

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36  
37  
38  
39  
40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA MPO  
CHAIR'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2005**

A meeting of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs' Coordinating Committee was held at 11:00 a.m. at the Manatee Civic Center, Anna Maria Room, 1 Haben Boulevard, Palmetto, Florida, 34221.

**The following Members were present:**

Commissioner Nora Patterson, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Councilman Shawn Harrison, Hillsborough MPO  
Commissioner Karen Seel, Pinellas MPO  
Mayor Cliff Duffie, Pasco MPO  
Commissioner Gow Fields, Polk TPO

**Others present were:**

Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Nanette Eubanks, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Ken Hoyt, TBRPC  
Manny Pumariega, TBRPC  
Lucie Ayer, Hillsborough MPO  
Sarah Ward, Pinellas MPO  
Brian Smith, Pinellas MPO  
Carolyn Kuntz, Pinellas MPO  
Mike Maholtz, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Bob Herrington, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Ryan Kordek, Polk TPO  
Tom Deardorff, Polk TPO  
Lee Royal, FDOT District 7  
Bob Clifford, FDOT District 7  
Ben Walker, FDOT District 1  
Mike Guy, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
Tim Hochuli, Manatee County Project Management  
Michael Wood, Manatee County Planning  
Sandi Moody, Bay Area Commuter Services  
Pamela Rictimona, Florida Turnpike Enterprise  
Alison Stettner, Florida Turnpike Enterprise  
Suzi Dieringer, Hillsborough MPO  
Karen Rahill, Tampa Bay Partnership  
Neil Spirtas Manatee Chamber of Commerce  
Sonny Verjaris, Mainstream Construction

1 Doug Uden, Pasco County MPO  
2 Hugh Pascoe, Hernando MPO  
3 Mayor Larry Bustle, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
4  
5

6 **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**  
7

8 Commissioner Nora Patterson, Chair, CCC and Sarasota/Manatee MPO called the meeting to order  
9 at 11:05 a.m. Self introductions were made. Chair Patterson announced due to a prior commitment  
10 she would be turning the meeting over to Mayor Larry Bustle, Vice Chair, Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
11 at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.  
12  
13

14 **I. CONSENT SECTION**  
15

- 16 1. Approval of the CCC Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2004  
17

18 Commissioner Fields: I move approval of the meeting minutes.  
19

20 Councilman Harrison: I second the motion.  
21

22 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
23  
24

25 **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
26

27 There was no one from the public who wished to speak.  
28  
29

30 **III. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**  
31

- 
- 32 1. Letter to State Legislators regarding the CCC's Regional LRTP  
33

34 This was an informational item regarding a letter sent to the members of the West  
35 Central Florida State Legislative Delegation conveying the CCC's regional  
36 transportation planning and coordination accomplishments (same was provided in the  
37 Members' packets).  
38  
39  
40  
41

1 **IV. COMMITTEE ACTION**

2  
3 1. CCC's Regional High Priority Projects List

4  
5 Mr. Pascoe explained that under the CCC's Interlocal Agreement, one of its  
6 responsibilities is to develop and implement a priority selection process that clearly  
7 shows regional priorities in relative ranked order. The CCC is in the driver's seat as  
8 far as working with the Work Programs of the individual MPOs and working very  
9 closely with FDOT in considering projects the CCC wishes to see promoted. The  
10 CCC has adopted its 2015 Cost Affordable Plan, which resets the stage in looking at  
11 the projects to move forward over the next 5 to 15 year period. A Power Point  
12 presentation was provided regarding the CCC's Regional High Priority List:

- 13 • All MPOs participated in a technical process entitled "Technical  
14 Review Team" headed up by FDOT.
- 15 • Information was reconciled with the Regional LRTP.
- 16 • MPOs were invited to submit 2 additional projects that were kept on  
17 rank (2 for each MPO) which resulted in the Ranked Regional High  
18 Priority Projects list (same provided in packets).
- 19 • Members reviewed the previous high priority list and removed projects  
20 that were underway or completed.
- 21 • Funding status of the remaining projects was updated based on the new  
22 Tentative Work Program.
- 23 • Remaining projects were kept in relative order, but were moved up on  
24 the list.
- 25 • The Unranked Regional High Priority Projects list (same provided in  
26 packets) was developed by having each MPO submit two projects not  
27 already on the list.
- 28
- 29

