was noted the Interlocal Agreement would not have to come back before the CCC.

**\*\*Ms. Raihill was now in attendance; therefore, Chairman Doglione took up the following item\*\***

**FOLLOW-UP ON OUTER BELTWAY STUDY**

Ms. Ward noted, at the last meeting, the CCC directed the Staff Directors to look at how to proceed with a study for an outer beltway for this area. In discussions with the Staff Directors, it was determined this needed to be a two-step process. The first step would be to seek funding to develop a Scope of Services for the effort; therefore, the Staff Directors recommend that the CCC request FDOT District Seven use the resources of one of their General Planning Consultant to assist with developing the Scope of Services. Once the Scope of Services is developed, then there is the opportunity to seek funding for the study.

Karen Raihill, Tampa Bay Partnership, noted the Tampa Bay Partnership appreciates the CCC taking on this in a management role. Since the CCC's last meeting, the Tampa Bay Partnership's Transportation Task Force met December 19 with some of the various County Administrators and their representative, along with several Staff Directors. Ms. Raihill handed out a map that was a result of this meeting, which showed very preliminary ideas for corridors that could be studied as part of the Feasibility Study. The Partnership is very interested in the concept and would like the feasibility pursued.

Commissioner McClash stated that it was better to shade the areas showing the limits instead of lines because

people see lines as being where the beltway would be located. Ms. Raihill noted the intent is to show broad

preliminary lines on a map but that the map is not titled and doesn't have much information included on it. Chairman Doglione stated that a map is not yet needed, only the concept.

Mr. Hoyt inquired if there was a vision for this concept and noted a significant shift in land use planning would be required.

Mr. Hartmann indicated that District Seven was okay with providing the resources to develop the Scope of Services and to manage the Feasibility Study. FDOT could manage the contract as well and use the CCC forum to deal with any concerns. Mr. Hartmann indicated that there are a lot of questions that need to be answered as part of the feasibility analysis.

Following discussion, ***Commissioner Glorioso moved; Commissioner Fields seconded; and motion carried to approve a formal request to ask FDOT District Seven to provide the resources to prepare the Scope of Services for a Feasibility Study.***

Ms. Raihill indicated she would follow-up with the County Administrators.

It was clarified that the CCC's action did not reflect the map that was handed out.

#### **REGIONAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**

##### **A. Review of Transportation Networks**

Mr. Pascoe indicated the individual Long Range Transportation Plans have to be completed and approved by December 2004. As part of the process, there needs to be regional input to ensure coordination and cooperation at the regional level. The CCC needs to look at the fundamental networks to begin with. He indicated the milestones are: the CCC needs to endorse the Regional Needs Plan in March 04; endorse the Regional Cost Affordable Plan in June 2004; and endorse the Final Regional Cost Affordable Plan in September 2004.

Mr. Pasco reviewed the Regional Highway Network, noting the following roadways that were added since the CCC last reviewed the network: C.R. 1 from S.R. 54 in Pasco County to U.S. 19; Phase II of the Suncoast Parkway in Citrus County (pending final acceptance); U.S. 92 from U.S. 98 in Polk County to S.R. 33 in Hillsborough County (based on long range demands in the corridor).

A FDOT representative noted the following corrections: U.S. 98 from S.R. 60 to the Parkway as a FIHS (Florida Intrastate Highway System) facility and S.R. 70 from I-275 to the County Line.

Mr. Uden noted there is a missing link in Pasco County as part of the FIHS system: part of S.R. 54 and Dale Mabry.

Mr. Clifford noted there needs to be a wide swath for the dotted line in Citrus County regarding the Suncoast Parkway.

Mr. Pasco continued regarding the Mass Transit and Multi-Use Trails portions. He noted the network shows the Guideway and rail transit connection for the Pinellas County and Hillsborough County systems.

Mr. Hoyt noted Senator Sebesta's proposal was not included. Ms. Ward responded there had been discussions with FDOT regarding the regional transit study that FDOT will be conducting pursuant to Senator Sebesta's request. They are keeping track of the study and it is being closely coordinated. Ms. Ayers added that Senator Sebesta's proposal is not for a particular alignment and only a study at this point and they will be working closely with the schedule. FDOT has just begun the Intermodal Assessment Study.

Mr. Hoyt queried why the green line at the end of the Guideway system around I-275 was not red. Ms. Ayers responded she would check and make sure it is accurately reflected on the map.

Mr. Pascoe continued reviewing the multi-use trails portion, noting the potential connection of the Pinellas Trail to downtown St. Petersburg via the CSX line. The Multi-Use Trails Committee of the CCC will review the additional information. He indicated there are additional connections between the Pinellas Trail and the Upper Tampa Bay Trail.

Ms. Ward indicated she would recheck the transit map to ensure it reflects everything in Pinellas County's Policy Plan and she would get with Mr. Pascoe.

Following the presentation, *Commissioner Glorioso moved and Commissioner Dennis seconded the motion to accept the report as presented for testing purposes.*

Commissioner Glorioso then queried how this tied into the State Intermodal System (SIS) for coordination purposes and queried if the SIS network was included in this network. Mr. Clifford responded yes, with the exception of the smaller connectors, such as the connector between a FIHS facility and the Port of Tampa. He indicated it needs to be understood the connectors are also part of the system. Mr. Pascoe added the policy contained in the network states that the SIS system would be looked at and brought in the Long Range Transportation Plan process.

