

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CHAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2006**

MINUTES

A meeting of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs Coordinating Committee was held March 10, 2006 at the Tampa Port Authority, 1001 Channelside Drive in Tampa Florida.

The following members were present:

Councilman Shawn Harrison	Chair, Hillsborough County MPO
Commissioner Jack Mariano	Chair, Pasco County MPO
Commissioner Karen Seel	Chair, Pinellas County MPO
Commissioner Gow Fields	Chair, Polk TPO
Diane Rowden	Chair, Hernando County MPO
Commissioner Fred Tower	Vice Chair, Sarasota/Manatee MPO

Others present:

Lucie Ayer	Hillsborough County MPO
Suzi Dieringer	Hillsborough County MPO
Linda Ferraro	Hillsborough County MPO
Beth Alden	Hillsborough County MPO
Lynn Merenda	Hillsborough County MPO
Alan Steinbeck	Hillsborough County MPO
Allison Yeh	Hillsborough County MPO
Wally Blain	Hillsborough County MPO
Com. Rick Lott	Hillsborough County MPO
Louis Miller	Hillsborough County MPO
Brian Smith	Pinellas County MPO
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County MPO
Carolyn Kuntz	Pinellas County MPO
Karen Cunningham	Pinellas County MPO
Bill Johnson	Vice Mayor, City of Clearwater
Hugh Pascoe	Hernando County MPO

Doug Uden
Tom Deardorff
Ryan Kordek
Gary Maidhof
Christy Zimmer
Tamara N. Christian
Nina Mabileau
Joanne Hurley
Sheila Martin
Manon Lovie
Ben Walker
Howard Glassman
Scott W. Collister
Lee Royal
Mike Maholtz
Joe Smith

Jim Byers
Avera Wynne

Pasco County MPO
Polk TPO
Polk TPO
Citrus County Dept. of Dev. Serv.
Pasco County CAC Chair
FHWA
City of Tampa
Florida Turnpike
BACS
FDOT, District One
FDOT, District One
MPO AC, Tallahassee
FDOT, District Seven
FDOT, District Seven
Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Tampa Bay Partnership/Transit
Multi-Modal Corridor Initiative
PSTA
Tampa Bay Regional Plan. Council

CALL TO ORDER

Hillsborough County MPO Chairman, Shawn Harrison, called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. after the members participated in a boat tour of the Port of Tampa.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 9, 2005

Mr. Gow Fields moved to approve the December 9, 2005 CCC minutes; Commissioner Diane Rowden seconded the motion, which carried.

REGIONAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN ADDENDUM

Mr. Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO, stated that his staff met with FDOT District One Secretary Ben Walker to discuss their candidate projects and that having a prepared regional plan was very beneficial to the meeting. At this time, Mr. Deardorff introduced Mr. Ryan Kordek of this staff.

Mr. Kordek stated that the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan for 2025 was adopted about a year ago by the CCC. The Sarasota/Manatee MPO and Polk

TPO are under the jurisdiction of FDOT District One and therefore operated under a different plan update schedule. Both respective boards have adopted a long range plan for the year 2030. These plans were presented to the CCC at their December 9th meeting and the version he was presenting at this meeting was for final action.

Both plans have projects that meet the qualifications for road, transit and multi-use trail projects. They have developed regional type modes whether they are trail, transit, etc. Polk TPO's plan is a regional component to the long range transportation plan that they can take to both the CCC, as well as the MPO Alliance.

Mr. Kordek previewed maps showing projects from their plan which were divided into two phases, Phase I and Phase II. Phase I are projects for the year 2011-2020 and Phase II projects are for the years 2021-2030. Along with committed projects along US 27, there are Phase I projects that will complete the four to six lanes on US 27 in eastern Polk County along the Ridge. There are also improvements in the Winter Haven urbanized area, SR 542 and US 98 between Bartow and the City of Lakeland.

Some of the regional transit projects include Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors on US 27 along the Ridge connecting to I-4, as well as an intercity inter-urbanized connectivity between Lakeland, Winter Haven and their two transit systems they have in place.

