

**JOINT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES – MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2003**

The Joint Citizens Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, December 2, 2003 at the offices of the Tampa Bay Partnership, 4300 West Cypress Street, Suite 250, Tampa, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Hillsborough County – Tom Aderhold, Joe Amon, Leonard Plotkin, Brian Ross

Pinellas County – Ned Allen, Steve Cohen, Karl Guenther, Mort Sherman

OTHERS PRESENT

Brian Betty – Florida Department of Transportation
Jim Byers – Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority
Holly Carapella – Hillsborough County MPO
Rich Clarendon – Hillsborough County MPO
Linda Everett – Pinellas County MPO
Ramon Solis – Pinellas County MPO
Gena Torres – Hillsborough County MPO
Yolanda Cotroneo – Court Reporter, Hillsborough County

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Amon, acting as chairman, called the meeting to order.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and other meeting attendees introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Allen commented that the format of the minutes was very user-friendly and easy to understand.

ACTION: Mr. Allen moved to approve the minutes of September 30, 2003, Mr. Sherman seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously with eight votes in favor.

IV. REVIEW OF FDOT 2004/05-2008/09 DRAFT TENTATIVE WORK PROGRAM

Brian Betty of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) reported that the FDOT is developing its FY 2004/05-2008/09 District Seven Five Year Work Program. The FDOT has developed a Tentative Work Program for review by the MPOs and their committees.

The Tentative Work Program identifies transportation projects for which funding for the various phases has been programmed for FY 2004/05-2008/09. The state projects currently underway, or with construction funding shown primarily during FY 2003/04, might not be represented in the new Tentative Work Program.

The FDOT has scheduled public hearings to solicit review and comment on the Program. The locations and dates are as follows:

In Tampa:

Date: December 2, 2003
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Place: FDOT District Seven Offices
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, Florida

In Brooksville:

Date: December 4, 2003
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Place: Hernando County Government Center
Board of County Commission Chambers
20 N. Main Street
Brooksville, Florida

A draft of the Tentative Work Program was distributed to the Committee, and a video was presented to give an overview of the process and to outline specific projects.

Staff, advisory committees, and the public will review the Tentative Work Program. After the Program is adopted, the projects will be incorporated into the MPOs' FY 2004/05–2008/09 Transportation Improvement Programs to be adopted in May 2004.

Committee discussion followed, and several matters were clarified. The funds that are allocated for the Citrus and Hernando Airports are used to improve and repair the hangers, to extend taxiways, etc. All the projects in the Program are highway projects, and none of them is connected to any sort of rail system. The Committee also asked for more information about the Pasco Inter-modal projects. Mr. Betty will provide this information at a later date.

V. REGIONAL LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

A. Weighting Objectives

Mr. Solis and Mr. Clarendon reported that at a meeting on October 13, the West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) approved the goals and objectives of the 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan. A copy of the goals and objectives was distributed.

The goals and objectives must be weighted in order to use them to prioritize regional corridors in the Long Range Transportation Plan. Committee members assigned weights by allocating 100 points to the objectives. They submitted their responses to the MPO.

B. Scope of Work

Mr. Solis reported that the Chairs' Coordinating Committee (CCC) of the West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organizations is responsible for coordinating, developing, and promoting regional transportation systems that will serve the mobility and connectivity needs of people and freight.

The CCC also has as objectives to enhance the economic vitality of the seven-county region surrounding Tampa Bay and to protect the environment and quality of life. To achieve these goals, the CCC is updating its Regional Long Range Transportation Plan. The Regional LRTP can subsequently be used as an instrument to guide the development, integrated management, and operation of transportation facilities and services.

There are six primary tasks under the scope of services for the Regional Long Range Transportation Plan update: 1) Regional Data Trends and Plan Review; 2) Baseline Conditions Analysis; 3) 2025 Needs Assessment; 4) 2025 Cost Affordable Regional Plan; 5) Documentation; and 6) Public Involvement

Staffs from MPOs and the FDOT have already developed a set of regional goals and objectives, a set of regional measures of effectiveness (MOEs), and weighting factors that will be used to identify the projects in the draft Regional Needs Plan.

At their June 2004 meeting, the CCC will present a Regional Cost Affordable Plan for endorsement. At their September meeting, they will adopt the final Regional Cost Affordable Plan. Prior to the adoption of the Regional Cost Affordable Plan, its draft will be subjected to the requirements of the Regional Public Involvement Plan.

The development processes for the Regional Cost Affordable Plan and for the individual MPO Cost Affordable LRTPs will be conducted in parallel. Therefore, development of the individual MPO plans could still proceed through the public involvement process in September 2004, after the Regional Plan is endorsed.

