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Florida Department of
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Tampa Bay Regional
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400 Gateway Center Blvd., Suite 219
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Southwest Florida Regional
Planning Council
1296 Victoria Ave.
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Planning Council
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Central Florida
Regional Planning Council
PO Box 2089
Bartow, FL 33831-2089
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Transportation Authority
3802 Spectrum Blvd, Suite 127
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West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Chairs Coordinating Committee

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA MPOs CHAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE

JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JCAC) MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2010

3:00 p.m.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)
Conference Room
3802 Spectrum Boulevard
Tampa, FL

Agenda

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 3, 2009**
3. **REVIEW OF DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) TASKS FOR 2010 – 2012**
4. **REQUEST BY HART TO AMEND TRIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
5. **FDOT PRESENTATIONS**
 - A. 2060 Florida Transportation Plan
 - B. Tentative Work Programs
6. **REVIEW OF REGIONAL CERTIFICATION RESPONSE DOCUMENT**
7. **TBARTA REPORT**
8. **OTHER BUSINESS**
 - A. Next Meeting – June 1, 2010
 - B. Other
9. **ADJOURNMENT**



**JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA MPO CHAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2010**

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations met on Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 3:00 p.m. in the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) Conference Room, 3802 Spectrum Boulevard, Tampa, Florida, with webconferencing at each MPO office.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Leonard Plotkin – *Hillsborough County CAC*
Pierre Mathurin – *Hillsborough County CAC*
Laurel Lockett – *Hillsborough County CAC*
Nick Fritsch – *Pinellas County CAC*
Cathy Lasky – *Pinellas County CAC*
Bill Jonson – *Pinellas County CAC*
Pete Odom – *Pasco County CAC*

OTHERS PRESENT

Michelle Greene – *TBARTA*
Sandi Moody – *Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS)/TBARTA*
Manon Lavoie – *Florida Department of Transportation District I*
Lee Royal – *Florida Department of Transportation District VII*
Linda Stachewitz – *Florida Department of Transportation*
Shannon Estep – *Florida Turnpike Enterprise*
Mary Shavalier – *HART*
Jim Edwards – *Pasco County MPO*
Many Lajmiri – *Pasco County MPO*
Karen Cunningham – *Pinellas County MPO*
Ned Baier – *Hillsborough County MPO*
Gena Torres – *Hillsborough County MPO*
Laura Lockwood – *Polk TPO*

REMOTE SITE ATTENDEES

Jim Lacher – *Sarasota/Manatee CAC*
Kasey Cursey – *Pinellas County CAC (alternate)*
Cyndi Watkins – *Pinellas County Planning Department*
Bob Herrington – *Sarasota/Manatee MPO*
Michael Howe – *Sarasota/Manatee MPO*
Pasco MPO staff

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was held in the TBARTA conference room in Tampa, with members also in attendance at four satellite locations. Pinellas County CAC Chairman, Nick Fritsch, called the meeting to order and had those in attendance and listening via teleconference introduce

themselves. He noted there was not yet a quorum so items requiring action would have to be deferred until a quorum was reached. He then gave instructions regarding the conduct of the meeting for those in attendance at the meeting and via the webinar, including participation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Jonson noted the minutes did not include who was present and who was absent. Ms. Cunningham responded staff did not receive official minutes from the last meeting and, therefore, included notes that documented the actions taken. Mr. Jonson indicated he recorded that meeting and staff could use the recording for the meeting minutes.

It was suggested action on the minutes be deferred until the next meeting so more thorough minutes could be prepared. Chairman Fritsch directed the minutes be deferred until the next meeting until names could be inserted.

****At this time, Jim Lacher of the Sarasota/Manatee CAC participated via webinar, which made a quorum****

3. REVIEW OF DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TASKS FOR 2010 – 2012

Jim Edwards, Pasco County MPO, indicated the tasks were included in the agenda packet and then described the tasks. He noted the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) covers a two-year period, beginning July 1, 2010. Task 1 is to coordinate with other regional and statewide agencies; and Task 2 covers the West Central Florida MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) plans and activities. The end products include technical reports and plans; record of participation in other regional and statewide organizations' planning activities; reports provided to the CCC and member MPOs regarding regional and statewide planning activities; amended 2035 Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to reflect Polk TPO and Sarasota/Manatee MPO cost feasible plan updates; publicly noticed quarterly meetings of the CCC and the Joint CAC; coordinated Transportation Improvement Programs and FDOT Tentative Work Programs; updated list of TRIP (transportation regional incentive program) priorities; regional task sheets included in the UPWPs; regional Congestion Management Process; a comprehensive and up-to-date regional transportation website; publicly announced joint coordination meetings with the Central Florida MPO Alliance; and regional LRTP summary brochures. He noted the potential for the area to be designated as nonattainment regarding air quality and, therefore, the end product for the second task description would change as follows: **an updated 2035 Regional LRTP would address air quality conformity and reflect Polk TPO and Sarasota/Manatee MPO cost feasible plan updates (FYs 2011 and 2012)**. The regional UPWP tasks are incorporated into the individual MPO's UPWPs. The CCC will take action at their March 12 meeting.

