

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS'
JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2006**

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations met on Tuesday, February 28, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the board room of Clearwater Christian College, 3400 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard, Clearwater.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 4:00 p.m. Pinellas MPO staff announced the names of the new Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Pinellas County MPO Citizens Advisory Committee. They are Steven Cohen, Chairman and Jack Weiss, Vice Chairman. Messrs. Cohen and Weiss are also new members of the West Central Florida MPOs Joint CAC.

Mr. Cohen was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, following the guidelines of the Joint CAC by-laws, the Committee members elected Karl Guenther as Chairman *Pro Tem*. Mr. Guenther called the meeting to order.

Attendees from four remote meeting locations—one each in Hernando, Pasco, Polk, and Sarasota/Manatee Counties—connected to the meeting through phone conferencing and the CCC website on the internet. Mr. Guenther said that he would ask these participants for their comments and opinions as each agenda item was discussed.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Pinellas/Hillsborough site attendees introduced themselves:

Hillsborough CAC: Joe Amon, Leonard Plotkin and Al Steenson
Hillsborough MPO: Beth Alden, Suzi Dieringer and Lynn Merenda
Pinellas CAC: Ned Allen, Karl Guenther and Jack Weiss
Pinellas MPO: Karen Cunningham, Arlene Davis and Ramon Solis
Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority: Jim Byers
Guest: Debby Amon

Remote site attendees introduced themselves:

Hernando CAC: Len Tria and Nicholas Nicholson
Hernando MPO: Hugh Pascoe
Pasco CAC: Christie Zimmer and Rich Balkcom
Pasco MPO: Manny Lajmiri and Doug Uden
Polk TPO: Ryan Kordek
Sarasota/Manatee CAC: Kathy Benz
Sarasota/Manatee MPO: Mike Howe, Bob Herrington and Mike Maholtz

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of November 29, 2005 meeting were corrected as follows:

- Page 3, Item V – Coast to Coast Study, line 2 shall read: ". . . on the west coast (near the Manatee-Sarasota **Manatee-Hillsborough** County line) . . ."
- Page 6, Item VII – Trip Priority Amendment for District 1, line 1 shall read: ". . . the US 301/Ft. ~~Harner~~ **Hamer** Intersection Project . . ."

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of November 29, 2005 as corrected. The motion carried.

IV. PROPOSED REGIONAL ROAD NETWORK ADDITIONS

Suzi Dieringer of the Hillsborough County MPO reviewed the addition of roads to the regional road network in the Plant City area. Specifically, an extension of Sam Allen Road from SR 39 to County Line Road; SR 574/Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from Dale Mabry Highway to SR 39; and County Line Road from I-4 to the Sam Allen Road Extension. Staff requested a recommendation for the CCC to approve these additions to the regional road network in order to make them eligible for funding through the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) of the Growth Management Act.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to recommend that the CCC approve the additions to the regional road network. It was then moved, seconded and carried to table this motion.

At this time, the Committee and other meeting participants discussed Agenda Item IX-A. Following the discussion, the earlier motion was taken from the table.

VOTE ON MOTION: The motion to approve the additions to the regional road network carried unanimously with 6 votes in favor.

The remote-site participants unanimously supported the action of the Committee.

V. REGIONAL CONGESTION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE REPORT

Suzi Dieringer of the Hillsborough County MPO reported that staff has completed the final draft version of the Regional Congestion Management System (RCMS) Performance Report Update for 2005. The report details performance data and trends for the eight-county West Central Florida CCC area. Staff presented a PowerPoint overview of the report and described the next steps in the RCMS process. Staff requested a recommendation to the CCC to accept the Regional Congestion Management System Performance Report.

ACTION: It was moved to recommend that the CCC accept the Regional Congestion Management Report. The motion was seconded and it carried unanimously with 6 votes in favor.

The remote-site participants unanimously supported the action of the Committee.

VI. PROPOSED REGIONAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT BY SARASOTA-MANATEE MPO AND POLK COUNTY TPO

The Sarasota-Manatee MPO and the Polk County TPO within FDOT District 1 completed the updates of their respective Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTPs) on November 28, 2005 and December 8, 2005, respectively. The two updated LRTPs can now be incorporated into the adopted Regional LRTP by means of a Plan amendment by the CCC.

Mike Maholtz presented the updated Sarasota-Manatee MPO LRTP.