*Following discussion, the motion was approved.*

**B. Scope of Service for Regional Long Range Plan Update**

Ms. Ward indicated staff, in coordination with FDOT, developed and received approval for the Scope of Services. The work activities are underway with Renaissance Planning Group. This is a cooperative effort. Direct funding to the consultant is being provided by Pinellas and Hillsborough MPOs; Hernando MPO is providing in kind staff service to manage the project; and Pasco MPO is handling the public involvement.

Ms. Ayers added that the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council has agreed to assist with the Public Involvement Plan.

**LEGISLATIVE MATTERS**

Ms. Ward briefly reviewed the legislative matters, in particular the regional assessment of transportation planning recently done by the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC). Ms. Ward distributed a copy of the

power point presentation. The 2003 Florida Legislature requested a study of regional transportation planning in Florida, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the Strategic Intermodal System (SIS). The study was completed in October and presented to the Florida Transportation Commission at their October meeting. The study looked at the structure of MPOs, staffing arrangements, the designation process, MPOs around the Country in terms of identifying the most effective model of MPO structures. As result of the study, FTC has drafted legislation, which would result in changes to the MPO process in Florida if enacted. Ms. Ward briefly reviewed some of the proposals as follows: the proposed legislation would not require the concurrence of the local governments regarding the designation of MPOs; a process would be put in place to require an annual review of the MPOs to determine their compliance by FDOT with certain provisions created in the legislation; if not in compliance, the MPO's designation could be revoked.

Ms. Ayers added the proposed legislation indicates that FTC and not FDOT would provide a report to the Governor. In discussion with Howard Glassman, MPOAC Executive Director, that provision might violate federal law.

Ms. Ward continued noting the proposed legislation would increase MPO voting membership up to 25 and provide for voting membership for Regional Planning Councils, the business community, and the Technical Advisory Committee Chair; as well as allowing the Governor to appoint up to three members representing roads, trucking, transit, aviation, rail, seaports, and freight. On Tuesday of this past week, the Senate Transportation Committee considered the legislation. The MPOAC was allowed to present the MPO concerns. The Pinellas MPO has taken a position of concern with this legislation and Ms. Ward will distribute a copy of their letter at the end of this item.

Ms. Ward indicated the following reasons as to why the proposed legislation should be deferred: during 2003, provisions of the Interlocal Agreement to reconstitute the CCC was put in place and that language is currently being looked at to see how it could strengthen the process and there hasn't been enough time for that to happen; some of the provisions contradict federal law; TEA-21 reauthorization is still pending and TEA-21 needs to be resolved first since there could be other changes to State Statute. The Senate Transportation Committee temporarily tabled consideration of legislative changes to allow the MPOAC to work with FTC staff to address concerns. Some of this would occur during the January 22 meeting in Orlando. MPOAC will be allowed to provide updates and findings to the Senate Transportation Committee in February. Ms. Ward then distributed copies of the Pinellas MPO letter.

Ms. Ayers provided an update, noting that Mr. Glassman met with FTC staff and they have expressed a willingness to work with the MPOs on this. Some of the changes they have proposed do not have to be dealt with legislatively. At the January 22 MPOAC meeting, the FTC Chairman will present the report and how everyone can work together.

Mr. Howe queried when was the appropriate time to indicate their concerns. Ms. Ayers responded there might not be another draft but could send a letter similar to the MPOAC letter. The Hillsborough MPO adopted a motion to mirror the MPOAC letter from their Chairman, with the letter addressed to Senator Sebesta and a copy to the Senate Transportation Committee members and FTC members.

Chairman Doglione stated the Pinellas MPO sent a letter to the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation. Ms. Ward added that the Pinellas MPO action was taken in December prior to the recent meeting.

Mr. Howe noted this issue is on their MPO agenda for January 26 and he anticipates sending a letter also regarding their concerns. Chairman Doglione noted that everyone should be unified.

Commissioner Glorioso noted the FTC picked 27 large MPOs around the Country they felt were good examples of MPOs, with some up to 105 members. He indicated he addressed the Hillsborough County Legislative Delegation on December 17. He suggested each MPO should work with their individual Legislative Delegations to let them know the coordination and cooperation that is taking place now.

Mayor Doglione stated this message needs to be given to the legislators at all opportune times.

Ms. Hoyt indicated the FTC will present their report at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council meeting of January 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the Koger Center and anyone interested in attending is welcome.

#### **REVIEW OF TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR DISTRICTS 1 AND VII**

Ms. Royal, FDOT District Seven, briefly reviewed the Tentative Work Program for District Seven.

An FDOT District One representative briefly reviewed the Tentative Work Program for District One.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **A. Location and Date of Next Meeting**

Chairman Doglione noted the next meeting would be March 26 and hosted by Hernando MPO.

##### **B. Other**

Commissioner Glorioso indicated a void on the CCC is a transit member and this should be discussed at some future point. Chairman Doglione noted that transit would have to be involved at some point.

Mr. Clifford noted the next cycle for the SIS as they talk about prioritization and funding and there will be workshops. District Seven will be held in Tampa, next Tuesday, January 13, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Ward handed out copies of the TEA-21 reauthorization.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.