30 Ms. Ward stated as a result of the joint Pinellas County and Hillsborough County CAC  
31 meeting the CAC recommended Gandy Boulevard improvements in Hillsborough  
32 County be added to the Priority List along with I-75 improvements. Ms Ward stated  
33 staff has not had the opportunity to take into consideration the input from the joint  
34 CAC, as far as in terms of where those projects are in the LRTP, therefore staff is just  
35 sharing the comments. She pointed out the joint CACs' primary concern is hurricane  
36 evacuation and listing same as a priority along with adding I-75 improvements to the  
37 list.

38  
39 Mr. Clifford noted the following corrections to Attachment #1 (changes to the Work  
40 Program):  
41

- Rank #4 I-4 Connector projects-construction is for first 2 phases, not only phase 1
- Rank #5 Links Project Stage 4 - design is funded in FY 09/10
- Rank #11 US 19 from Whitney to SR 60 is fully funded, not partially

Mr. Walker pointed out the following corrections to Attachment #2 (changes to WP):

- MAP# P1 US-27 (SR 542-SR 540)- construction is scheduled for 2011 not 2004
- MAP# P2 US 27 - right-of-way is scheduled for 2004/2005 not 2008
- MAP# P3 (CR 544-CR 546) right-of-way is scheduled for 2008 and construction in 2009/10
- MAP# SM1 Venice Bypass - PD&E is in 2004/2005 not 2006

Commissioner Fields: I move approval of the CCC's Regional High Priority Projects List with noted corrections and comments brought forward today.

Councilman Harrison: I second the motion.

Mr. Smith commented regarding clarification of the wording on Project #11, US 19 and it being partially funded; the project is still in design and not fully funded and additional funding is still sought. He pointed out that with same listed as fully funded this may undercut opportunities to acquire additional funds for the project therefore, this was the reasoning of listing the project as partially funded. Mr. Clifford responded that FDOT's perspective was the project is fully funded at this point, but if the definition of the project changes same can be discussed.

Ms. Ayer suggested to list the project as fully funded for that particular segment. Mr. Smith requested for a notation indicating further funding may be sought.

Ms. Ayer requested the Chair to send a letter to the State Legislators and to the Congressional Offices regarding the importance of the Priority List and funding for same.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

2. Regional Tasks in FY 2005/06 Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP)

Mr. Uden provided an overview of two regional planning tasks for placement in each

1 individual MPO's UPWP in order to coordinate and better define regional planning  
2 efforts for next year.

3  
4 Commissioner Fields: I move the CCC approve the regional  
5 UPWP tasks and request each MPO to  
6 place same into their UPWPs.  
7

8  
9 Councilman Harrison: I second the motion.  
10

11 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
12

13 3. CCC's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Brochure  
14

15 Ms. Dieringer distributed copies of the final draft version of the CCC's Long Range  
16 Transportation Plan Brochure. The Brochure is oriented toward general audiences  
17 including citizens and elected officials and highlights the Regional 2025 Long Range  
18 Transportation Cost Affordable Plan in non-technical language. A CD regarding the  
19 CCC's 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan was also distributed.  
20

21 Chair Patterson stated serious funding shortfalls exist in Sarasota/Manatee Counties  
22 and the Brochure/LRTP does not include any projects for Sarasota County or Manatee  
23 County. She pointed out that Manatee County did have unplanned projects that were  
24 fully funded, but Sarasota County was not in that position and possibly Polk County  
25 as well. Chair Patterson suggested not to spend a major amount of money on a mass  
26 printing if in fact we are going to go back, as more programs catch up with this  
27 process, and amend the Brochure/LRTP.  
28

