

**MINUTES  
WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS  
CHAIR'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING  
JAY B. STARKEY WILDERNESS PARK  
10500 WILDERNESS PARK ROAD  
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34655  
FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2004  
10:30 A.M.**

1. LOCATION AND ATTENDEES

A meeting of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) Chair's Coordinating Committee (CCC) was held on June 11, 2004, in the Starkey Park Environmental Education Center, 10500 Wilderness Road, New Port Richey, Florida 34655.

The following members were present:

Shawn Harrison	Hillsborough MPO
Ann Hildebrand	Pasco County MPO
Joe McClash	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Nancy Robinson	Hernando County MPO Chairman
Karen Seel	Pinellas County MPO

Others present were:

Lucie Ayer	Hillsborough County MPO
Whit Blanton	Renaissance Planning Group
Jim Byers	Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Marilyn deChant	Pasco County Citizens' Advisory Committee
Suzi Dieringer	Hillsborough County MPO
Louise Fields	Hillsborough County Attorney's Office
Howard Glassman	Florida MPO Advisory Council
Mike Guy	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Joanne Hurley	Florida Turnpike District
Carolyn Kuntz	Pinellas County MPO
Janet Maseoy	Citizens Opposed to the Suncoast Tollway
Joe Maseoy	Citizens Opposed to the Suncoast Tollway
Sandi Moody	Bay Area Commuter Services, Inc.
Brigitte Orval	Polk County TPO
Hugh Pascoe	Hernando County MPO
Karen Raihill	Tampa Bay Partnership
Mabel Risner	Pasco County MPO
Lee Royal	FDOT, District Seven
Mary Shavalier	HARTline - Hillsborough County
Jim D. Slaughter	Pasco County Parks and Recreation
Alan H. Steener	Gandy Civic Association/Citizens' Advisory Committee

Kevin Thibert	FDOT, District One
Douglas R. Uden	Pas398-86-9739co County MPO
Ben Walker	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County MPO
Avera Wynne	Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)

2. CALL TO ORDER

Pasco County Commissioner Ann Hildebrand called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. She indicated this was National Mourning Day and requested a moment of silence. Afterwards, introductions were made.

Jim Slaughter (Pasco County Parks and Recreation Department) provided a brief history on Jay B. Starkey Park. He stated that the park covers 8,300 acres and is a cooperative venture between the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners. He noted a few of the activities and facilities, such as a day-use area that includes five shelters, two large pavilions, and an open play area. Other park features include hiking trails, camping, tents, cabins, bike trail, nature trail, birding trail, and horseback-riding trails.

He indicated that future ventures for the park included extension of the bike trail to connect with the Suncoast Parkway Bike Trail, additional small cabins, and Two Rivers Nature Center (an environmental educational building for school students to learn about freshwater, wetlands, and river ecosystems). Discussion followed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - APRIL 2, 2004

The minutes of the April 2, 2004, meeting of the West Central Florida's MPO CCC were presented for action. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Commissioner Nancy Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Shawn Harrison seconded, and the motion carried unanimously to approve the April 2, 2004, minutes.

4. TAMPA BAY OUTER BELTWAY STUDY - SCOPE OF SERVICES

Lee Royal provided information on the outlined scope which the CCC had requested the FDOT to prepare at a previous meeting. She indicated that the scope includes nine different categories and subcategories: 1) organization for the study—identify major partners in the study, identify roles and responsibilities, organize work groups, and define study parameters; 2) development of evaluation criteria—identify needs and opportunities, identify issues and concerns, establish study objectives and guidance criteria, and define evaluation criteria; 3) selection and preparation of the analysis tools—select and prepare travel demand model and other appropriate techniques, select and prepare the land use analysis tool, and prepare socioeconomic data and other essential data inputs; 4) identification of alternatives—identify a comprehensive set of alternatives to be considered and assemble and map the identified set of alternatives; 5) fatal flaw analysis—perform a fatal flaw analysis on all alternatives using the criteria identified; 6) second tier analysis—perform a second tier analysis on all surviving alternatives using the criteria identified and at the direction of the FDOT, the consultant may be required to rank criteria of projects; 7) cost analysis—at the direction of the project manager, prepare a cost estimate for either the recommended or preferred alternative, an identified small

