

March 13, 2019

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 approved project awards for Forward Pinellas grant programs

- For the Complete Streets grant program, the board unanimously voted to award two concept planning projects and one construction project
 - The City of Clearwater received \$50K that it had requested to develop a concept plan for Fort Harrison Ave. from Belleair Road to the Alternate US 19 merge
 - The remaining \$50K available was awarded to the City of St. Petersburg for an 18th Ave. S concept plan between 35th St. and 14th St.
 - Forward Pinellas will add a \$1M construction project to its priority list for the City of St. Petersburg to connect three new parks in the Deuces area on 22nd St. S from 5th Ave. S to 11th Ave. S.
 - The St. Petersburg project was recommended by the selection committee because while both it and Dunedin's submitted project for Skinner Boulevard had high redevelopment potential, St. Petersburg's would serve a larger transportation disadvantaged and minority population
 - The committee decided against splitting funds for the construction project because less than \$1M would not enable either project to be completed
- For the Planning & Place-Making grant program, four cities applied for \$100K available
 - The City of Largo was awarded \$50K it had requested to prepare a Special Area Plan for the US 19 and Roosevelt Blvd./East Bay Drive area, and the City of Oldsmar was awarded \$25K it had requested to fund a feasibility study for the "Top of the Bay Innovation Center"
 - The City of Tarpon Springs was awarded the remaining \$25K out of \$50K it had requested; that funding will be used to identify a highest and best use redevelopment scenario for a city-owned distressed property

Staff presented an update on the Alternate US 19 Cultural Corridor project

- The Cultural Corridor Project was conceived last summer as a partnership between Forward Pinellas and Creative Pinellas, the county's designated arts agency
 - The project covers a 17 mile corridor from Largo to Tarpon Springs
 - The idea of the Cultural Corridor is to link the strong history and cultural assets of various communities
 - Each of the cities along the corridor has a designated Community Redevelopment Area; unincorporated areas have also been included in the outreach and planning activities for the corridor
- In workshops held in Tarpon Springs, Dunedin, Largo and Clearwater, more than 150 people gave feedback and were highly engaged
 - A common point of feedback was the need for a work-live "makers space" along the corridor, as well as a co-working or incubator space
 - The corridor would need to respect local identity while tying the arts branding together cohesively
 - Responding to another point of feedback on the need to pursue creative funding, Forward Pinellas worked with Clearwater and Creative Pinellas to submit an application to the National Endowment for the Arts for public art primarily in downtown Clearwater
- A progress meeting will be held March 26 at the Creative Pinellas Gallery to discuss lessons learned and next steps entering phase two of the project

- The next phase will build on existing momentum and further explore the suggestions developed in the first phase
- There was discussion of how strip commercial development is prominent in the corridor, and may take time to redevelop, but concentrated areas of arts emphasis can steer redevelopment along the entire corridor in the long term
- The Cultural Corridor framework and recommendations are intended to help guide and complement the design and engineering recommendations forthcoming from the Alt US 19 Corridor Study undertaken by the Florida Department of Transportation

Staff presented an update on the Advantage Pinellas Plan, the new Long Range Transportation Plan to be adopted in November

- Staff has completed the population and employment forecasts for 2045 with the input of local governments
 - Population is forecast to grow almost 10% by 93K residents, nearly the population of Clearwater, primarily concentrated in activity centers
 - Employment is forecast to increase 11% by 60K, concentrated in activity and employment centers
- The plan is currently in the needs assessment phase, and staff is working to identify priority transit corridors and other transportation needs
- A focus group comprised of residents from throughout the county that met in November is meeting again in April and will discuss proposed corridors and projects

Board members discussed the drainage and safety problem on Gulf Boulevard in Indian Shores

- The mayor of Indian Shores is concerned by the unsafe situation caused by the shared bicycle and walking path on Gulf Boulevard not being grade-separated from the roadway by a curb
 - The drainage issues cause ponding in the road, and motorists also pass in the sidewalk/bike path area to avoid being delayed by left-turning cars
- FDOT is already addressing the drainage issues with a \$14M project - \$6M of FDOT money and \$8M of Pinellas County money
 - FDOT had hoped to use its \$6M to go toward fixing the sidewalk/bike path issue as well, but was unable to do so without holding up the drainage project, which addresses some of the ponding issues in the roadway after it rains
 - Creating a raised sidewalk or multi-use path and resolving remaining drainage issues will likely cost \$15M-\$20M, a project that will likely need to go on the Forward Pinellas priority list to get funded
- Board members expressed frustration about the inefficiency of this solution along with the long construction times likely to complete both projects consecutively
 - Commissioner Karen Seel also mentioned that when this portion of Gulf Boulevard was reconstructed for the previous bike/pedestrian path, the board had expressed concerns about the drainage ability of the improvements
- The Indian Shores mayor and FDOT leadership will come before the board to discuss the projects at a future meeting

Two amendments to the Countywide Plan Map were unanimously approved:

- A subthreshold amendment for an automobile repair facility property at 1408 North Betty Lane in unincorporated Pinellas County from Residential Low Medium to Retail and Services
- A regular amendment for a property at 3101 Pass-A-Grill Way that was formerly a private school in the City of St. Pete Beach from Public/Semi-Public to Residential Medium

The executive director reported that he would be sending a letter to members of the Pinellas Legislative Delegation

- The letter addresses the agency's top priorities and the success that Forward Pinellas and other regional agencies have achieved in transportation coordination
- At another point in the meeting, board members discussed the importance of being on the same page with the business community and trying to coordinate efforts to avoid duplication of planning initiatives

Other Items

- The board approved adding previously agreed upon safety performance measures into the Transportation Improvement Program
- Board members briefly discussed an option for adding the seven jurisdictions currently not paying into PSTA; this would require county commission authorization
- It was noted in the PSTA Activities Report that the agency is currently facing a shortfall and is examining ways to move forward, ideally without cutting services

Upcoming Dates

- March 26 - [Alternate US 19 Cultural Corridor Progress Meeting](#)
- March 27 - [Tampa Bay Mobility Alliance Meeting \(TBMO\)](#)
- April 4 - [Open House: 34th Street South Lane Repurposing](#)
- April 5 - [Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group Meeting \(TMA\)](#)
- April 18 - [UNITE Pinellas 2019 Equity Profile](#)
- April 23 - [Community Health in All Policies \(HiAP\) Introductory Workshop](#)

Action Sheet

March 13, 2019

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 10-0)
Approved to include the following:
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the February 13, 2019 Meeting
 - B. Approval of Committee Appointments (BPAC, LCB, STSC and TCC)
 - C. Forward Pinellas 2018 Annual Report – Authorization for Distribution
 - D. Approval of Title VI Plan Update
- **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 incorporate the safety performance measures and targets. (vote: 10-0)
- **Subthreshold Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**
One case was recommended for approval:

1. CW 19-05 – Pinellas County (vote:10-0)

- **Regular Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**

One case was recommended for approval:

1. CW 19-06 – City of St. Pete Beach (vote: 10-0)

- **Forward Pinellas Complete Streets Grant Awards**

Following a staff presentation, the board approved the grant funding as recommended. (vote: 10-0)

- **Forward Pinellas Planning & Place-Making Grant Pilot Program Awards**

Following a staff presentation, the board approved the grant funding as recommended. (vote: 10-0)