29 Ms. Dieringer agreed with Chair Patterson and stated the LRTP/Brochure will be  
30 amended once Sarasota/Manatee MPO adopts its LRTP. Ms. Dieringer clarified that  
31 Chair Patterson is suggesting to hold off on the printing of the brochure and spend the  
32 money after the amendment. Chair Patterson commented that once the Brochure is  
33 distributed to the public it will be taken as the final copy.  
34

35 Discussion ensued regarding publishing of the Brochure. Ms. Ward pointed out  
36 FDOT District 7 is providing the funds for publishing of the brochure and if printing  
37 is put on hold until all MPOs have adopted their plans this will delay publishing of the  
38 brochure for a full year.  
39

40 Mr. Deardorff commented the Brochure would be very useful in the Plan Update  
41 process for the Polk TPO. He pointed out the Polk TPO's 2025 Plan is consistent with

1 information provided in the Brochure.

2  
3 Chair Patterson requested a footnote be included on the Brochure that indicates same  
4 will be amended or is anticipated to be amended along with the year same will occur.  
5 Mr. Ward indicated Chair Patterson's request certainly could be accomplished. It was  
6 the consensus of the Board to included Chair Patterson's request in the motion.

7  
8 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9  
10 Ms. Ayer announced Councilman Harrison would be celebrating his 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Sunday. In  
11 honor of Councilman Harrison's birthday a cake was presented.

12  
13  
14 **V. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

15  
16 1. **FDOT REPORT**

17  
18 a. Outer Beltway Study

19  
20 Mr. Clifford stated FDOT has begun a Study to evaluate the potential merits  
21 and viability of a transportation facility on the eastern side of the Tampa Bay  
22 area, looking from Sarasota to the south, Polk to the east and all the way to  
23 Citrus County to the north. A Notice to Proceed has been issued to FDOT's  
24 consultant regarding same. The duration of the Study will be approximately  
25 2 years and will be task driven. The first phase of the study will involve  
26 identifying major partners, determining the objectives of such a facility, and  
27 determining needs and opportunities that may already exist.

28  
29 Mr. Howe stated when the Study was presented to the Sarasota/Manatee  
30 MPO's CAC the CAC indicated the title "Outer Beltway" was not consistent  
31 with what the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board had requested, which was an  
32 alternate to I-75 and east of I-75. Mr. Howe asked if the title of the Study  
33 could be changed and questioned the scope east of I-75. Mr. Clifford  
34 responded the vast majority of the study area and the intent is to consider an  
35 alternate east of I-75. He stated the title "Outer Beltway" has always been the  
36 description of the project and it may be too late to change it. Also, FDOT does  
37 not want to preclude the outside of the general area looking at I-75 being the  
38 western boundary. Going further north US 19 or the Suncoast Parkway may  
39 be considered as the western boundary in the northern Counties.

40  
41 Chair Patterson commented that the request from the Sarasota/Manatee MPO

1 was to consider a corridor specific to the Sarasota-Manatee area, which is  
2 apparently being included with the Outer Beltway. She stated Sarasota County  
3 is not enthused with the concept of a beltway; any corridor that would run  
4 through Sarasota County east of I-75 will run through environmental sensitive  
5 lands that have been purchased by the County. She also pointed out that State  
6 roads in Sarasota County are in need of investment and the way the SIS is  
7 defined, Sarasota County is basically out of the loop. Mr. Clifford responded  
8 that the environmental issue will have to be taken into consideration over the  
9 entire area. FDOT is in the process of determining if a beltway can be pursued  
10 or to move on with current plans.

11  
12 Mr. Howe questioned how the feasibility could be determined without  
13 considering specific corridors. Mr. Clifford responded FDOT will consider the  
14 bigger picture by looking at travel demand and using analysis to determine the  
15 demand, growth patterns, etc.

16  
17 Commissioner Seel expressed agreement with Chair Patterson's comments.

