

**WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS
JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MAY 30, 2006**

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations met on Tuesday, May 30, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in the offices of URS Corporation, 7th Floor, Main Boardroom, 7650 West Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hillsborough County CAC – Joe Amon, Al Steenson, Pierre Mathurin, Brian Ross
Pasco County CAC – Christy Zimmer
Pinellas County CAC – Ned Allen, Jack Weiss

OTHERS PRESENT

Beth Alden – Hillsborough County MPO
Jim Byers – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Yolanda Cotroneo – Recorder
Sheila Martin – Bay Area Commuter Services
Lynn Merenda – Hillsborough County MPO
Ramon Solis – Pinellas County MPO

REMOTE SITE ATTENDEES

Pasco County CAC – Rich Balkcom
Sarasota/Manatee Counties CAC – Dale Stevenson

Bob Herrington – Sarasota/Manatee Counties MPO
Mike Howe – Sarasota/Manatee Counties MPO
Ryan Kordek, Polk County TPO
Manny Lajmiri – Pasco County MPO
Mike Maholtz – Sarasota/Manatee Counties MPO
Hugh Pascoe – Hernando County MPO
Doug Uden – Pasco County MPO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Amon, as acting chairman, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mathurin distributed a document he had prepared for the committee's information that compared the local transit agencies with other agencies across the country.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of February 28, 2006 were revised as follows:

Agenda Item I, Paragraph 1: "Mr. Weiss is a new member of the Joint CAC and Mr. Cohen has been here as part of membership for several years."

ACTION: Mr. Allen moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Zimmer seconded the motion. All the remote site participants approved the minutes by consensus, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Membership Expansion

(At the chairman's request, this item was moved ahead of the rest of the agenda.)

Beth Alden of Hillsborough MPO staff gave a status report on the proposed JCAC membership expansion approved by the JCAC at its last meeting. She reported that at the Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting in March, no action was taken to approve the membership change. The Polk TPO and the Sarasota/Manatee MPO raised some questions, and the CCC wanted to give them an opportunity to discuss this further with their boards and committees. The CCC will review this item again at their June meeting, and an update will be provided at the next JCAC meeting.

V. CCC INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Ramon Solis, Pinellas County MPO staff, presented a draft of the CCC Interlocal Agreement amendment. The CCC Interlocal Agreement is currently being amended to allow Citrus County to have voting rights for the purpose of participating in the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). The TRIP was created in 2005 by the state legislature to provide state matching funds to local governments and the private sector to help pay for projects that benefit regional travel and commerce. Two of the requirements for participating in the program are an executed interlocal agreement among local agencies (e.g. MPOs, counties, regional authorities, etc.) and a regional transportation plan. The CCC has in place an interlocal agreement and a Regional Long Range Plan. To that end, the CCC is the entity responsible for TRIP project selection in the West Central Florida area.

The CCC's existing interlocal agreement, developed prior to implementation of the TRIP, provides that only the MPOs have voting membership. Citrus County is a non-voting partner entity. The proposed amendment to the interlocal agreement provides that Citrus County will have voting rights on matters involving the TRIP program including the Regional Long Range Plan, development and/or amendments to criteria for selection of TRIP candidate projects, and annual adoption of TRIP project priorities.

The legislation that created the TRIP also requires that the interlocal agreement include a conflict resolution process. The CCC has in place a process that was adopted prior to the TRIP legislation. The process is being amended to reflect the requirements of the TRIP legislation. It will then be incorporated into the interlocal agreement.

Mr. Allen asked if the agreement must be recorded in each county. Mr. Pascoe confirmed that this is so.

It was pointed out by Sarasota/Manatee that the agreement attestation language still had the old chair's name on the agreement. This would need to be corrected prior to signing by all parties.

ACTION: Mr. Allen moved to accept and pass on to the CCC the proposed draft interlocal agreement, with the signatories' names verified. Mr. Steenson seconded the motion. All remote site participants concurred with the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. REGIONAL ROAD NETWORK ADDITIONS

Mike Maholtz, Sarasota/Manatee MPO staff, reported that the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and the Polk TPO have each conducted an extensive review of the existing CCC's Regional Road Network that was developed and adopted last year to determine needed additions. The inclusion of "regionally significant" facilities and roads on the CCC's Regional Network is particularly important as it is a threshold criterion for Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) funding.