Mr. Clarendon noted that the scope of work is the usual way the MPOs have done their work in the past. However, this is the first time that this type of update has been done regionally at the same time.

VI. DRAFT LEGISLATION REGARDING MPOs

Mr. Solis reported that the Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) staff has been developing amendatory bill proposals for consideration by the legislature for s.339.64, F.S., the Strategic Inter-modal System Plan, and for s.339.175, F.S., dealing with the Metropolitan Planning Organizations' designation and membership.

The first bill would amend s.339.64 to expand the membership of the statewide Inter-modal Transportation Advisory Council and to provide an effective date.

The second Bill would amend s.339.175 to: a) establish MPOs as separate, independent legal entities; b) provide for employees; c) provide for the preparation of financial statements and other reports; d) revise their composition and membership requirements; and e) provide for restrictions, revising powers, privileges and immunities.

The Florida Transportation Commission (FTC) also has a proposal to amend s.339.175 to emphasize coordination of metropolitan transportation planning with the regional and statewide planning processes. It adds language about the automatic redesignation or revocation of an MPO designation 18 months after the designation of urbanized area boundaries by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The FTC proposal also modifies the voting membership of the MPOs.

Committee members agreed that the Joint CAC should be kept abreast of this issue and should receive status reports at each of their regular CAC meetings.

ACTION: Mr. Sherman moved: a) that the Joint CAC agrees that there are serious concerns with the amendments s.339.64 and s.339.175 proposed by the Florida Transportation Commission; and b) that the Joint CAC recommends that its members urgently take this issue to their county CACs for further discussion and consideration for immediate action by the MPOs. Mr. Cohen seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously with eight votes in favor.

VII. OUTER BELTWAY PROPOSAL

Mr. Clarendon reported that the Tampa Bay Partnership is a regional economic development consortium covering Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk and Sarasota Counties. The Partnership's transportation task force recently proposed that the West Central Florida MPO Chair's Coordinating Committee (CCC) undertake a study of an outer beltway for the Tampa Bay region.

At its meeting of October 13, the CCC directed staff to explore funding options to conduct such a study with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council. Discussions have taken place between the MPO staff directors and FDOT Districts One and Seven about using the FDOT's planning consultants to undertake the study.

The committee discussed different issues that this study could address and agreed to move the study forward. They discussed the importance of purchasing right-of-way acquisitions in order to be cost-effective for future projects.

ACTION: Mr. Plotkin moved that the Joint CAC is interested in the proposal and recommends future discussion as it is taking place now. Mr. Guenther seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously with eight votes in favor.

VIII. HIGH SPEED RAIL

Ms. Torres reported that the Florida High Speed Rail Authority met on October 27 and discussed the following major items.

A. Selection of Locally Preferred Route Alternative

The board discussed several options, including not designating a route alternative in the Orlando area.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to identify the Greenway as the preferred route in the Orlando area to be carried forward in the NEPA process. The motion had two conditions: 1) Subject to an acceptable agreement reached between the Authority and the Walt Disney Company related to donation of right-of-way and commitments to support ridership for the project; 2) Subject to an acceptable agreement reached between the Authority and the Orlando Orange County Expressway Authority related to use of the Greenway right-of-way. The motion carried by a vote of 7-1.

ACTION: It was moved and seconded to identify Interstate 4 as the preferred route option in the Tampa area. The motion carried unanimously with 8 votes in favor.

B. Identification of a Preferred Proposer

The Board discussed options including rejecting both of the proposals or sending the project back to the Legislature for review. The Board acted on the following motions:

1. The Board rejected a motion by a vote of 5-3 to reject both of the proposals.
2. By written ballot, the Board passed a motion with six members ranking Fluor-Bombardier as the first preferred Proposer, and two members ranking GRC as the first preferred Proposer.

The next steps include:

1. Staff and consultants will proceed with the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) phase of the project.
2. The board agreed to sign a non-compensatory contract for performance of environmental support activities with Fluor-Bombardier. The Authority also agreed to waive a surety bond requirement for this contract.
3. The board agreed to form a contract negotiations committee with the goal of concluding negotiations with the first-ranked Proposer in early 2004.
4. The board will convene by teleconference on November 11, 2003 to discuss negotiations.
5. The next scheduled board meeting is on December 17, 2003 in Orlando.
6. After hearing this presentation, committee members expressed their concerns about the surety bond issue. They requested an update on this issue at their next meeting.

IX. PROPOSED MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2004

Joint CAC meetings have been tentatively scheduled for February 24, May 25, August 24 and November 30, 2004. The JCAC meets quarterly at a date, time and location acceptable to a majority of the membership, but not less than ten days before the next CCC meeting.

It was the consensus of the committee to approve this tentative meeting schedule until further notice.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.