Commissioner Rick Lott of Plant City asked when US 27 in the Haines City area would be completed. Mr. Kordek said that the area north of Haines City has several committed projects and should be completed within the next year, but they are having some problems with US 27 in Polk County and are working with FDOT to get all of the segments of US 27 to go at the same time.

Mr. Fields made a motion to approve the amendment to the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan in the form of an addendum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rowden and carried.

Mr. Mike Howe, Director, Sarasota/Manatee County MPO, said that this regional update of the CCC's plan and the individual MPO updates of the long range transportation plan have taken on a greater significance than in years past. He then introduced Mr. Mike Maholtz.

Mr. Maholtz said that the Sarasota/Manatee MPO adopted their plan for 2030 at their November 28, 2005 board meeting. The planning process began in April 2004 and unlike other plans that have been developed, they wanted to increase the opportunities for the public to participate in the process. In doing so, they scheduled six public workshops throughout their two county area and held numerous focus groups. They divided their area into ten "mobility districts" based on geographic areas and focused on meeting with individuals in those areas.

Mr. Maholtz said that they tried to create a grid system and they faced the challenge of the amount of growth occurring. They held discussions with their local partners, and land use planners as to where the growth was likely to occur, how much growth there was going to be and how fast it was going to occur.

Northern and Eastern Manatee County has had the most growth for residential development. The North Port area has had approximately 4,000 building permits per year.

They came up with an acceptable land use plan and are looking at more creative ways to bring in local private money into their road plan development. He highlighted some of the needs that have come out of this plan. One is a potential new interchange on I-75. There is a large development taking place in that area and they are undertaking an Interchange Justification Report (IJR). Another interchange is scheduled and designed at the Central Sarasota Parkway.

Cost Affordable projects in the year 2030 include calling for 10 lanes on I-75 with 6 general purpose lanes and 4 lanes dedicated for special use such as express lanes, interregional lanes, freight, express buses, or tolls. The only segment of I-75 that is cost affordable at this time, are the improvements to the southern portion through the North Port/Venice area.

There are two projects on US 301 which is on the regional network and includes a small segment of US 301 near the Ellenton Outlet Mall and another segment in Bradenton on 15th Street east to University Parkway.

There are three projects on US 41. One is a widening project near DeSoto Mall, one in Sarasota County around the Sarasota Square Mall and one at the Venice Bypass.

They also have projects in North Manatee County on Moccasin Wallow Road, which will go to six lanes and are looking to developers for contributions to the road.

Following discussion, Mr. Fields made a motion to approve the amendment to the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan in the form of an addendum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tower and the motion carried.

At this time, a 5 minute break occurred at 12:10 p.m. and the meeting reconvened at 12:16 p.m.

Chairman Harrison recognized Ms. Lee Royal from FDOT, District Seven who introduced Tamara Christian who is the liaison for the FHWA.

REGIONAL ROAD NETWORK ADDITIONS

Ms. Suzi Dieringer, Hillsborough County MPO staff said that staff was directed to review the regional road network especially in the Plant City area. Plant City has experienced tremendous growth and future growth is projected in the northeast area of Plant City.

Staff has reviewed the regional road network using the same methodology that they used last year when they evaluated the regional road network as part of the TRIP Program. Three roads are being proposed for addition to the regional road network. They are Sam Allen Road, County Line Road and Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard. The limits of these roads are, for Sam Allen Road it is between SR 39 and County Line Road; County Line Road between Sam Allen Road extension to I-4; and then the multi-modal corridor SR 674 (MLK) that runs east and west through Hillsborough County.

Staff is recommending that these three roads be included on the regional roadways network.

Mr. Fields moved to recommend that Sam Allen, County Line Road and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard be included in the regional road network. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seel and carried.

REGIONAL TASKS IN FY 2006/07 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Doug Uden, Pasco County MPO stated that each MPO is developing their own UPWP for Fiscal Year 2006/07 and they each allocate time towards regional planning and coordination. Therefore, the staff directors have developed two regional planning tasks to be included in each MPO's UPWP. Those tasks are: West Central Florida MPO's CCC and Participation in Other Regional and Statewide Activities.

