

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
CHAIR'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2005 MEETING**

A meeting of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs' Coordinating Committee was held September 16, 2005 at the Southwest Florida Water Management District Headquarters, located at 2379 Broad Street (US 41), Building #4, Rooms A & B, Brooksville, FL 34601.

**The following members were present:**

Commissioner Karen Seel	Chairman, Pinellas County MPO
Mayor Cliff McDuffie	Chairman, Pasco County MPO
Councilman Shawn Harrison	Chairman, Hillsborough County MPO
Commissioner Nora Patterson	Chairman, Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Commissioner Paul Senft	Chairman, Polk TPO
Commissioner Diane Rowden	Chairman, Hernando County MPO

**Others present:**

Frank Mears	FDOT District I
Tom Deardorf	Polk TPO
Paul Sim,	Polk TPO
Sarah Ward	Pinellas MPO
Frank Smith	Pinellas MPO
Hugh Pascoe	Hernando MPO
Lucie Ayers	Hillsborough MPO
Jerry Comellas	FDOT District VII
Don Skelton	FDOT District VII
Lee Royal	FDOT District VII
Alison Stettner	Florida Turnpike
Doug Uden	Pasco MPO
Michael Howe	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Sheila Martin	Bay Area Commuter Services
Kwame Arkin	FHWA
Carolyn Kuntz	Pinellas MPO
Ryan Kordek	Polk TPO
Dennis Dix	Hernando MPO
Cassandra Ecker	Carter Burgess
Joanne Hurley	Florida Turnpike
Suzi Dieringer	Hillsborough MPO
Christie Zimmer	Pasco MPO
Carl Guenther	Pinellas CAC
Marilyn de Chant	Pasco County
Ned Baier	Hillsborough County
Mary Elwin	Hernando County Planning Department
Sharon Pope	Hernando County MPO (Recorder)

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Hernando County MPO Chairman, Commissioner Diane Rowden called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. and asked that everyone introduce themselves.

### **APPROVAL OF June 10, 2005 CCC MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes of June 10, 2005 and August 26, 2005 were presented for action.

Commissioner Patterson indicated that page 6, 8<sup>th</sup> line, should be changed to read "within District I, it is expected Polk's share to be approximately 13% or \$40 million dollars, for FY 2005/06"

***Motion:** Commissioner Seel moved; Commissioner Sims seconded, and motion carried to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.*

### **AMENDMENTS TO CCC AGREEMENTS**

Mr. Pascoe, Hernando County MPO, stated that SB 360 contemplates that MPOs would be able to join together into regional entities that would be eligible for regional benefits that are offered by the new Growth Management Act. The CCC has its own legislation. There are three main agreements that allowed for the creation and operation of the CCC. One is the interlocal agreement. The second is a set of operating procedures. The third is a conflict resolution process.

Mr. Pascoe briefly noted that the MPOAC attorney indicated that the CCC is in compliance with Senate Bill 360. The agreements will be reviewed by the Staff Directors Committee and then brought to the CCC Board.

***Motion:** Commissioner Patterson moved; Commissioner Sims seconded, and motion carried to approve the agreements.*

Commissioner Rowden deferred Item IV until Councilman Harrison arrived at the meeting.

### **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. FDOT Report**

##### **1. Outer Beltway Study**

Lee Royal, FDOT District VII, gave a brief update on the Outer Beltway Corridor Study, making note that the recommendations would be brought to the CCC at a future meeting. This study is in the data collection phase, however there is a fact sheet presently available. In the next year you will see one-on-one coordination with staff, and that information will be brought to the board.

##### **2. Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment**

Jerry Commellas, FDOT District VII, provided an update on the Strategic Regional and Transit Needs Assessment. The regional study started at the beginning of the calendar year. One objective is to maximize the opportunities for state and federal transit dollars in the future. Currently FDOT does not have a regional transit plan. Another objective is to establish standard performance criteria. The areas that the study encompasses are West Central Florida, eight counties, six MPOs, five major Regional Activity Centers,

and thirty-five incorporated locations. Regional communication is anticipated to keep all areas informed of changes, meeting dates, and project contracts.