Based upon discussion, Mr. Edwards indicated the regional UPWP needs to be updated to make sure the dates are correct, noting several versions have been circulated. Ms. Royal added FDOT will also review the UPWP and provide comment and/or adjustments, working with the MPOs.

Following discussion, ***Pete Odom moved, Leonard Plotkin seconded, and motion carried to recommend approval of the regional UPWP to the CCC.***

4. REQUEST BY HART TO AMEND TRIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Mary Shavaliar, HART, indicated HART had a previously-approved prioritized project for TRIP (transportation regional incentive program) funding for use on regional express routes.

HART is requesting those funds be used, instead, to support Preliminary Engineering for rail rather than acquisition of buses on regional corridors for express routes. She explained that the \$800,000 in existing TRIP funding was to be used for the acquisition of two buses that would travel between Pasco and Hillsborough Counties; however, because TRIP funding cannot be used for operation costs and HART doesn't have the funds for long-term operation, there are no plans to buy the buses in the future. HART is seeking the use of the TRIP funding to advance its light rail project. The study is estimated to cost over \$5 million, and Hillsborough is investing \$1.6 million to be used as a local match for an anticipated federal earmark. To supplement this, HART is requesting \$800,000 that has already been obtained through TRIP and an additional \$900,000 of TRIP funding.

The members questioned how this project would benefit the region, which is a requirement for TRIP funding. Ms. Shavalier responded this project will provide a foundation for a regional transit system. Upon further questions regarding the regional objectives being addressed, Ms. Shavalier responded those questions would be answered as an outcome of future studies. Ms. Royal provided additional information for the TRIP funding and Ms. Shavalier provided information regarding modeling efforts and some additional information. Ned Baier, Hillsborough County, added additional information regarding the regional aspect of the project and the modeling effort. One member commented that there is a need for transit service from Pasco County through Hillsborough County with the number of developments being constructed and the traffic congestion. In response to a question as to how this project would impact other TRIP-funded projects, Ms. Royal responded this would not impact any other projects, noting some jurisdictions were unable to allocate local funds to meet the eligibility requirements for TRIP funding and, additionally, there were some cases where the bids came in lower than projected, which meant there was current year funding available. Ms. Royal contacted those agencies that had TRIP projects in the program as to whether they could advance their projects; however, they were unable to advance their projects due to revenue shortfalls. Regarding the concern that redesignation of the funds from the transit project for bus service to Pasco County would impact the Wesley Chapel service, Mr. Edwards responded there would not be an impact since that funding is earmarked from EOT funds at approximately \$1.7 million for the initial Alternatives Analysis study and should begin during the summer.

Following an in depth discussion, ***Laurel Lockett moved, Pierre Mathurin seconded, and motion failed to recommend approval of redesignating the \$800,000 to the rail study and an additional \$900,000 of TRIP funding by a vote of 3 to 4.*** Since the first motion did not pass, ***Laurel Lockett moved, Pierre Mathurin seconded, and motion carried to recommend approval of redesignating the previously-prioritized \$800,000 for Preliminary Engineering for the rail study by a vote of 5 to 2. Laurel Lockett moved and Pierre Mathurin seconded a motion to recommend approval of the additional \$900,000 of TRIP funding.*** Some additional clarification of the request for the additional \$900,000 in TRIP funding followed the motion at a request of the members. Mr. Jonson requested the motion be amended that it be subject upon inclusion of the regional perspective/objective prior to completion of the Alternatives Analysis or designation of the Locally Preferred Alternative. Laurel Lockett responded she was reluctant to amending her motion. Following discussion and restate of the motion, ***the motion failed to recommend approval of the additional \$900,000 of TRIP funding by a vote of 3 to 4.***