Mr. Mariano made a motion to approve the two regional UPWP tasks and request that each MPO include them in their UPWP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Seel and carried.

REGIONAL CONGESTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Ms. Dieringer said that the Regional Congestion Management System Performance Report is a "snapshot" of mobility conditions on the regional road system. It is one way to monitor and identify needs for moving people and goods throughout the West Central Florida area. Transportation professionals in the region provided input and data for this document. The objective of this document is to 1) update the last performance report which was completed in 2002; 2) make the report more useful.

For the 2005 report, staff expanded the study area to include Polk, Manatee, Sarasota and Citrus Counties which were not included in the 2002 report. This report uses the adopted regional road network as it existed prior to last year when the regional road network was amended to include the new TRIP eligible projects and the three road projects that were approved earlier.

To begin this study, they collected data, interviewed agency representatives, compiled and analyzed the data and looked at strategies to make the report better and then created the document, as well as a CD. The data collected was based on the performance measures which came from the adopted goals, and objectives. The data included roadway, public transportation data, pedestrian data and other data on the regional road system.

Ms. Rowden made a motion to accept the Regional Congestion Management System Performance Report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mariano and carried.

COURTNEY CAMPBELL CAUSEWAY TRAIL STATEWIDE ENHANCEMENT APPLICATION

Mr. Brian Smith, Executive Director, Pinellas County MPO stated that the MPO staff directors have completed a grant application for statewide Transportation Enhancement funds for the multi-use trail along Courtney Campbell Causeway.

Mr. Bill Johnson, Vice Mayor for the City of Clearwater expressed his appreciation and support for this project.

Commissioner Seel made a motion to approve the application for the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Funds for the Courtney Campbell Causeway Trail Feasibility Study. Commissioner Mariano seconded the motion, which carried.

STATUS REPORTS

A. Public Involvement Program

Ms. Sarah Ward, Pinellas County MPO stated that several projects are underway. They are, a newsletter highlighting CCC activities over the past year and Karen Cunningham is updating the CCC website. Once the website is updated, it should be easier to use.

B. Regional Transit Update

Ms. Beth Alden, Hillsborough County MPO staff gave a brief update on the status of regional transit planning. Last summer, the CCC accepted and finalized the Regional Transit Action Plan. The concept for that plan was that regional transit services are no one agency's priority to date because there is a different travel market. A result of this plan was to look at creating a policy board to implement the transit element of the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan and look at regional development planning, dedicated funding sources for regional level transit and interlocal agreements that would come along with this.

The PD&E for the FDOT's Tampa Bay Intermodal Centers study selected two sites for further study and right-of-way preservation for major centers where different types of modes would connect. One was in the Gateway District (the old Sunshine Speedway site) and the other was the former jail site in Downtown

Tampa. The concept for this plan was to preserve land for the future as development continues to happen.

Transit played a small role in the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP), but one of the projects submitted for consideration from the CCC's Transit Action Plan was the expansion of the Regional Vanpool Program.

C. INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

Mr. Hugh Pascoe, Hernando County MPO, stated that with the passage of SB 360 in 2005, Florida Statutes now require that an interlocal agreement be developed to create any "separate legal or administrative entity to coordinate the transportation planning or development activities. Therefore, the staff director's are in the process of reviewing the content of the existing interlocal agreement of the CCC and Howard Glassman will have the MPOAC legal staff review the agreement also.

The directors are also looking at the CCC's Conflict Resolution Process and making sure it is compatible with the Growth Management Act.

D. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO and Mr. Howard Glassman provided an update on transportation legislation. The legislature is considering an MPOAC sponsored legislation that is contained in the House Committee Bill PCB 06-04 with companion language in SB 1766. The bills propose numerous administrative, organizational and technical changes to MPOs; modifies the Charter County Transit System Surtax and appropriates \$400 million in non-recurring general revenue in FY 06-07 for use on arterial highway projects by FDOT.

It was announced that the next CCC meeting would be held in Polk County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm.