



JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (JCAC)
OF THE WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA
MPO CHAIRS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
WWW.CCCTransportation.org

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

Hillsborough County MPO
601 E. Kennedy Blvd.
Tampa, FL 33602

Pasco County MPO
7530 Little Rd.
New Port Richey, FL

Hernando County MPO
20 North Main St.
Brooksville, FL 34601

Pinellas County MPO
600 Cleveland St., Ste. 750
Clearwater, FL

Sarasota/Manatee MPO
7632 15th Street East
Sarasota, FL 34243

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2007
AT 3:00 P.M.

POLK COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
330 WEST CHURCH STREET, ROOM 413
BARTOW, FL 33830

Teleconference Phone Number: 863-534-6901

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – MEETING OF MAY 22, 2007
& MEETING OF AUGUST 28, 2007
- IV. APPROVAL OF 2008 MEETING CALENDAR
- V. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF REGIONAL MULTI-USE TRAIL
ELEMENT
- VI. FDOT & FTE DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM
UPDATE
- VII. REALITY CHECK TAMPA BAY VISIONING EFFORT
- VIII. HILLSBOROUGH 2050 TRANSIT CONCEPTS
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

**JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE
WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS
MINUTES – MEETING OF TUESDAY, November 27, 2007**

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations met on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in the Polk County Multi-Purpose Room, Room 413, 330 West Church Street, Bartow, FL 33830.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hernando CAC – None
Hillsborough CAC – Joe Amon, Pierre Mathurin, Leonard Plotkin
Pasco CAC – None
Polk CAC – Paul Staes, Roger Smith
Pinellas CAC – Jack Weiss
Sarasota/Manatee CAC – Mickey Hopkins

OTHERS PRESENT

Hillsborough MPO – Alan Steinbeck, Gena Torres,
Pinellas MPO – None
Polk TPO – Ryan Kordek, Brigitte D’Orval, Laura Lockwood, Jacinda Head
FDOT District One – Lori Carlton
TBRPC – Avera Wynne, Greg Miller
Jacobs Carter Burgess – Beth Alden
Tampa Bay Commuter Services – Sheila Martin
FTE – Carleen Flynn

REMOTE SITE ATTENDEES

Hernando MPO – Nick Nicholson, Len Tria, Hugh Pasco
Pinellas MPO – Ned Allen, Karen Cunningham, Ramon Solis
Sarasota/Manatee MPO – Kathy Bends, Bob Herrington, Dale Stephenson, Mike Howe
Pasco MPO – John Walsh, Manny Lajmiri, Doug Uden
FDOT District Seven – Linda Stackwood

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Paul Staes at 3:03 pm. Committee members, other meeting attendees, and remote site participants introduced themselves. A quorum was present at the meeting site.

Mr. Staes reviewed the meeting protocols. He asked that presentations be limited to approximately 15 – 20 minutes, and comments limited to approximately 2 minutes. He also asked that everyone should state their name, location, and membership, when making comments. When making a motion, he asked that members mention their name and location twice.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pierre Mathurin, Hillsborough County JCAC Member, thanked Polk County for hosting this event and noted that their hospitality was appreciated. He also gave two documents to the members. One updated the transit ridership in various areas throughout the country as well as gave developments in tracing transit ridership in Florida. He also gave a document showing the increase and decrease in transit ridership around the country with a year-to-date comparison. Mr. Mathurin also noted that Hartline recently dedicated the West Tampa Transfer Center, which services six routes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (MAY 22, 2007 and AUGUST 28)

Ramon Solis, Pinellas County MPO Staff, noted that the May 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes had Jim Byers name spelt wrong on page one. He asked that the name be changed from Jim Varas to Jim Byers.

Paul Staes, Polk County JCAC Chair, noted that the May 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes on page four (2nd paragraph) had a discussion on how to identify participants. The minutes suggest the opposite (name then county) of the JCAC protocols (county then name). He suggested that the Committee should agree on which to use.

Jack Weiss, Pinellas County JCAC Member, noted that the minutes reflect an agreed change by the JCAC, and suggested that the protocol should be changed to reflect the consensus made during the May 22, 2007 Meeting.

The JCAC agreed that the protocols should be changed to show that when making comments the participants should say their name first and then state the county they are from.

Ramon Solis, Pinellas County MPO Staff, noted that in May 22 Meeting minutes (in the first paragraph, on page four) there was a discussion on the idea that agendas should have a standard language about accommodations for people who are disabled. He noted that this should be on all agendas and meeting notices.

Jack Weiss, Pinellas County JCAC Member, noted that this language was posted on the website if anyone wanted access to it.

Joe Amon, Hillsborough County JCAC Member, noted that his name was not spelled correctly throughout the minutes. He asked that his name be changed from Aman to Amon.

Motion: Joe Amon moved to approve the May 22, 2007 Meeting Minutes with stated changes. Roger Smith seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

Motion: Joe Amon moved to approve the August 28, 2007 Meeting Minutes. Roger Smith seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

IV. APPROVAL OF 2008 MEETING CALENDAR

Brigitte D'Orval, Polk County TPO Staff, asked the committee to approve the meeting calendar for 2008.

There was discussion on changing the November 25, 2008 meeting date due to the Thanksgiving holiday. A consensus was made to change the meeting date to December 2, 2008.

Motion: Jack Weiss moved to change the November 25, 2007 JCAC Meeting to December 2, 2007. Leonard Plotkin seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

V. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF REGIONAL MULTI-USE TRAIL ELEMENT

Greg Miller, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC), reviewed the Regional Multi-Use Trail Element. The TBRPC, in conjunction with the CCC's Multi-Use trail Committee; have prepared an update to the CCC's regional Multi-Use Trail Element which was last updated in 2000. This update includes an inventory of existing trail facilities, identified trail amenities, goals, definitions and other revised outdated information for all of the counties that are part of the CCC. Mr. Miller discussed the primary element components, and noted recent activities and accomplishments which included the upper Tampa Bay Trail, the Courtney Campbell Recreational Trail, and the Suncoast and Friendship Trail Bridge. This Trail Plan looked at key regional issues,

design funding, and implementation issues. The system includes attractors, the trail priorities, the regional multi-use trail map, and regional trail profiles. New categories in the element are based on the funding and planning status. This represents the first major update to the element in seven years. He also noted that since the element was last adopted, the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and the Polk TPO had joined the CCC, and therefore, there was a need to include regional trail information for those areas. This is also the first completed component of the next Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) update.

Comments and Discussion

Paul Staes, Polk County JCAC Chair, suggested the use of longitudinal boards instead of perpendicular boards for ramps or bridges. He noted some issues with the perpendicular position, and noted that the longitudinal position would be quieter to ride on and would not be so hard on equipment such as wheelchairs. He also noted their use on golf courses.

Ryan Kordek, Polk County TPO Staff, noted that one of the reasons ramps, bridges, or boardwalks were built perpendicularly was partially to prevent the wheels of inline skates and bikes from catching the cracks in the wood.

Mickey Hopkins, Sarasota–Manatee County JCAC Member, suggested that the boards be at least 36 inches wide in the longitudinal direction on new trails for wheelchairs.

Joe Amon, Hillsborough County JCAC Member, noted that the longitudinal style bridges add a significant cost to construction because it takes more materials to build. Golf courses normally use the perpendicular bridge, but then put longitudinal planks on the wheel tracks. This creates problems for inline skaters or bike users. He also noted that part of the roughness when riding on the bridges was due to the warping of the wood. He noted that another idea would be to use a different material that would not warp in the sun.

Motion: Pierre Mathurin moved to approve the Draft Regional Multi-Use Trail Element. Roger Smith seconded, and the motion passed without dissent.

VI. FDOT & FTE DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM UPDATE

Lori Carlton, FDOT District One, reviewed the FDOT and FTE Draft Tentative Work Program. She reviewed the work program for Sarasota-Manatee counties, in which both received their Congested Management (CMS) boxed funds and funding for their number one CMS projects. There were also two resurfacing projects added, including SR 80 in Sarasota County and SR 64 and Manatee County. She also highlighted other

projects including a new guardrail on I-275 (from I-75 to the Skyway Bridge) and a new drainage project (on US 301) in Manatee County.

Mr. Carlton also reviewed the work program for Polk County. She noted three new resurfacing projects and noted that they were able to fully fund the new fifth year of the Congestion Management (CMS) box at the requested amount. Funds in FY 2008/09 – 2009/10 were programmed to add features to existing resurfacing projects. There were also two CMS projects for FY 08/09 -09/10 which included a side path around Lake Howard (in Winter Haven) and improvement work on SR 544 (along with the use of local funds). There are also around seven Safety funded projects throughout the program as well as two safe routes to school projects. No new capacity project phases were funded. She also noted that this work program held its own (no new projects were moved out), but that there was currently no new news on the efforts to restore the previously removed projects, and if any news becomes available, she would let the committee know.

Ryan Kordek, Polk County TPO Staff, noted that they were fairly impressed with this work program (considering the funding situation FDOT was dealing with). He also noted that the difference between District One and District Seven MPO's (that are part of the CCC) is that District One only solicited three years worth of Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) projects. These priorities were still maintained for Polk and Sarasota-Manatee Counties.

Linda Stackwood, FDOT District Seven, noted that they were still in the process of finalizing their work program and hoped to have a completed program by the end of the week. A full presentation will be given to the CAC's as they come up in December.

Carleen Flynn, Florida Turnpike Enterprise (FTE), gave an overview of the FTE Work Program. She noted that they received a Bond Cap increase last year through the Legislature which has put them at an advantage as compared to the other districts. She noted projects in Polk County including the widening and resurfacing of the Polk Parkway, and Pace Road Intersection improvements. She also noted the Sun Coast Parkway (project 2) in Citrus County, the Hernando County project at County Line Road, and the Hillsborough County I-4 Cross-Town Expressway and the widening of the Veterans Expressway. She also noted that Pasco County still had both of the Ridge Road Interchange projects.

Discussion

Paul Staes, Polk County JACA Member, thanked the turnpike for their outstanding work in the resurfacing and construction of the Polk Parkway.

Mickey Hopkins, Sarasota–Manatee County JCAC Member, commented on the idea of turning over the Sunshine Skyway Bridge to private authorities and discussed the disadvantages of private ownership and suggested that it would be better to just raise the cost of the tolls.

Discussion

Carleen Flynn, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, noted that the Sunshine Skyway is owned by the FDOT District Seven and the Turnpike collects the tolls. All revenues go to FDOT District Seven. She noted that the effort to turn this over to the private sector is an initiative the Governor is considering. Any comments would need to go to the Governor's Office

Discussion

Joe Amon, Hillsborough County JCAC Member, noted that this was the first they had heard of the situation with the Skyway, but noted that there have been numerous other roads under consideration to be built under private ownership.

Discussion

Carleen Flynn, Florida Turnpike Enterprise, noted that in the last Legislative Session there was legislation passed that will allow the State to sell off the four Toll facilities it currently owns (Alligator Alley, Sunshine Skyway, Pinellas Bayway, and the Beachline West).

Ryan Kordek, Polk County TPO Staff, noted that in the overall scheme of things, the FDOT is looking at new ways to inject funding into their process. He noted that this was an item of regional interest and that this might be something to have on the agenda at a future meeting.