18  
19 b. Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment

20  
21 Mr. Clifford explained the Needs Assessment will prioritize regional  
22 transit infrastructure services and needs required for a regionally  
23 effective and integrated transit system encompassing the West Central  
24 Florida region. The Assessment will also take into account  
25 accessibility and service to the larger populated areas and to those  
26 commuters who currently rely on regional transportation systems.  
27 FDOT is performing the Assessment through 5 Task Assignments:

- 28  
29 1) Plan Guidance - Plan goals, objectives, and criteria  
30 2) Plan Organization - Transit Entity Coordination  
31 3) Plan Needs, Trends, and Opportunities - Research  
32 4) Plan Vision - What to accomplish given Task 1  
33 5) Plan Development - Assessment, prioritization, and  
34 implementation of Transit Needs

35  
36 c. FDOT's Florida Transportation Plan

37  
38 Mr. Walker explained the Florida Transportation Plan (FTP)  
39 establishes long-range goals that will guide the investment of over  
40 \$100 billion in Florida's transportation system over the next 20 years.  
41 The current FTP was developed in 2000 and the plan is being updated

1 to respond to new trends, ideas, and changes affecting our  
2 transportation system and travel needs. Mr. Walker provided a Power  
3 Point presentation regarding the FTP:  
4

- 5 – A Steering Committee comprised of statewide partners  
6 will be a key feature of the 2025 FTP development.
- 7 – The goal of the Steering Committee will be to develop  
8 consensus and support among partners and the public  
9 for recommendations on goals, objectives and policies  
10 to be included in the 2025 FTP.
- 11 – All residents, business, and transportation providers  
12 will have an opportunity to influence the development  
13 of the 2025 FTP.
- 14 – A series of Statewide Summits and Regional Forums  
15 will be scheduled; dates, times and locations will be  
16 posted on a dedicated website.
- 17 – Further information can be found at [www.ftp2025.com](http://www.ftp2025.com)  
18

19  
20 Commissioner Seel asked once adopted, will the FTP dictate how  
21 State and Federal money is spent. Mr. Walker responded yes, for those  
22 monies FDOT has discretion over, but there are some funds Federal  
23 Highway mandates FDOT spend on certain systems.  
24

25 Commissioner Seel questioned if the emphasis on the Strategic  
26 Intermodal System (SIS) will be stronger thus resulting in more  
27 funding going into the SIS and less into local projects. Mr. Walker  
28 responded this is the appropriate time (FTP update) to let FDOT know  
29 the investment policy that was put forth (75% split) is appropriate or  
30 not.  
31

32 Discussion ensued regarding the SIS taking an increasing portion of  
33 the dollars. Mr. Walker restated this is the appropriate forum to bring  
34 up issues regarding SIS funding and to possibly change the policy.  
35 Commissioner Seel asked the procedure in order to be placed on the  
36 agenda at the May meeting in Tampa in order to accomplish same. Mr.  
37 Walker responded the website ([www.ftp2025.com](http://www.ftp2025.com)) contains a contact  
38 page regarding same.  
39

40 Chair Patterson turned the gavel over to Mayor Bustle.  
41

1                   2.       Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Coast to Coast (East-West) Concept Report

2  
3                   Ms. Stettner explained Manatee County Commissioner Joe McClash requested the  
4                   Turnpike Enterprise to consider a project that would extend from Port Manatee over  
5                   to Port St. Lucie. The Turnpike Enterprise has defined a corridor which begins at Port  
6                   Manatee and extends eastward to Sebring and then connecting with the Florida  
7                   Turnpike on the eastside. The Turnpike is considering this corridor as a limited access  
8                   toll facility. Due to the magnitude of the project (100+ miles) the study will involve  
9                   coordination with FDOT District 1, District 4, District 7, and all local governments  
10                  and municipalities affected. The Turnpike anticipates to complete the study by  
11                  December 2005 and will provide a report of the environmental, financial, and traffic  
12                  directions in October for further discussion.

13  
14                  Mr. Howe questioned the authority of the Turnpike regarding acquiring ROW in  
15                  advance, especially with a large corridor project. Ms. Rictimona responded the  
16                  Turnpike Enterprise is required to follow the same process as FDOT and Federal  
17                  Highway regarding same.