Following Mr. Commellas' update, Commissioner Rowden noted that Councilman Harrison had arrived, and returned to Item IV.

### **TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM (TRIP)**

#### **A. Comments From Public Workshop**

Mr. Pascoe presented the comments from the public workshop held September 1, 2005. Mr. Pascoe stated that there was excellent coverage and attendance. The workshop provided the public the opportunity to review materials related to proposed modifications to the regional transportation system and the expenditure of TRIP funds.

#### **B. Regional Roadway Network**

Mr. Pascoe briefly reviewed the Regional Roadway Network Map. The board has looked at all of the issues relevant to the legislature. The CCC Regional Road Map depicts existing facilities on the Regional Road Network, both on and off the Florida Intrastate Highway System. The Strategic Intermodal Systems (SIS), economic development, hurricane evacuation, and county boundaries that go into building a stronger regional network that responds to SB 360 and allows for additional funding.

Mr. Howe stated that Sarasota/Manatee County is still working on the LRTP, and it is expected to be adopted in December 2005. In the year 2006, Sarasota/Manatee will be requesting re-evaluation of their LRTP.

#### **C. Project Priorities for TRIP Funding**

Mr. Pascoe briefly reviewed the project priorities for TRIP funding. A lot of technical review has been performed regarding TRIP funding. There are specific requirements for TRIP eligibility. The Technical Review Team has spent lengthy hours developing separate rankings for project submittals in FDOT Districts I and VII since TRIP project selection does not compete across district boundaries. The following ranking system was used to develop project priorities:

- Number of regional criteria met by the facility (1-9 points)
- Growth management considerations (maximum of 9 points)
  - Existing concurrency concerns (3 points)
  - Presence of a Development of Regional Impact (3 points)
  - Other pending major development/redevelopment (3 points)
- Project phase (maximum of 9 points)

Mr. Pascoe stated that TRIP funding has been justified. \$40 million dollars has been granted to District VII, and \$37 million dollars for District I.

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) reviewed the Regional Roadway Map and recommended that Morris Bridge Road be removed from the Regional Network based on environmental concerns.

Councilman Harrison agreed that Morris Bridge Road should be removed. At least the section from S.R. 56 south. He suggested adding the section of Morris Bridge Road north on the Regional Roadway Map.

Discussion ensued regarding Morris Bridge Road and whether it should be retained on the Regional Roadway Network.

Mr. Skelton, FDOT District VII Secretary, stated the CCC needs to identify what a regional system is trying to accomplish.

Mr. Pascoe stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) discussed possibilities regarding the Morris Bridge Rd. One possibility would be to place Cross Creek on the map, and place Morris Bridge north or leaving the portion from SR 56 to Eiland Boulevard into Pasco County.

**Motion:** *Councilman Harrison moved; Commissioner Seel seconded, and motion carried to approve the amendment of the Regional Roadway Map by deleting Morris Bridge Road south of S.R. 56 and to retain the section of Morris Bridge Road from S.R. 56 to S.R. 54 (Island Way).*

Commissioner Patterson suggested that more detail be included in the label for the map.

Mr. Uden asked whether the deletion included Fletcher Avenue from I-275 to I-75. Commissioner Harrison replied that Fletcher was included in the deletion.

**Motion:** *Commissioner Seel moved; Commissioner Sims seconded, and motion carried to approve the TRIP priority submittals.*

Mr. Skelton inquired how FDOT should prioritize projects that resulted in a tie. Discussion ensued and it was indicated that FDOT would determine which projects receive funding and that the funds should be equal among the various MPOs.