Discussion

VII. REALITY CHECK TAMPA BAY VISION EFFORT

Avera Wynne, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, reviewed the Reality Check Tampa Bay Vision effort. He compared the land developed, population, and employment from 1972 to the projected growth of 2050. On May 18, 2007 an event was held regarding this effort with over one thousand individuals expressing interest, 322 participants chosen, and 311 participating. The results of this meeting became the bases for some guiding principles, scenarios for modeling, engaged community leadership and media as well as others. He described an exercise given to the participants. He also discussed responses received from questions such as:

- “Should Cities and Counties adopt Regional Strategies to guide further Development?” in which 73% strongly agreed and 20% agreed that Counties should have regional strategies (a total of 93%).
- “What do you think should be the focus of future transportation investment?” and 35% thought there should be a balance of roads and transit (with a slight emphasis on transit).
- “Which of the following environmental aspects are you most concerned?” and water quality and open space was the top concern.
- “What are the top two concerns of population growth?” and top two were infrastructure cost and traffic congestion.

He noted www.myONEBAY.com if more information is needed. He also reviewed future efforts and noted that the whole process should be wrapped up around June 2008.

VIII. HILLSBOROUGH 2050 TRANSIT CONCEPTS

Alan Steinbeck, Hillsborough County MPO, discussed the transit study results and the description of the recommended transit concept for 2050. The transit concept includes bus, commuter rail and light rail recommendations that will best serve the needs of Hillsborough County while providing connections and potential extensions that will serve to support a larger regional system. The study looked at busses (standard or articulated high capacity vehicles) with the possibility of the use of special lanes or signals priorities, bus rapid transit, and the congestion problem. Commuter rail (a locomotive pulling passenger car) was examined with the possibilities of shared freight tracks, flexible capacity, peak hour service, long haul, suburb to city, and others. Light rail (powered from above by electric wires) was looked at because it would have its own tracks, provide frequent service, as well as all day service, suburb to city to urban area travel, quick acceleration, and would be able to climb and turn. Mr. Steinbeck discussed the projected future commute with congested travel projected to increase by 1,000% by 2050 (the average commute time for vehicles would triple). He noted that with these projections, rail transit could provide reliable trip times that wouldn't change. Bus transit could also do this in exclusive or special purpose lanes. He also discussed the transit study process starting at identification then to analysis, and resulting in the recommendation. He also reviewed the study information and the capital cost summary.

The basic concept of this study is to improve mobility, support economic vitality, and improve the quality of life and growth management. The Transit Service Characteristics include major destinations, quality of service, and the service area. Mr. Steinbeck also discussed the concept selection process, and the transit needs and opportunities. The

study has identified concepts that should be given further consideration in the next update to the Long Range Transportation Plan and the creation of the regional master plan by the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority.

The Hillsborough County MPO Board adopted the Transit Study depicting the Transit Concept for 2050 at their meeting on November 6, 2007.

Ramon Solis, Pinellas County MPO Staff, noted that he had heard that information from this study could be used for input for the SERTA process. SERTA is also using the Strategic Regional Transit Needs Assessment for the development of their master plan. Giving that both have the same planning horizon of 2050, is there consistency in the development of the socio-economic data for that planning horizon between the two studies? If not, what should we do about that?

Discussion

Alen Steinbeck, Hillsborough County MPO, noted that this study did look at the SERTA data as a baseline condition (as a trend scenario) and it did anticipate having to put growth outside of the Urban Service Areas. This study was to look at how we could best use the discussed investments to accommodate growth. This particular study found that making this investment would accommodate all anticipated new growth and then some. He could not answer Mr. Solis's question directly, but he noted that they were working on resolving the issue and would try to come up with realistic data that takes into account both roadway and transit investments.

Ryan Kordek, Polk County TPO Staff, thanked Alen Steinbeck and Avera Wynne for their presentations.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Manny Lajmiri of Pasco County noted that their site had a difficult time hearing the presentations.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Joe Amon moved for adjournment. Roger Smith seconded and the motion passed without dissent.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:32 pm.

Minutes respectfully written by Jacinda Head of the Polk County TPO