18  
19                  Mr. Guy asked if the ROW would be purchased with Turnpike revenues. Ms.  
20                  Rictimona answered yes, with bonded dollars.

21  
22                  3.       Legislative Issues

23  
24                  a.       MPO Statute Legislation

25  
26                  Ms. Ward explained the MPO Statute Legislation was requested by a  
27                  Legislator from south Florida to address a number of matters raised through  
28                  the Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) in 2004. The Metropolitan  
29                  Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) was asked to work with  
30                  the FTC staff to bring back a bill (same provided in Member's packets) to  
31                  address certain matters, even though the bill will not be filed this year. Ms.  
32                  Ward provided a highlight of language in the bill:

- 33  
34                                   •       Officials to be included in the MPOs  
35                                   •       Appointment of other modal representatives to the MPOs  
36                                   •       Define duties and authorities of MPOs  
37                                   •       Allows alternates to be named in order to participate in Board  
38                                   meetings  
39                                   •       Required training for MPO Board Members  
40                                   •       Executive Director to be hired by the MPO Board and not a  
41                                   direct employee of a general purpose government

- MPO groups such as the CCC to submit annually to the Legislature a report on coordination activities

b. Growth Management Bill by DCA

Ms. Ward explained that in early 2004/2005 a bill was proposed by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) which was reviewed with the MPOs in January 2005. The MPOAC was asked to review the bill and provide any comments on behalf of the MPOs. Ms. Ward distributed copies of a letter from the MPOAC regarding same.

c. Federal Reauthorization

Ms. Ward stated the House has completed the reauthorization bill which contains a number of earmarks for highway and rail projects. On the Senate side there are 2 committees (highway version and Senate version) that address the reauthorization. The proposal on the table now would increase transportation by 10% and would guarantee each state a return of at least \$.92 on the dollar; and an increase in PL funding of 1.5%.

d. Other Issues

Ms. Ward informed the Board Senator Sebesta has proposed a bill to rename the "Sunshine Skyway Bridge" to "Bob Graham/Sunshine Skyway Bridge" and a portion of I-275 in Pinellas County to "St. Petersburg Parkway/Williams C. Cramer Memorial Highway."

**VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was brought forward.

**VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilman Harrison stated it appears the members all share the same concern regarding the SIS funding versus regional projects. Councilman Harrison suggested for staff to coordinate a presentation for the May 12, 2005 meeting in Tampa to inform FDOT the CCC is speaking from a unified voice.

Councilman Harrison:

I move to request staff of the various jurisdictions to coordinate a statement

1 of the CCC's concerns and for staff to  
2 schedule same for the May 12, 2005  
3 agenda for the Tampa meeting in order  
4 to be able to illustrate those concerns.

5  
6 Commissioner Seel:

I second the motion.

7  
8 Discussion ensued regarding the intent of the "statement." Ms. Ayer stated the  
9 discussion held today will guide staff in formulating the CCC's concern to be  
10 presented to FDOT. Mr. Howe expressed agreement with Ms. Ayer and stated each  
11 MPO will need to present same to respective Boards for direction.

12  
13 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

14  
15 Mr. Hoyt announced Mr. Ray Miller has been appointed as Executive Director of  
16 Hartline. Mr. Miller was previously the Director of Transportation for the State of  
17 Delaware and was appointed January 18, 2005 and will be attending the next CCC  
18 meeting.

19  
20 Ms. Ward announced the statewide MPO AC meeting will be held in Tallahassee on  
21 April 28, 2005.

22  
23 Mr. Howe informed the board of Mr. Guy's retirement effective June 30, 2005. Mr.  
24 Guy has 35 years combined service with the FDOT and the Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
25 as its Executive Director.

26  
27 Mr. Clifford announced that Mr. Hartman, Secretary, FDOT District 7, will also be  
28 retiring in June after 30 years of service with FDOT.

29  
30  
31 **VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

32  
33 The Pinellas County MPO will host the next meeting on June 10, 2005.

34  
35  
36 **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

37  
38 There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.