Commissioner Seel inquired as to the deletion of Tier 1 and 2 on the Regional Road Network Map. Mr. Pascoe responded that all regional projects would now be subject to conflict resolution as a result of the new legislation. Previously, the Tier 1 projects had been subject to conflict resolution.

**Motion:** *Commissioner Seel moved; Commissioner Sims seconded, and motion carried to approve the elimination of Tier 1 and 2 as it applies to the conflict resolution process.*

## **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. FDOT Reports**

#### **3. Intermodal Centers**

Mr. Comellas gave an update on the intermodal centers, including the outcome of the public hearings. He noted that six sites were selected as part of the Project Development and Environment (PD & E) study: University of South Florida, Downtown Tampa, Westshore business District, Gateway (Sunshine Speedway FDOT recently purchased), and St. Petersburg. These sites were narrowed down to two. The two recommended sites are Hillsborough County (Downtown Tampa), and Pinellas County (Gateway). The purpose of the study is to improve the quality of intermodal passenger connections in Tampa Bay so that regional mobility and accessibility are significantly increased. FDOT hopes to receive Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approval in late fall of this year. The website for additional information is [www.tampabayintermodal.com](http://www.tampabayintermodal.com).

**B. Review of SAFETEA - LU**

Lucie Ayers, Hillsborough County MPO, gave a synopsis of the new Federal Transportation Act that was recently signed into law by the President. The bill was signed on August 10, 2005 in the amount of \$286.4 billion dollars for FY 2004/09. State and local governments can expect to receive approximately 79% of the SAFETEA-LU funding for highway programs. Overall, this is a 38% increase over the last six-year statute, TEA-21. Ms. Ayers noted that a statewide workshop on SAFETEA-LU will be held September 30, 2005 in Orlando and everyone interested is invited to attend. FDOT has prepared a series of "fact sheets" describing different aspects of the federal act such as:

- Equity Provisions
- Funding Impact
- Planning
- Transit
- New Programs

Mr. Kwame Arkin stated that there are new guidelines regarding the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). The LRTP must be updated every five years and the TIP must be updated every four years. There are many new guidelines forthcoming and this information will be sent to each MPO.

Mr. Frank Miers inquired as to when Federal Highway would expect to see the MPOs incorporate this interim guidance into their plans? Mr. Kwame replied that if an MPO has already completed their plans based on the TEA-21 guidelines, they should be in compliance until the next cycle. Mr. Kwame will inquire on this with his agency [FHWA] and relay the information to the MPOs. Ms. Ayers stated that this topic can also be discussed during the September 30, SAFETEA-LU workshop.

**C. Economic Impacts of West Central Florida's 2025 Regional Transit Needs Assessment**

Mr. Pascoe indicated they are currently in the process of dissemination. Part of the dissemination effort is an executive summary.

Ms. Sheila Martin, Bay Area Commuter Services, gave a brief presentation on the upcoming 9th Annual Commuter Choices Week (CCW) that will be held September 26 - 30. Included in this effort will be a commitment card to fill out. The commitment card suggests different ways to commute and has selection boxes to choose from. There will be donated prizes awarded. The grand prize will be a trip for two of two nights and three days to a Fairmont Hotel of your choice which includes airfare. There are Fairmont hotels in Bermuda and Mexico. She noted the kick-off would be on September 23, in downtown Tampa and that various events would take place during the actual week of September 26-30, 2005. Ms. Martin also informed the committee that they have acquired new vans (Hillsborough).

Commissioner Rowden stated that she will be working on getting Hernando County involved in the commuter program.

Commissioner Seel noted that Pinellas County Commissioner Bob Stewart serves on the Florida Impact Fee Task Force and that the Task Force will be meeting from 10-4 pm, September 23, 2005 in Orlando for those who are interested in attending.

**DATE OF THE NEXT CCC MEETING**

The next CCC meeting will be held on December 9, 2005, at 11:00 a.m., in Pasco County and hosted by Pasco County.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.