



Forward Pinellas Board Work Session January 12, 2018

The following is a summary of the Forward Pinellas Board Work Session held on January 12, 2018 at the St. Petersburg College Clearwater Campus, 2465 Drew Street, RM ES 104, Clearwater, FL 33763.

Board members present:

Doreen Caudell, Vice-Chairman, City of Clearwater Councilmember
Dave Eggers, Secretary, Pinellas County Commissioner
Doug Bevis, City of Oldsmar Mayor, Representing Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Springs
Lari Johnson, City of South Pasadena Vice-Mayor, Representing Inland Communities
Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater Councilmember, Representing Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA)
Brandi Gabbard, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
Darden Rice, City of St. Petersburg Councilmember
Michael Smith, City of Largo Vice-Mayor
John Tornga, City of Dunedin Vice-Mayor
Kenneth T. Welch, Pinellas County Commissioner

Not Present:

John Morrioni, Chairman, Pinellas County Commissioner
Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy, Treasurer, City of Indian Rocks Beach Vice-Mayor, Representing Beach Communities
Sandra Bradbury, City of Pinellas Park Mayor

1. CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair Caudell called the session to order at 9:05 am and wished everyone a happy new year. She reminded the members of the upcoming TMA meeting and encouraged attendance. Whit Blanton welcomed the newest board member from the City of St. Petersburg, Councilmember Brandi Gabbard. He had the members of the audience and staff introduce themselves and offered an overview of the agenda for the day.

2. BUDGET AND WORK PLANS FOR FY 2019-2021

By way of introduction to the topic, Rodney c, Planning Division Manager, advised he would be informing the board members about some of the internal operations of the agency and the potential financial implications that may impact the budget in coming years. He presented the Strategic Business Plan that was approved by the board in the fall and the budget and work plans for FY 2019-2021. He then sought board member input to help set the foundation for the direction of the agency and guide the budget development process.

Strategic Business Plan

- Provides organizational focus
- Determines "what" and "how" the existing resources and competencies of the agency will be utilize over the next five years
- Based on the critical success factors derived from goals, objectives, and initiatives

- We will Adapt-Build-Connect through stated goals and objectives
- We will undertake initiatives

PPC Work Plan and MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

PPC Work Plan

- Countywide Plan Administration
- Local Assistance
- Data Analytics
- Knowledge Exchange Series
- Special Activities

MPO UPWP

- Identifies planning priorities and activities
- Two-year planning & budget period (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019 and July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)
- Includes all transportation planning activities broken into tasks and anticipated costs
- Current tasks were identified
- The development schedule for the new UPWP was reviewed

Budget Overview

- The primary sources of funding come from state and federal grants and ad valorem (property) taxes
- Relationships between PPC, MPO & funding were outlined
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities (SWOT Analysis) were highlighted

Financial Scenarios

- Expanded Homestead Exemption effects on the PPC budget were outlined
- Historical data related to the PPC millage rate and capacity was provided

Scenario A: Status Quo

- Continue our current initiatives
- Continue to use the unassigned fund balance (UAFB) to balance the budget
- Provide the same level of “value-added” technical assistance to local government partners
- Results in depletion of the UAFB to a level below the adopted policy at some point in the future

Scenario B: Maintain and Monitor

- Continue our current initiatives
- Continue to use the unassigned fund balance (UAFB) to fund one-time activities
- Provide a slightly increased level of “value-added” technical assistance to local government partners
- Current millage (0.0150 mils) would have to be raised to 0.0157 mils in order to offset the impact of the homestead exemption

Scenario C: Design/Concept Development

- Provide an increased level of “value-added” technical assistance to local government partners
- Development feasibility and compatibility
- Interactive Zoning Code Analysis and Planning (ZONAR)
- Develop an illustrative/graphic design capacity to visualize alternatives, plans or projects
- Form-Based Codes Institute

Scenario D: Data Development & Analysis

- Provide an increased level of “value-added” technical assistance and research
- Economic/market study emphasis
- More robust mapping and “Big Data” analytical capabilities

Scenario E: Vision Zero/Safety

- Create the capacity to convene various stakeholders, local governments and agencies to develop and implement an action plan

Scenario F: Climate Vulnerability and Resiliency

- Provide an increased level of “value-added” technical assistance
- Impacts of Sea Level Rise and other climate vulnerabilities
- Focus on assessment and mitigation/adaptation
- “Peril of Flood” Act local government compliance

The board members expressed their concerns about maintaining the status quo and ultimately depleting the UAFB to balance the budget each year. It was discussed that adding the level of service to accomplish all the scenarios would be the most desirable option. Whit Blanton outlined a variety of funding options to increase revenues and gave examples of other MPOs that are successfully utilizing them. Discussion ensued. Commissioner Welch requested, and it was agreed, that next steps would entail developing cost estimates for each of the scenarios with timeframes to be brought back for further consideration by the board.

3. **BOARD INPUT**

The board members participated in a survey to rank areas of importance for Forward Pinellas and its partners for allocating resources in the next five years to include:

- Improving traffic flow on major county roadways
- Providing or enabling more housing choices
- Undertaking broad-based, sustained civic engagement around countywide goals and strategies
- Improving public transit services within Pinellas County (all modes)
- Advancing and implementing regional transportation projects
- Providing community design technical assistance for planning and redevelopment guidance
- Making streets more accommodating of all users, supportive of local economic development, strengthening multimodal accessibility and improving bicycle/pedestrian safety
- Using technology to increase travel efficiencies and convenience
- Mainstreaming autonomous and connected vehicle applications and operations
- Building public trust and consensus through engagement and communication strategies
- Expanding and improving Pinellas County’s off-road trail network

Board members also answered a few extended response questions to include:

- What is of most excitement or concern when thinking about the future of our city, county or region?
- How do you define success for Forward Pinellas (be as specific as possible)?
- How would you judge “success” looking back on 2018?

4. **SPOTLIGHT EMPHASIS AREAS UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

Whit Blanton updated the board members on the status and next steps for the inaugural SPOTlight (Strategic Planning & Operations Topics) Emphasis Areas which have been underway for over two years now. The board then discussed and offered direction.

Gateway Area Master Plan

- 50/50 funding with local government and FDOT partnership
- Now being integrated with FDOT's Tampa Bay Next and HART's Regional Transit Feasibility Plan
- Intermodal study being funded by FDOT

Enhancing Beach Community Access

- SR 60 Corridor Study and Multimodal Implementation Plan
- Waterborne transportation initiatives
- Vision Zero safety initiative along Gulf Boulevard slower going due to limited staff capacity

Vision for the US 19 Corridor

- Meeting with FDOT coming up to review studies and work to date
- Consider Express Bus or Bus Rapid Transit
- Safety and accessibility being assessed for bicyclists and pedestrians
- Land uses

Next Steps

- Incorporate into the 2045 L RTP
- Complete strategic action plans for each area
- Continue to work with partners

5. **REMARKS BY FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

District Seven Secretary David Gwynn was welcomed to the meeting and expressed his gratitude for the working relationship between the Department and Forward Pinellas. He offered a brief update on projects of interest in the area.

- Howard Frankland Bridge replacement
- I-275/SR 60 "Punch Through" project
- US 19 North County
- Regional Transit Feasibility Plan
- Safety initiatives
- Complete Streets

6. **THE PINELLAS TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Whit Blanton introduced the board members to the topic of the Pinellas Transportation Plan. He referred to the framework of Adapt-Build-Connect. He reviewed the objectives, the regional framework in which Forward Pinellas is working, the regional planning process being utilized for the first time, and key plan milestones with timeframes to be achieved. He explained that the plan encompasses:

- 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan
- PSTA Community Bus Plan
- Bicycle/Pedestrian Strategic Master Plan
- Pinellas County Complete Streets Assessment
- Technology

Performance measures and targets were defined and board member input was sought.

The Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00