

November 14, 2018

Please note that this summary has not been approved as the official minutes of the board.

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

The board chose its officers for 2019

- County Commissioner Dave Eggers will serve as chair
- St. Petersburg City Councilmember Darden Rice will serve as vice chair
- Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Cookie Kennedy will remain treasurer
- County Commissioner Janet Long will serve as secretary

The board participated in an extensive discussion regarding bicycle accommodations for the trail crossing at Skinner Boulevard

- After a high-profile crash at this trail crossing, FDOT and Pinellas County were examining the option of an automatic detection system that would set off the Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacon (RRFB) as bicyclists approached without them having to stop and push a button
- Commissioner Eggers and Dunedin Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski felt that the flashing lights should be red rather than the RRFB yellow lights, since drivers may not notice the yellow lights or may ignore them
 - The issue with this, as FDOT staff explained it, was that RRFBs need to be yellow by federal law, and red High-Intensity Activated crossWalk beacon (HAWK) signals are much more expensive and time consuming to implement
 - The automatic detection system was something that could be implemented easily and quickly, but FDOT staff said they would continue to look at other longer-term options for making the trail crossing safe, including HAWK signals
 - However, HAWK signals could not be installed with automatic detection

Board members discussed takeaways from a fact-finding trip that several of them had taken to Indianapolis earlier this month in conjunction with PSTA

- Board members learned about funding, planning and development of IndyConnect, the Bus Rapid Transit plan, and the Indianapolis Cultural Trail
- One takeaway that many of the board members discussed was what they had learned about the data behind transportation decisionmaking
 - They discussed the three Rs - right message, right person delivering the message, right audience - and how they felt that the Greenlight referendum had missed many of those points
 - Board members felt that if Pinellas County did not have a person in any of its agencies examining that type of data already, it was a crucial position to have

As the Advantage Pinellas update, Forward Pinellas Staff presented results from the It's TIME Tampa Bay MetroQuest regional survey conducted in August and September, which is used to help develop the regional element of the Long Range Transportation Plan

- The survey set a US MetroQuest Record with 9,575 participants
 - In terms of demographics, MetroQuest participants deviated from a representative sample that more identified as white, higher income, and living in Hillsborough than the mean

- With almost 70 percent of respondents providing some zip code data, 61.3% of respondents lived in Hillsborough, 26.5% lived in Pinellas, and 12.2% lived in Pasco
- When respondents were asked to list their priorities, a few rose to the top among all counties
 - All counties prioritized 1) traffic jams and 2) alternatives to driving, with second tier priorities of 3) open/green space and 4) shorter commutes
 - A few small deviations were visible per county
 - Pinellas ranked alternatives to driving over traffic jams, and also ranked storm vulnerability as a high priority
 - Pasco ranked shorter commutes over open/green space
- Survey respondents were asked to rank (from 1-5, 5 being the best) three scenarios for transportation, growth and development: Scenario A: New Technologies; Scenario B: Tolloed Express Lanes; and Scenario C: Transit Focus
 - Of those, Scenario B had the lowest average rating (2.53)
 - Scenario A had a middling average rating (2.86)
 - Scenario C had the highest rating (4.08), with 75.8% of all participants rating the scenario 4 or 5 stars
- Staff discussed a few key takeaways from the survey results
 - More positives than negatives:
 - Preserve neighborhoods
 - More /better downtowns
 - Efficient use of land
 - More negatives than positives:
 - I-275 boulevard
 - Expanded growth area
- Staff ended the presentation with next steps for the Advantage Pinellas Plan
 - A series of three focus groups will be held in winter, spring, and summer with the first being held Nov. 27
 - The focus groups will be representative of Pinellas as a whole with residents from south, mid and north county
 - Regionally, the It's TIME Tampa Bay survey results will help all three counties choose regional projects that would have widespread support
 - Staff is also working to drill down into the survey data by specific cities and neighborhoods to determine what priorities matter to which areas of the county