5. FDOT PRESENTATIONS

A. 2060 Florida Transportation Plan

Lee Royal, FDOT, provided a brief review of the 2060 Florida Transportation Plan,

noting this is a 20-year guide for FDOT defining the goals and objectives for the State of Florida and includes all modes of transportation and a look of integrating transportation and land use. The updated plan provides a look at 50 years in the future and is closely coordinated with the plans around the State. There is a Steering Committee that is providing guidance throughout the development of the Plan. In addition to the Steering Committee, there will be advisory groups looking at specific objectives and goals. There will be a statewide webinar held on March 10, 2010 at 2:00 p.m., which will give an opportunity statewide to engage the public. A statewide summit will be held in August and adoption of the Plan will occur in December. FDOT will receive comments throughout the entire process. Updates can be requested through the website and the public is encouraged to participate through the webinar.

Chairman Fritsch noted this was worthwhile and the message needs to be conveyed to the legislators that this is worthwhile and needs to be funded. Ms. Royal added the issue is sustainability of a revenue source and this document is the guiding principle of where to invest over the next 50 years and how to pay for those investments. Mr. Odom added not all the gas tax revenue collected in Florida stays in Florida and that should be remedied. Ms. Royal stated she would forward that comment to Central Office in Tallahassee. She noted there was a movement a few years ago attempting to get a more favorable return on that funding and they were successful in getting additional funding returned to the State but Florida is still not getting a full return. Mr. Baier noted this was a federal issue and one reason identified as to why Florida does not get a full return was the lack of transit projects and the current push for transit projects should be helpful in providing a fair return. Someone commented that railroad tracks were being eliminated a few years ago and now the emphasis is where to place the tracks and that it is disconcerting that Florida is being penalized and needs to be looked at.

B. Tentative Work Programs for Districts I, VII, and Turnpike Enterprise

Manon Lavoie, FDOT District I, showed a video of FDOT District I's Tentative Work Program, which encompasses Polk and Sarasota/Manatee Counties. She requested anyone interested in a copy to let her know.

Shannon Estep, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, distributed information regarding the Turnpike, which included projects for Districts I and VII. She provided a brief review of the projects and associated cost estimates. Based upon a member comment, Ms. Royal responded all of the information is available on FDOT's website.

Lee Royal, FDOT District VII, provided a brief review of FDOT District VII's Tentative Work Program, including road, transit, airport, and port projects. She requested anyone interested in the information to let her know.

6. REVIEW OF REGIONAL CERTIFICATION RESPONSE DOCUMENT

Gena Torres, Hillsborough County, noted the MPOs are certified annually and part of the certification includes regional questions. The tasks are described in the agenda packet, with the exception of some minor adjustments made after the Staff Directors' meeting, noting there is a lot of ongoing coordination. She highlighted some of the major areas. There needs to be a better process to make it seamless for the member MPOs as to which MPO pays for the various regional projects. In addition, regional air quality will need to be addressed due to the potential for being redesignated as nonattainment.

Ms. Royal provided additional detail for the certification process, noting the Federal Transit Administration and Federal Highway Administration visits the district every three years to meet with staff and MPO members. The certification goes to Central Office in Tallahassee with a recommendation and then to the Federal Highway Administration for a determination that the district met the Title 23 CFR, Title 40, and planning requirements and authorize FDOT to construction federally-funded projects. The certification deems that the federal requirements have been met and the community has been engaged in the planning process and allows FDOT to implement the projects.

7. TBARTA REPORT

Michelle Greene, TBARTA, indicated that projects are underway and they have advertised two of the projects. The project with PSTA and the Pinellas County MPO is underway and a Memorandum of Understanding has been approved by all parties to move that project forward. They hope to have the merger with the Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS) completed by March or April.

Chairman Fritsch discussed the efforts of the Land Use Working Group, noting they have developed guiding principles recommendations, which was presented to the TBARTA Board and is awaiting feedback. Participation in the Working Group is broad based and includes land use and transportation planners, as well as developers and others. The recommendations require a willingness to change density and shift the focus from vehicle friendly to transit friendly.

Sandi Moody, TBARTA (BACS) commented on the positive aspects of the Working Group, including the cooperation and agreement to standardizing the terminology so everyone means the same thing.

Bill Jonson, Pinellas County CAC, noted the TBARTA Board will have another work session in March as to how to move forward.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting – June 1, 2010

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1, 2010.

B. Other

Pierre Mathurin, Hillsborough County CAC, submitted statistics on transit, which he gathered from the National Transit Database. In his analysis, he noted that transit agencies continue to reduce service due to lower levels of funding.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.