set of best performing alternatives, or all second tier alternatives; 8) funding options—at the direction of the project manager, examine options and opportunities for funding either the recommended or preferred alternative, an identified small set of best performing alternatives, or all second tier alternatives; 9) public involvement—the FDOT and the project manager will determine the level and types of public involvement appropriate for this study, at the direction of the project manager, the consultant may assist in a public involvement program, and at the direction of the project manager, the consultant may assist in other public involvement activities.

Ms. Royal stated that the anticipated cost of the study is between \$350,000.00 to \$400,000.00. Discussion followed. After review and discussion, the FDOT and staff directors requested the CCC to endorse the study scope of services and move forward with seeking funding. She indicated that this had been discussed at the last CCC meeting and that without funding the study cannot move forward. Commissioner Hildebrand stated that Pasco County had a similar initiative with the Bi-County Thruway, and that FDOT and Pasco County staff should get together to see if there is a possibility of any lessons learned from that project. Ms. Royal stated that the FDOT is willing to work with all parties. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Commissioner Shawn Harrison motioned to approve, Commissioner Karen Seel seconded the motion and the motion passed to endorse the Scope of Services and to continue seeking funding for the study.

## 5. REGIONAL MULTIMODAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### a. CCC Milestones

Hugh Pascoe provided a schedule depicting the three CCC milestones that will occur during development of the Regional 2025 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These milestones are 1) endorsement of a needs assessment in March 2004, 2) endorsement of a draft Regional Cost Affordable Plan in June 2004, and 3) adoption of the final Regional Cost Affordable Plan in October 2004. He further stated the CCC hired a consultant, Renaissance Planning Group, to perform the update of the Regional LRTP. Discussion followed.

### b. Regional Public Involvement Activities

Whit Blanton (Renaissance Planning Group) provided a *PowerPoint* presentation that included information on the public-involvement activities. He highlighted what had happened since the last meeting of the CCC, noting several key public involvement events had taken place. On May 14, the CCC, with support from the Tampa Bay Partnership, sponsored a Regional Transportation Summit at Franklin Templeton Investments in St. Petersburg. More than 80 members of the public, comprised largely of business interests, elected officials, and senior staff, attended and provided guidance on the regional needs assessment projects under consideration. The meeting provided opportunities for participants to note their preferences for regional transportation projects not included at this time.

All four MPOs in District Seven also held public-involvement meetings/workshops which have specifically addressed regional needs. Discussion followed.

c. Regional Highway Needs

Whit Blanton provided to the CCC, through the *PowerPoint* presentation, information on the update of the West Central Florida 2025 Regional LRTP. The CCC's Regional Multimodal Transportation Plan is intended to guide the individual MPOs' LRTPs by providing a clear view of transportation investment priorities for regionally significant transportation facilities and services.

He stated that his firm has been working closely with the MPOs and the FDOT through a Technical Review Team (TRT) to identify, evaluate, and refine transportation alternatives for the Regional Needs Assessment.

He also stated that population projections show Hillsborough County with the majority of jobs; however, Pinellas County will have twice as many jobs compared to population. It is projected that intercounty commuting trends will continue to increase in the future. The key issue is to preserve and maintain a long-range capacity for the regional transportation system. The regional strategies for roadways would include general-purpose and special-purpose lanes, and there maybe a need to link transportation strategies with land use strategies in the future.

d. Regional Transit Needs

Whit Blanton stated that the regional transit needs include high-speed rail, fixed guideway, bus rapid transit, express bus, positive infrastructure and policies, and regional transit. Results learned from alternatives testing include interstates need substantial capacity, a need for transit beyond high-speed rail within I-4 corridor, an outer beltway does not attract much traffic from I-75 (further study and evaluation needed), and it is time to get serious about regional transit (capital and operating expenses, connections between agencies, and land uses). The study analysis provides data for a systemwide need for projects that maintain today's level of delay and congestion with a travel choice improvement and a regional connectivity and support for economic viability. It was noted that the constrained areas may include policy constraints. The next steps include endorsement of 2025 regional needs projects, develop project cost, forecast revenues (identify regional allocation), and select regional funding priorities in September. Discussion followed.

