



West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Hernando County MPO

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Hillsborough County MPO

601 East Kennedy Blvd.
18th Floor Tampa, FL 33602
813/272-5940 fax: 813/272-6258

Pasco County MPO

7530 Little Road, Suite 320
New Port Richey, FL 34654
727/847-8140 fax: 727/847-8084

Pinellas County MPO

600 Cleveland St., Suite 750
Clearwater, FL 33755
727/464-8200 fax: 727/464-8201

Polk County TPO

330 West Church St.
Bartow, FL 33830
863/534-6000 fax: 863/534-6471

Sarasota/Manatee MPO

7632 15th St. E.
Sarasota, FL 34243
941/359-5772 fax: 941/359-5779

Citrus County

Community Development
3600 W. Sovereign Path, Suite 140
Lecanto, FL 34461
352/527-5239 fax: 352/527-5252

Florida Department of Transportation District 1

801 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830
800/292-3368 fax: 863/534-7172

Florida Department of Transportation District 7

11201 N. McKinley Dr.
Tampa, FL 33612
800/226-7220 fax: 813/975-6443

Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

4000 Gateway Ctr. Blvd., Ste. 219
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
727/570-5151 fax: 727/570-5118

Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council

1296 Victoria Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL 33901
239/338-2550 fax: 239/338-2560

Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

1241 S. W. 10th Street
Ocala, FL 34474-2798
352/732-1315 fax: 352/732-1319

Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Post Office Box 2089
Bartow, FL 33831-2089
800/297-8041 fax: 941/534-7138

Florida's Turnpike Enterprise

Post Office Box 1409
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639
813/558-1117

West Central Florida MPO's CHAIR'S COORDINATING COMMITTEE BOARD MEETING

Friday, December 12, 2008, 12:00 p.m.

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District Seven Building
(Executive Conference Room)
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - [MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2008](#)
- IV. [METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE \(MPOAC\) 2009 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL](#)
- V. [TAMPA BAY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY \(TBARTA\) MASTER PLAN UPDATE](#)
- VI. [CHAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S \(CCC\) LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN \(LRTP\) UPDATE](#)
- VII. [FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-14](#)
- VIII. OTHER BUSINESS - [2009 Meeting Calendar](#)
- IX. DATE OF THE NEXT CCC MEETING - MARCH 13, 2008 (HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY MPO)
- X. ADJOURNMENT

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CHAIRS' COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2008 MEETING

A meeting of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Chairs' Coordinating Committee was held Friday, December 12, 2008 at the FDOT District Seven Building, Executive Conference Room, 11201 N. McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612

The following members were present:

Mayor Scott Black	Chairman, Pasco County MPO
Mayor Frank Hibbard	Chairman, Pinellas County MPO
Commissioner Donna Hayes	Chairman, Sarasota/Manatee MPO

Others present:

Brian Smith	Pinellas County MPO
Sarah Ward	Pinellas County MPO
Bob Kersteen	TBRPC (Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council)
Avera Wynne	TBRPC (Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council)
Sandi Moody	Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS)
Ray Chiaramonte	Hillsborough County MPO
Michael Howe	Sarasota/Manatee MPO
Scott Collister	FDOT District 7
Lee Royal	FDOT District 7
Bob Clifford	FDOT District 7
Lori Carlton	FDOT District 1
Frank Meares	FDOT District 1
Hugh Pascoe	Hernando County MPO
Doug Uden	Pasco County MPO
Cynthia Jones	Citrus County Transportation
Mabel Risner	Pasco County MPO
Diane Slaybaugh	Polk County TPO
Carleen Flynn	Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Richard Tillery	Renaissance Planning Group
Whit Blanton	Renaissance Planning Group
Gladys Will	Brandon Community Group
Vivian Bacca	Brandon Community Plan Working Committee
Kelly Cornelius	R-LAND (Rural Lithia Area Neighborhood Defense)
Pam Clouston	R-LAND
George Niemann	United Citizens' Action Network
Ned Baier	Hillsborough County P. GM
Carolyn Kuntz	Recorder (Pinellas County MPO)

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor Scott Black, Pasco County MPO Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Pasco County MPO was to host today's meeting; however, due to the Executive Committee meeting held earlier that day that involved several of the same attendees, it was decided to hold the meeting here.