The board approved updates to the Transportation Improvement Program

- The board approved an amendment to the TIP to allow TBARTA to receive a \$3.7M grant from the Federal Transit Administration to support the vanpool program
- The board approved the Fall Update to the TIP to incorporate the local government work programs, and heard from Pinellas County staff about its Capital Improvement Program for FY19-FY24
 - Staff outlined two major roadway projects in the CIP
 - Reconstruction of Haynes Road to a two-lane urban classification, adding bicycle lanes and ADA sidewalks, as well as other improvements
 - Widening Forest Lakes Boulevard from two-lane divided to four-lane divided, as well as providing ADA sidewalks, ten-foot shoulders, and other improvements
 - Staff outlined three major intersection projects in the CIP
 - Betty Lane at Sunset Point Road, including adding left turn lanes on east & west approaches
 - NE Coachman Road at Old Coachman Road, including providing left turn lanes and shoulders/bike lanes on all four approaches
 - Whitney Road at Wolford Road, including providing shoulders/bike lanes on all three approaches
 - Staff outlined three major sidewalk projects in the CIP
 - Sunset Point Road from Alt. 19 to the trail crossing, including addition of a six-foot sidewalk on the north and south sides connecting to the trail crossing

- Haines Bayshore from US 19 to Sunrise Boulevard, including addition of a ten foot sidewalk to the trail crossing and a five foot sidewalk from Oak Street to Sunrise Boulevard
- Indian Rocks Road from Wilcox Road to 8th Avenue SW, including 1.5 miles of ADA compliant sidewalks, ramps and driveways along the east side
- The Sunset Point Road project will result in a leftover pedestrian bridge that could be used somewhere else, and Mayor Bujalski noted that there was a pedestrian bridge over Curlew Creek west of County Road 1 that could use replacing
- Staff touched on three major shared use path projects in the CIP
 - Pinellas/Duke Energy Trail Phase II(NE Coachman Rd to Sunset Point Rd)
 - Ream Wilson/Pinellas Trail Improvements (NE Coachman Rd)
 - Pinellas Trail North Loop (John Chesnut Sr. Park to Enterprise Rd Overpass)
- Staff also outlined three projects currently under construction in the ITS/ATMS program
 - S. Belcher Road
 - County Road 1
 - Alt US 19 South
 - All three projects are under construction and on time

The City of St. Petersburg was presented with this year's Forward Pinellas Partners in Action Award

- The award recognized the political courage and decisive action of city staff and leadership, including Mayor Rick Kriseman and the City Council, in making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Street North a Complete Street
- Deputy Mayor Dr. Kanika Tomalin and Transportation Director Evan Mory accepted the award

The board heard two land use cases

- Case CW 18-25 - City of Clearwater
 - The board considered a subthreshold amendment for two vacant properties at 1434 & 1446 North Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. from Retail & Services to Residential Medium
 - The board unanimously recommended approval
- Case CW 18-22 - Pinellas County
 - The board considered a regular amendment for a property at 1003 Virginia Avenue in Palm Harbor from Office to Retail & Services to allow for a compounding pharmacy
 - Mayor Bujalski asked if the house on the property had any historical significance, to which Pinellas County staff replied that it did not
 - The board unanimously recommended approval

South Pasadena Vice Mayor Arthur Penny and Oldsmar Mayor Doug Bevis were recognized for their service as this meeting marked the ends of their respective terms on the board

With the departure of Mayor Bevis from the board, as well as Vice Mayor Caudell's departure from the executive committee, the board made new appointments to several committees

- On the TMA Leadership Group, Long replaced Caudell so that all three members of the group were part of the executive committee
- On the TBARTA Chairs Coordinating Committee, Eggers replaced Caudell as alternate while Rice stayed on as primary
- On the MPO Advisory Council, Eggers replaced Caudell as the primary representative while Rice stayed on as alternate
- On the Legislative Subcommittee, Eggers replaced Bevis as the fifth member

