

**JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES - MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2005**

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the board room of Clearwater Christian College, 3400 Gulf-to-Bay Boulevard, Clearwater.

Members Present

Hillsborough County - Joe Amon, Leonard Plotkin, Brian Ross

Pinellas County - Ned Allen, Emily Rogers Coeyman, Karl Guenther

Special Guest - Christie Zimmer, Pasco County CAC

Others Present

Beth Alden - Hillsborough County MPO
Debbie Amon - Ardaman & Associates, Inc.
Stuart Anderson - Telework Tampa Bay
Brian Beaty - Florida Department of Transportation
Jim Byers - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Karen Cunningham - Pinellas County MPO
Bob Lasher - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Sheila Martin - Bay Area Commuter Services, Telework Tampa Bay
Hugh Pascoe - Hernando County MPO
Ramon Solis - Pinellas County MPO

I. CALL TO ORDER

With Pinellas hosting the meeting, Mr. Allen, as chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and other meeting attendees introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION: Mr. Guenther moved to approve the minutes of May 31, 2005. The motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously with six votes in favor.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM OF THE GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACT

Brian Beaty of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reported that the 2005 State Legislature passed legislation, Senate Bill 360, entitled "The Growth Management Act." It sets forth some new programs that are designed to be incentives for regional planning and projects that are related to growth management. The Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) was established by the Growth Management Act.

Under the auspices of the West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC), many of the requirements for TRIP funds have already been met as the CCC already has interlocal agreements in place.

An information sheet entitled “Florida’s TRIP” was included with meeting materials.

For MPOs participating in the CCC, a total of \$40 million will be available during the first year of the program.

V. TELEWORK TAMPA BAY PROGRAM

Sheila Martin of Bay Area Commuter Services (BACS) and Stuart Anderson of Urban Trans in Denver, a consultant to BACS addressed the board about Telework Tampa Bay. The program’s aim is to recruit employers in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties to set up pilot telework programs for six months within their worksites for their employees. The program is in partnership with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and is for three years. Funding is through a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Program grant. The grant will permit this trial program to continue for another year.

Several employers in the Tampa Bay area are using this program. The program includes set up, assistance, evaluation, and monitoring trips removed from the road. Mr. Anderson highlighted the benefits of telework.

The committee thought that this would be a good way to conduct cross-county meetings. Ms. Alden said that staff had been looking at some software that would permit power point presentations online.

Ms. Alden also said that staff had researched the sunshine laws regarding Joint CAC meetings. In the opinion of the Florida Attorney General, state agencies can conduct meetings over the Internet, but that same provision is not made for local agencies. In those instances, there should be a quorum physically present in a room for a group to take formal actions.

Ms. Alden provided several handouts regarding this issue to the committee.

Also, the Hillsborough County Attorney advised Ms. Alden and staff that the committee could try proposing an alternative program or mechanism to ensure citizen involvement in the regional transportation planning process and seek formal approval from the DOT. They could ask that in this case, a quorum need not be physically present in a room in order to take a vote. Ms. Alden said that it is still advisable that each MPO advertise a public meeting at its facility in order to meet public meeting requirements. They should be able to provide access to an online meeting to the public.

The committee further discussed the issue of how to make joint meetings accessible to the public. The committee will continue discussion of this item at the next meeting. Staff was asked to keep pursuing these issues.

VI. REGIONAL ROADWAY NETWORK AND RECOMMENDED ADDITIONS

Mr. Pascoe gave a presentation on the Regional Roadway Network. He reviewed the process used to develop the recommended additions to the Regional Roadway Network based upon the

application of nine criteria developed by staff. The criteria were derived from several sources, including member MPOs and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

Included with meeting materials were the “CCC Regional Road Map” and a spreadsheet of “Proposed Additions to the Regional Roadway Network.”

The committee discussed at length the inclusion of Morris Bridge Road on the Regional Roadway Network. They noted that this road goes through an environmentally sensitive area south of the Pasco County line and that it should not appear on the regional map. Ms. Zimmer responded that Morris Bridge Road will feel the impact of the extension of Highway 56 through Pasco County as well as the impact of development and that it should be left on the map. The committee agreed that this would be an important regional issue affecting not only Pasco County but also Hillsborough County.

Mr. Ross said that he needed more information regarding Morris Bridge Road before he could agree that this road should be on the Regional Roadway Network. Mr. Pascoe said that the Joint CAC was dealing from a citizen perspective, not as environmentalists; and that by putting a roadway on the map, the Joint CAC is saying that this roadway is appropriate from a growth management perspective to support growth and potentially carry high volumes of inter-county regional-level traffic. Mr. Ross responded that, in his judgment, a significant portion of Morris Bridge Road should not be on the Regional Roadway Network because it is not consistent with the objectives articulated earlier by Mr. Pascoe.

ACTION: Mr. Ross moved that the Joint CAC accept staff’s recommendation to add the roads depicted by the green lines to the CCC Regional Road Map, with the exception of Morris Bridge Road. Mr. Amon seconded the motion. The motion carried by the following vote: Yes = 4 votes; No = 1 vote; Abstain = 1 vote.

Mr. Pascoe said that part of this process is to belong to a regional entity, like the CCC. The other part is to have a conflict resolution process at the CCC level.

VII. FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR REGIONAL PROJECTS UNDER THE TRANSPORTATION REGIONAL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Mr. Pascoe gave an overview of the projects submitted for TRIP funds and described the process used by CCC staff to develop the lists. Listings were included with meeting materials. It was also reported that the projects have been placed into relative priority order. It was noted that separate rankings were developed for project submittals in FDOT Districts 1 and 7 since TRIP project selection does not compete across district boundaries.

Total cost of the submitted projects is \$77.7 million. Available TRIP funds total \$34 million.

ACTION: Mr. Amon moved that the Joint CAC recommend that the CCC endorse the TRIP project submittal priorities. Ms. Zimmer seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PRIORITIZATION OF REGIONAL MULTI-USE TRAILS

This item was tabled until the next JCAC meeting.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Public Workshop of September 1, 2005 – Report On Public Recommendations for the Regional Network and Trip Funding

Staff reported that the public recommendations will be presented to the CCC at their meeting of September 16, 2005.

2. Follow-Up On Remote Meeting Technology (Hillsborough MPO)

The Joint CAC requested staff to further investigate the possibility of implementing remote meeting technology options that would expand participation of citizens advisory committees in the West Central Florida Region, and to explore options to link up this effort with the BACS' Telework Program.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.