There was discussion regarding the need to look at the inclusion of regional projects beyond the 20-year plan and look at build out of roadway construction. Mr. Blanton noted Hillsborough County was doing a right-of-way preservation study. During this study, they took a look at a built-out for a 50-year horizon plan. Mr. Uden stated that Pasco County is working with a consultant to develop a Right-of-Way Preservation Ordinance. Mr. Blanton indicated Sarasota/Manatee County is currently in the process of adopting their 2025 Plan and they may have to indicate no growth in certain zones. He emphasized that they may need to establish land use policies based on transportation. Discussion followed.

e. Regional Multiuse Trails

Mr. Pascoe indicated in May 2004, the Regional Multiuse Trails Committee, consisting of bicycle and pedestrian coordinators from around the West Central Florida Area, met to initiate the process for updating the CCC's Regional Multiuse Trail Plan. The issues and tasks identified by the committee were review of the criteria for defining regional multiuse trails; review of opportunities for expanding the regional multiuse, trail network to provide additional system continuity and intercounty connections. A Multiuse Trail Map based upon the existing and proposed bicycle/pedestrian elements of LRTPs, master plans, and other planning documents, is included in the packet. He also noted there is a consensus on what is a regional trail and that connectivity maybe the key.

Mr. Uden stated that the Starkey Trail is part of the regional multiuse, trail system and will connect to the Suncoast Parkway Trail in the near future. Mr. Slaughter indicated that Pasco County has been successful as part of the development order that trails will be built and maintained by the neighborhood or at the developer's expense.

Mr. Pascoe indicated that the Regional Multiuse Trails Map was revised based upon previous discussion. A summer meeting will be held for any future issues relating to the funding of regional trail facilities and also to go over the trail network. Staff is recommending this be included as part of the Needs Plan. Discussion followed.

f. CCC Action on the Regional Needs Assessment

Hugh Pascoe indicated that it would be appropriate for the CCC to approve the above highway, mass transit, and multiuse trails elements as the West Central Florida 2025 Needs Assessment. Once approved, the needs assessment will be the basis for development of the Regional 2025 Multimodal Cost Affordable Plan.

Alan Steener serves on the Hillsborough County Citizens' Advisory Committee and is president of Gandy Association; he appeared and presented his opposition to Gandy Boulevard being included in the plan as an elevated roadway.

Mr. Steener suggested removing the elevated expressway verbiage from the tables without specifying what type of expressway it would be listed as at this time. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** Commissioner Harrison motioned to approve the Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment without any specifics regarding Gandy Boulevard. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. Following discussion as to how to list Gandy Boulevard on the plan, it was indicated Gandy Boulevard should be listed as a partially controlled access.

**Motion:** Commissioner Harrison and Commissioner Robinson both agreed with this change to the motion. Following this discussion, the motion was approved that Gandy Boulevard would be listed as a partially controlled access.

6. SUNCOAST PARKWAY INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Joanne Hurley provided a *PowerPoint* presentation on the Aesthetic Design Guidelines for the Suncoast Parkway and Trail, stating the basic premise is "compatible with the natural environment and surrounding communities." She stated that the Turnpike Association selects

one project annually from the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA) for its "President's Award for Excellence," and the 2003 award winner of Florida's Turnpike Enterprise was the Suncoast Parkway Project. She mentioned that the trail won the category of social responsibility. The Suncoast Parkway's aesthetic design guidelines entry was selected for "setting the standard of excellence" within the industry. She provided information on the parkway, such as it is 42 miles long, has 8 interchanges, 3 mainline plazas, 4 ramps, 7.9 cubic yard embankment, and cost approximately \$507 million.