Other Items

- The board approved the Countywide Trends & Conditions Report for distribution
- Board members approved Executive Director Whit Blanton going to Pasco County, in conjunction with Pasco MPO staff, to present options for a possible new TMA Leadership Group voting structure to Pasco County Commissioners
- The board approved a staff recommendation to support state targets for performance measures & targets regarding pavement, bridge and system performance
 - The only target that Pinellas County is not currently meeting is the percentage of interstate pavements in Good condition
- The board approved a letter requesting that Pinellas County adopt a policy that all projects affecting bicycle facilities and county-maintained trails should have a detour route outlined for bicyclists
 - The policy will go to the Technical Coordinating Committee for review
- Commissioner Long gave the PSTA & TBARTA activities report and introduced new TBARTA Director David Green to the board
 - Green was previously CEO of the Greater Richmond Transit Company and said he is happy with the progress TBARTA has been making and glad to be here at such an exciting time
- The legislative committee had heard an update from City of St. Petersburg staff on a possible attempt to regulate urban agriculture

Upcoming Dates

- [November 27-28th Florida Automated Vehicles Summit](#)
- [January 18, 2019 Joint Workshop of Forward Pinellas, Board of County Commissioners, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority and Mayor's Council](#)

Action Sheet November 14, 2018

At its November meeting, the Forward Pinellas Board took the following official actions:

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 11-0, Mayor Bujalski had stepped out)
Approved to include the following:
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the October 10, 2018 Meeting
 - B. Approval of Committee Appointments (TCC)
 - C. Countywide Plan Map Annual Update – Official Acceptance
 - D. Map Adjustment – Pinellas County – Official Acceptance
 - E. Approval of 2019 Board and Committees Meeting Schedules
 - F. Acceptance of the PAC Roster for 2019
 - G. Approval of the Scope of Services for the Bicycle Pedestrian Master Plan
- **Proposed Amendment(s) to FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
Following a staff description, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved an amendment to the TIP by roll call vote to allow TBARTA to receive a \$3.7M grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to support the vanpool program. (vote: 12-0)
- **Fall Update of the FY 2018/19 – FY 2022/23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
Following a staff presentation, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the fall update of the TIP by roll call vote. (vote: 12-0)
- **Subthreshold Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**
One case was recommended for approval:
 - 1. CW 18-25 – City of Clearwater (vote: 12-0)

- **Regular Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**
One case was recommended for approval:
 1. CW 18-22 – Pinellas County (vote: 12-0)

- **System Performance, Pavement and Bridge Measures and Targets** (vote: 12-0)
Following a staff presentation, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved supporting the statewide performance targets established by the Florida Department of Transportation.

- **Countywide Trends and Conditions Report** (vote: 12-0)
After a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board moved to accept the Countywide Trends and Conditions Report and approve its distribution.

- **Maintenance of Traffic Policy for Bicycle Facilities and Trails – BPAC Recommendation**
Following a staff presentation, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved sending a letter to Pinellas County concerning this item and requesting that the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) review the recommended policy. (vote: 12-0)

- **Election of 2019 Officers** (vote: 11-0, Commissioner Justice had stepped out)
The Executive Committee for 2019 was approved as follows:
Commissioner Dave Eggers, Chair
Councilmember Darden Rice, Vice Chair
Mayor Cookie Kennedy, Treasurer
Commissioner Janet Long, Secretary

- **MPOAC, Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC), Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group and Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee Appointments**
The board made committee appointments as follows for 2019:

MPOAC (vote: 12-0)
Commissioner Dave Eggers, Representative
Councilmember Darden Rice, Alternate

CCC (vote: 12-0)
Councilmember Darden Rice, Representative
Commissioner Dave Eggers, Alternate

TMA (vote: 12-0)
The board appointed three representatives to include Commissioner Dave Eggers, Councilmember Darden Rice and Commissioner Janet Long.

Legislative Committee (vote: 12-0)
The board added Commissioner Dave Eggers to the committee to replace outgoing board member Mayor Doug Bevis.