ACTION: It was moved to recommend that the CCC approve an amendment to the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan to make it consistent with the recently adopted Sarasota/Manatee MPO LRTP. The motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously with 6 votes in favor.

Ryan Kordek presented the updated Polk TPO LRTP.

ACTION: It was moved to recommend that the CCC approve an amendment to the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan to make it consistent with the recently adopted Polk TPO LRTP. The motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously with 6 votes in favor.

The remote-site meeting participants unanimously supported the actions of the Committee.

VII. TAMPA BAY REGIONAL BUS RAPID TRANSIT WORKSHOP REPORT

Jim Byers, of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority gave an overview of the Tampa Bay Regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Workshop held on February 16 and 17, 2006. The purpose of the workshop was to disseminate transit implementation strategies and information that could have applicability within the Tampa Bay Region, national trends, Florida trends in BRT implementation, and to bring together the diverse and competing interests that vie for the use of the roads. The workshop's themes focused on the concepts of "Planning Today for Tomorrow's Transportation" and "Sharing the Road Through the Use of Technology."

This was an information item that did not require action by the Joint CAC.

VIII. UPDATE OF REGIONAL UPWP FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006/07

Doug Uden of the Pasco County MPO presented an overview of the regional tasks being planned in the Unified Planning Work Program of the MPOs in the region. The presentation included the regional planning efforts of the West Central Florida MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee for the upcoming fiscal year. It also explained how those efforts support the maintenance and strengthening of the ongoing CCC process for coordinating regional plans and programs, as well as the participation of the CCC in other regional and statewide activities and organizations that have an impact on the regional multimodal transportation system. Staff requested a recommendation that the CCC approve the two regional UPWP tasks and requests each MPO to place them into their respective UPWPs.

ACTION: It was moved to recommend that the CCC approve the two regional UPWP tasks and request each MPO to place them into their respective UPWPs. The motion was seconded and it carried unanimously with 6 votes in favor.

The remote-site meeting participants unanimously supported the action of the Committee.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Follow-Up on Remote Meeting Technology Implementation of Proposed Interim and Future Enhancements

(This item was discussed during Agenda Item IV.)

Beth Alden of the Hillsborough MPO gave a status report of the request from the Hillsborough MPO, through its County Attorney's office, to have an Attorney General Opinion on the application of the Sunshine Law regarding voting procedures for CAC members who would be participating through phone conferencing and recommending actions to the CCC. Options to expand the Joint CAC membership and quorum were also discussed.

A lengthy group discussion followed regarding how to amend the JCAC's bylaws in order to expand regional participation and to give the other counties voting status. Mr. Balkcom of the Pasco County CAC suggested that the membership of the Joint CAC be expanded to 18 members, with each participating MPO having 3 representatives, and with the quorum being set at 7 members. The Committee took action on the suggestion.

ACTION: Mr. Weiss moved that the Joint CAC be expanded to 18 members, or 3 representatives from each MPO, and that the quorum be set at 7. Mr. Amon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 6 votes in favor.

The attendees from the remote meeting locations—CAC members from Hernando, Pasco, and Sarasota/Manatee, and MPO staff from all four counties—participated in the discussion and supported the Committee's motion unanimously. Contingent upon CCC approval, the change to the by-laws would be adopted at the next meeting of the Joint CAC.

B. CCC Application for Statewide Enhancement Funds

Ramon Solis of the Pinellas MPO staff presented a status report on the funding application to FDOT's Statewide Enhancement Program put together by the Pinellas MPO on behalf of the CCC, and submitted to FDOT. The funding will support the Courtney Campbell Causeway Scenic Trail Feasibility Study. Both the MPO and the FDOT District 7 are sponsors of the application.

As directed by the CCC, the purpose of the study to be funded by the Statewide Enhancement Grant is to evaluate the environmental effects and the technical feasibility of adding a bicycle/pedestrian facility for the entire project length, approximately 9.9 miles.

It was also reported that once the application is executed by the CCC Chair and the FDOT District Secretary, the application will be submitted to the FDOT Central Office for prioritization with other applications received throughout the State.

No action was required for this information item.

C. Draft Meeting Schedule for Calendar Year 2006

A draft meeting schedule for 2006 was presented by staff with the understanding that it would be modified based on the actions of the CCC to approve the revision of the Joint CAC By-laws.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.