This review resulted in seven proposed additions by the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and four proposed additions by the Polk TPO. The CCC's Technical Review Team reviewed the proposed additions at its meeting on April 20, 2006 and recommended approval of all proposed additions. This action was based upon an evaluation of the additions and upon the CCC's regional road criteria. The results of this review, reflecting the qualifications of each addition depicted, were reviewed by the members present.

Mr. Maholtz and Ryan Kordek described the road segments proposed for addition to the network and the role they would play in the regional transportation system. They noted that the CCC's regional network must be coordinated with the Central Florida Alliance and the Charlotte-Punta-Gorda-Sarasota-Manatee regional networks. They also discussed coordination with the Central Polk Parkway and the Heartland Parkway. Mr. Mathurin asked that the lists include transit-related projects.

ACTION: Mr. Mathurin moved to approve the recommended road network additions as presented, with the comment that the JCAC would like to see transit projects included in the future. Ms. Zimmer seconded the motion. All remote participants concurred with the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

VII. REGIONAL MULTI-USE TRAILS

A. Revisions to the Regional Multi-Use Trails Map

Hugh Pascoe, Hernando County MPO, reported that the Regional Multi-Use Trails Committee has been working to refine the regional map depicting multi-use trails. A copy of the map was included with meeting materials. The Regional Multi-Use Trails Program of the CCC is intended to promote a continuous system of trails which link regional attractors of the bicycle and pedestrian trips.

The map showed trails which have been determined to be regional in nature based upon a set of criteria developed by the Regional Multi-Use Trails Committee. According to these criteria, regional trails:

- Are identified as a component of the state system of multi-use trails
- Connect two or more regional activity centers
- Run along an identified regional multi-modal corridor
- Connect to an existing intermodal facility
- Cross county lines
- Are major connectors which promote regional connectivity

Mr. Mathurin pointed out that some of the trail segments are on abandoned rail rights-of-way and asked if there were a way that they could be used for passenger rail as well as for trails. Mr. Pascoe said that this suggestion will be explored further.

ACTION: Ms. Zimmer moved to recommend that the CCC approve the draft map. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. All remote participants concurred with the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Prioritization of Multi-Use Trails

Hugh Pascoe said that having a set of clear priorities for trails projects is essential when applying for funding to support these projects. In particular, competing for statewide enhancement funds depends on having clear policy direction in the form of a ranked list of priority projects adopted by the CCC.

Concurrent with refinement of the regional map, the Multi-Use Trails Committee developed a draft set of criteria for identifying multi-use trail projects for prioritization. Criteria used by the Committee, included:

- Projects must be depicted on the Regional Multi-Use Trails Plan Map adopted as part of the CCC's Regional Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP),
- Each MPO submitted projects which benefit regional connectivity and regional level bicycle/pedestrian mobility
- Projects had to be clearly identified and described as to the type of improvement, including cost estimates

Once this initial list was developed, the committee identified technical criteria based upon each project's potential for enhancing regional bicycle and pedestrian mobility.

Some of the questions and/or issues raised were the Multi-Use Trails Committee membership and makeup. Mr. Pasco provided the membership names and titles.

Ms. Zimmer asked about connecting the Starkey Trail to the Pinellas Trail, and (referring to the list of trail projects) requested clarification regarding the definition of "planned". Mr. Uden replied that for projects in Pasco County, it means that there is funding for the project.

Mr. Allen asked if adopting this priority list means all available money will go to the first project on the list. Mr. Pascoe said staff will work with FDOT's Office of Greenways & Trails through the programming process and that the goal is for all projects on the list to be feasible. Mr. Howe commented that setting regional priorities is good for obtaining funding from FDOT but that local funding is needed too. Mr. Amon asked what the next steps are. Mr. Pascoe replied they would be applying for state enhancement funding.

ACTION: Mr. Allen moved to recommend that the CCC approve the ranked list of multi-use trail projects as presented. Mr. Steenson seconded the motion. All remote participants concurred with the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

B. Florida Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Boundary Study

At an earlier meeting of the JCAC, a member asked for a status report on this item. In response, Ms. Alden reported that the OPPAGA proposal was to line up the FDOT districts with the water management districts and the regional planning council areas. There has been no further movement on this item at this point in time.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. CCC Newsletter

Lynn Meranda, Hillsborough MPO staff, distributed the spring issue of the CCC newsletter. The newsletter is now on the CCC website. Ms. Meranda asked for feedback and suggestions for other possible outlets for distribution.

B. Next Meeting

The next CCC meeting is scheduled for June 9 at 10:30 a.m. in Polk County.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.