Mr. Pascoe noted that the CCC was instrumental in applying for an Enhancement Grant for the Suncoast Trail. Mr. Uden indicated that Kevin Thibert also played a significant part in getting the parkway and the trail constructed. Discussion followed. Ms. Hurley indicated that the trail has been designated as a Millennium Trail as well as a national trail.

Ms. Hurley indicated Mr. Slaughter used a modified logo of the parkway logo for the trail and he had also won an award. She noted that the Florida Turnpike Committee is working on another application for the Suncoast Parkway to have the parkway designated as a Florida Scenic Highway.



Ms. Ayer suggested destination information at interchange areas along the trail recognizing the CCC as having a key role in the trail development. Ms. Hurley felt this was a good idea and noted that they have started a trail marker program and suggested recognizing the CCC on a mile marker. Ms. Ayer stated that staff will work with her on the sign. Discussion followed.

## 7. LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Mr. Glassman (MPOAC Executive Director) provided information to the CCC regarding the latest Federal and State legislation. He stated that the TEA-21 was into its third extension session, with the next meeting scheduled for June 23. Conference meetings are being held in an attempt to resolve the differences between the House and the Senate versions of the bill. TEA-21 will probably be extended to November or December. The funding issue is problematic. The Department of Transportation needs to revisit the PL formula. There is the possibility of funding being set aside for the regional planning program (discretionary funding). The MPOAC supports a 95 percent rate of return and has sent a letter to all the legislative delegation members to gain their support. The planning funding is moving forward.

Ms. Ayer motioned that the Joint Citizens' Advisory Committee recommended that the CCC send a letter in support of increasing the minimum guarantee. It was indicated this would not be resolved in the near future. Therefore, Ms. Ayer stated she would let the Joint Citizens' Advisory Committee know and the CCC will discuss this when it is the right time.

Mr. Glassman indicated they ended up with a good bill at the State level. The main issue is where money is being applied. The need to keep working with the FDOT so that the MPOs can provide input when setting regional project priorities for the LRTP. He indicated there will be further discussion at the July 22, 2004, MPOAC meeting.

Ms. Ward queried the wording for the gas tax reduction for one month. Mr. Glassman responded there would be a transfer of \$580 million from the General Fund to the Trust Fund.

Commissioner McClash felt there was a need to do more public relations through the MPOAC and CCC regarding the regional coordination taking place, possibly through regional updates.

There is the need to start emphasizing more on the regional approach, such as the Suncoast Parkway decisions; suggesting a letter could be sent to the Governor, etc.

Mr. Pascoe indicated legislation has passed changing the Tampa Bay Commuter Rail Authority to the Tampa Bay Commuter Transit Authority, and added Sarasota/Manatee to the membership which gives them the ability to deal with broader issues of regional transit. It was noted that funding was not included with this legislation. Discussion followed.

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

### a. Bus Rapid Transit Workshop

Ms. Ward indicated the bus-rapid transit workshop was held yesterday. The CCC co-sponsored the event along with other agencies. The CCC was involved in the Steering Committee. The workshop included speakers both with national and international experience with bus-rapid transit projects. It was noted there are a lot of resources available, as well as presentation material on the CCC website.

The entire session was video taped as another resource tool. Ken Hoyt was part of the panel and a champion of this.

### b. Tour of Starkey Bike Trail

Chairman Hildebrand indicated that if anyone was interested they would take a tour of the new trail immediately after the meeting; it would take about 15 minutes.

### c. Location and Date of Next Meeting

Mr. Uden indicated that it is Hillsborough County's turn to host the next meeting, referencing a joint meeting between CCC and the Alliance to be held in Lakeland by Tom Deardorff and Lucie Ayer on September 17, 2004. Ms. Ayer also said they may need a special meeting in August for the LRTP. Discussion followed.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