Chairman Black indicated they would ask for public comment, Bob Clifford would present the TBARTA report since he needed to leave for another engagement, break for lunch, and then reconvene. He noted a

quorum was not present at today's meeting; therefore, he tabled action items until the next meeting. He then asked everyone at the table to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kelly Cornelius – expressed her concern with the PD&E (Preliminary Design and Environmental) Study being performed for the widening of Lithia Pinecrest, which includes a rural section. They had attended earlier workshops and had been told this section would not be widened and were surprised to see it had been included in the study. She expressed concern that widening this section would promote unwanted sprawl, destroy the rural character of the community, the process has not been transparent, the project is not consistent with their Comprehensive Plan or the MPO Long Range Transportation Plan, and this is contrary to what they had been told earlier. When pressing the consultant, they said this section probably wouldn't be widened but they have to include it in the study in order to receive federal funds. Several members of the public have raised opposition and sent letters to the County Commission, leaders of the project, and the Public Works Department. In turn, they received a letter from Hillsborough County MPO Chairman Ken Hagan that the County currently has no plans to widen Lithia Pinecrest south of Fish Hawk Boulevard and that inclusion of this section does not obligate or suggest the County is interested in widening this section. She was concerned this would be included in the Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) Long Range Transportation Plan and noted the Hillsborough County MPO voting member was not present to further discuss this issue.

Vivian Bacca – expressed her concern with the possibility of widening Lithia Pinecrest noting that, in the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan, Lithia Pinecrest Road from S.R. 60 to Bloomingdale Avenue is to go from two lanes to four lanes. The ongoing study is looking at widening it to six lanes from S.R. 60 to Fish Hawk Boulevard. She feels it is premature to add the widening to the 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan for consideration.

Pam Clouston – expressed her concern for including the widening of this section of Lithia Pinecrest into a plan. Hillsborough County had allowed areas to be developed in the past without any type of control and, now, they are looking at ways to mitigate the impacts. Six laning of Lithia Pinecrest in the rural section is not necessary since that area is not congested and would promote sprawl. They are supposed to be looking at smart transportation and multi-modal solutions and unnecessary widening would be a wasted expense. Hillsborough County is moving in a new direction and including the widening in a plan would be premature.

George Niemann – expressed his concern with the possibility of including the widening of this section of Lithia Pinecrest in the Needs Assessment Plan for 2035. There has been a lot of controversy regarding the proposal for a beltway in this area. The development community would like to expand the urban area into the rural area and, when roadways are included in plans for widening, the development community will use those plans to indicate the infrastructure is proposed to be in place.

Gladys Will – expressed her concern regarding studying this section of Lithia Pinecrest for six laning. There is a community group studying this area as to what they envision for the future. She is concerned they are trying to expand the urban area into the rural area. She has lived in the area for over 40 years and there have been numerous studies for six laning. Other improvements could be made so that the road would never need to be widened beyond four lanes, especially in the environmentally-sensitive area.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chairman Black directed the minutes to be continued to the next meeting.

TAMPA BAY AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY (TBARTA) MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Bob Clifford, FDOT District VII, presented a PowerPoint on the update of the TBARTA Master Plan. They have been developing a Master Plan that focuses on public transportation, including a vision and long term goals. The Phase Two recommendations were connecting mass transit to major destinations around the region and the type of modes. Phase Three is to develop a network of those destinations from the perspective of functionality and operational, including the development of various scenarios. The scenario ultimately approved by TBARTA will require enhanced local transit service since it will be a significant component. TBARTA has included in their analysis the local needs for additional transit operations. In addition, they are looking at funding and finance issues for long and short-term needs, addressing economic stimulus issues at the federal and state levels, working with the private sector for public/private partnerships, and land use discussions. They have been working with a Land Use Working Group for coordination. They are making sure they have one consistent message throughout the region. Other areas throughout the Country are interested in their process and are requesting information. Over the next few months, TBARTA will finalize the plan and it will be brought back to the next CCC meeting.

Chairman Black added that Bob Clifford is the new Executive Director for TBARTA.

****At this time, 12:30 p.m., the CCC broke for lunch and then reconvened at 1:04 p.m.****

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MPOAC) 2009 LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Michael Howe, Sarasota/Manatee MPO, distributed copies of the legislative bill regarding clean-up. At their October Board meeting, the MPOAC (Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council) voted to seek two legislative proposals for the upcoming legislative session. The first proposal is to create a Florida Transportation Revenue Study Commission that would provide a report to the Governor by January 2011 regarding the examination of the stability of existing revenue sources. They would prepare findings regarding transportation funding needs and the ability to address those needs; develop recommendations on new and innovative funding options; and provide \$225,000 in MPO planning funds per year to the Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) to manage the program. The second proposal (which was distributed) is a general clean-up based on the 2004 Federal Act of the MPO-enabling Statute of Florida.

Mr. Smith flagged Page 6, Item 4, regarding the designation of one MPO for each urbanized area. Ms. Ward responded this requirement is a federal provision. Mr. Howe added there are discussions about major changes to MPO requirements in the new Federal Reauthorization Act and suggested waiting to see the outcome at the federal level.

Mr. Pascoe indicated the Joint Citizens Advisory Committee (JCAC) reviewed this item and felt it was a good idea and agreed the funding should be off the top instead of having each MPO allocate a portion of their funds.

CHAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE'S (CCC) LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) UPDATE

Hugh Pascoe, Hernando MPO, presented a PowerPoint on the LRTP update. He distributed copies of the LRTP to each MPO and Regional Planning Council. The JCAC reviewed the LRTP and had only minor recommendations. Other agencies and groups have also reviewed the Plan and there has been close

coordination with the Staff Directors, TBARTA, and FDOT. They have worked with their own local planning process and TBARTA is using the data. They worked with TBARTA in joint development of the model. The 2035 Regional LRTP will provide a regional framework for the update of the individual LRTPs and must be completed by the spring of 2009 to provide guidance during the MPO LRTP updates. The MPOs are developing a draft Regional Highway Needs Assessment that shows the type and number of lanes for roadways required to accommodate the 2035 travel demand. The Regional Cost Affordable Plan needs to be completed by the next CCC meeting; however, a special CCC meeting might be called for if substantive issues arise. Polk TPO and Sarasota/Manatee MPO are on a different cycle for adopting their LRTP than the District VII MPOs; therefore, they are at a different timeframe for updating their technical data. He reviewed some of the technical data and forecasts and proposed projects, noting there will be further technical review and further coordination with the TBARTA plan.

Mr. Chiaramonte made the following comments:

- Lithia Pinecrest should not be shown on the Plan as six lanes and, instead, should be shown the same as it is on the MPO Plan as four lanes to Fishhawk Boulevard and two-lanes enhanced beyond Fishhawk Boulevard; and
- Bruce B Downs is shown as eight lanes but there are ongoing discussions and that could change.

Mr. Pascoe replied he noted the information on the map.

At this time, 1:38 p.m., Mayor Hibbard left the meeting.

Some general discussion followed.

FDOT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-14

Frank Meares, FDOT District 1, presented their Tentative Work Program for fiscal years 2009 – 2014, noting there is a \$3.4 billion statewide reduction in transportation funding and there are lots of challenges. This included a five-minute video presentation. In the current year for FDOT District 1, they were able to advance 37 projects, with 27 of those projects being in Sarasota, Polk, and Manatee Counties. He noted he had copies of the Tentative Work Program for those three counties available for those interested. They have had an increase in the number of contractors bidding on FDOT projects, which helps with decreasing the cost of projects; however, gas tax and general revenue continue to decline. FDOT is attempting to address the issues. The funding for the TRIP (Transportation Regional Incentive Program) will continue and \$759 million has been invested in projects from 2010 to 2014. There were some deferrals.

Carleen Flynn, Florida Turnpike, presented the Turnpike's Tentative Work Program, noting traffic has decreased by approximately 3 – 5%, which resulted in a decrease in toll revenue. This decrease in tolls caused a 25% cut from their Program this year, which equals to approximately \$1 billion. They deferred the construction phase of several major widening projects; however, they were able to keep several scheduled projects for this area in tact.

Upon query by Mr. Smith whether the Veteran's Expressway Trail was included as part of the project, Ms. Flynn responded she was not aware of that project but she would find out the information. She noted there was limited right-of-way in the area.

Lee Royal, FDOT District VII, presented a PowerPoint on their Tentative Work Program. Although there has

been a leveling of project costs, revenues continue to decline. Since November 2006, District VII has had a reduction of \$691 million in transportation revenues. They review projects on a priority basis, looking at safety, system preservation, and then capacity expansion. Copies of the Tentative Work Program for District VII were available, in addition to a list of the program adjustments. In that Program, projects had been advanced, added, and deferred for various phases. She reviewed the projects. A public hearing was held last night and those comments will be incorporated. The Work Program will be sent to Tallahassee, a statewide public hearing will be held March 3, and then it will be adopted July 1. The MPOs have until January 20 to provide comment to FDOT. FDOT will continue to monitor the revenue forecasting and the federal Reauthorization Act.

Responding to query, Ms. Royal responded FDOT submitted a list of projects that could go to construction within 180 days if federal stimulus funding became available. She noted some of the projects on the list included U.S. 41, U.S. 19, Martin Luther King Boulevard, I-275/S.R. 60 to Himes, I-75 corridor, S.R. 686, noting the list is available on the FDOT website. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has received the list and is evaluating it. In addition, other jurisdictions have developed their lists for submittal to FHWA.

Some general discussion ensued.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Smith noted Frank Hibbard was the outgoing Pinellas County MPO Chairman; however, the MPO designated him to continue as the CCC representative, which will allow him to continue to serve on TBARTA as the CCC representative.

Upon query by Chairman Black as to who the Pinellas County representative was on TBARTA, Mr. Smith responded Commissioner Karen Seel.

Chairman Black noted the schedule for 2009 meetings was available.

DATE OF THE NEXT CCC MEETING – MARCH 13, 2009 – (Hillsborough County MPO)

Chairman Black indicated the next meeting is March 13, 2009, hosted by Hillsborough County MPO.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m.