



Board Meeting Summary & Action Sheet

April 13, 2022

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 Forward Pinellas Board held this public meeting in person on April 13, 2022, at 1 p.m. in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building.

The board unanimously approved the Complete Streets Grant Program Recommendations

The Forward Pinellas Board awarded the City of St. Pete Beach and Pinellas County with over \$1 million for Complete Streets projects. These awards include a \$1 million construction grant and \$100,000 for two concept planning grants, which focus on safety and accessibility for everyone in our community while encouraging planned redevelopment and economic growth.

Complete Streets projects awarded include:

[\\$65,000 to the City of St. Pete Beach for its Downtown Redevelopment District Complete Streets Network Project](#)

This project will assess the feasibility of creating a connected complete streets network throughout the area that will create a safe, equitable, and easily accessible alternative mobility network for residents and visitors.

[\\$35,000 to Pinellas County for its Whitney Road Complete Streets Planning Project](#)

This project will plan for potential corridor enhancements to support ongoing residential growth, bolster economic development, improve access to services for vulnerable individuals, enhance the public realm, and provide more efficient connections between residences, schools, parks, public transportation, and businesses.

[\\$966,000 to Pinellas County for its 62nd Ave. North Complete Streets Construction Project](#)

This project will provide improvements that will serve as the catalyst this area needs to grow and prosper by providing a safe and efficient multimodal corridor that better connects residents and businesses to each other in the Pinellas Park and Lealman communities.

The board unanimously approved amendments to the Unified Planning Work Program and the Transportation Improvement Program

The Forward Pinellas Board approved amendments to the 2020-2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and a modification to the FY 21/22-25/26 Transportation Improvement Program to de-obligate \$90,000 in funding from the current fiscal year so that it will be available to support planning activities

starting on July 1, 2022. These activities include the development of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, the procurement of additional trail counting equipment, and the continued support of the crash data monitoring program.

The board unanimously adopted the amendments to the Waterborne Transportation Section of the Advantage Pinellas 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

The Forward Pinellas Board adopted the amendments to the Waterborne Transportation section of the Advantage Pinellas 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), including the incorporation of a Systemwide Waterborne Vision and a Countywide Waterborne Transportation Policy. The Waterborne Transportation Policy establishes clear criteria for the prioritization of waterborne transportation options employed in Pinellas County so that continued and expanded service may adequately serve our residents, visitors, and businesses alike.

The board recommended approval of four amendments to the Countywide Plan Map

- The board recommended approval of four amendments:
 - An amendment from Pinellas County to amend the properties at 5173 28th St. N. and 2786 and 2782 52nd Ave. N. from Residential Low Medium to Residential Medium to allow up to 11 dwelling units on the property based on its acreage, or up to 16 dwelling units if an affordable housing density bonus is pursued, which furthers the redevelopment and revitalization goals of the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area (10-0)
 - An amendment from Pinellas County to amend the property at 1961 East Lake Road from Residential Low Medium and Scenic/Non Commercial Corridor to Office and Scenic/Non Commercial Corridor to allow for adaptive reuse of the property for office uses (11-0)
 - Todd Pressman noted that the adjacent property is a Pinellas County Fire Station, making the area more suitable for offices.
 - An amendment from Pinellas County to amend the property at 90 20th Terrace SW from Residential Low Medium to Retail & Services to allow for retail uses (11-0)
 - An amendment from Pinellas County to amend the property at 2669 St. Andrews Blvd. from Residential Rural and Recreation/Open Space to Recreation/Open Space and Residential Rural to swap the land use designation of two equally sized parcels to allow a single-family residential home on one of the parcels (11-0)

The board unanimously approved and accepted the PPC and MPO Annual Audits for FY21

Each year Forward Pinellas undertakes an independent professional financial audit of its two legal agencies, the Pinellas Planning Council (PPC) and the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). After a review of the financial records, it is the auditor's opinion that both the PPC and MPO have complied in all material respects with applicable financial requirements for the year ended September 30, 2021.

SPOTlight Updates

- The Honeymoon Island State Park entrance improvements are underway. Other Dunedin Causeway corridor improvements are advancing through design. Forward Pinellas is looking at the possibility of a joint construction schedule with FDOT and Pinellas County pending projects to ensure people's day-to-day activities are affected as little as possible.
- Mr. Blanton will write a letter to the Florida Division of State Parks to request funding for design and construction for the park turnaround roundabout.
- The US 19 frontage roads study and innovative intersections project is moving forward and more information will be provided to the board by this Fall. Commissioner Seel reminded colleagues about previous comments from the board about the need to keep all frontage road lanes and provide consistent treatments at each intersection.
- Redington Shores has expressed interest in the Gulf Blvd. Safety Study and would like to look at safer facilities for bicyclists on Gulf Blvd. as well.
- The TEILS update is underway and staff is preparing for an employer survey and upcoming stakeholder meetings.

Other Items

- PSTA unanimously approved pay raises on March 30 that makes some of its frontline workers the highest paid in the state. Plans to build a new transit center in Clearwater have hit a roadblock, but local leaders are still working to make it happen.
- The Legislative Committee noted significant concern about several bills with relevance to local and regional planning efforts. More information can be found here: <https://forwardpinellas.org/blog/planning-for-the-future/new-state-laws-will-impact-local-communities/>
- With the completion of the Pinellas Planning Council audit, Forward Pinellas staff is reevaluating options for the FY23 budget to ensure that projected revenues cover the agency's expenses. The final audit showed a significantly lower carryover balance from the prior fiscal year, and even with a higher property valuation, this results in an operating deficit for FY23. The executive director updated the board on some of the scenarios that staff is considering as it develops the final budget for board approval in June.
- Amy Elmore presented the Quarterly Communications Summary that establishes where we are as an agency with our communication and outreach efforts, identifies how far we've come since last quarter, sets goals for the future, and details how we will achieve those goals.
- Based on the board's recommendations, Forward Pinellas will create a stakeholder survey for local partners and agencies that will identify our levels of service. This survey will be used to inform the Executive Director evaluation in 2023.
- Commissioner Michael Smith informed the board that there is an existing vacancy on the Local Coordinating Board that must be filled by an elected official. He requested that Forward Pinellas board members let the officials in their communities know so that this important

vacancy can be filled. Agency staff will follow up with board members to provide more information.

Action Sheet

April 13, 2022

At its April 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 March 9, 2022 Meeting
- B. Approval of Committee Appointments
- C. Approval of Forward Pinellas/FDOT Joint Certification Statement and Summary
- D. Approval of Update to the Title VI Plan
- E. Approval of 5305 PSTA Joint Participation Agreement
- F. Approval of Amendments to the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

- **Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Work Program Amendments**

Following a presentation by Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program and Unified Work Program. (vote: 10-0)

- **Long Range Transportation Plan Modification**

Following a presentation by Chelsea Favero, Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved a modification to the Long Range Transportation Plan. (vote: 10-0)

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

Four cases were approved:

1. CW 22-05 – Pinellas County (vote: 10-0; Councilmember Floyd had not yet arrived)
2. CW 22-06 – Pinellas County (vote: 11-0)
3. CW 22-07 – Pinellas County (vote: 11-0)
4. CW 22-08 – Pinellas County (vote: 11-0)

- **PPC and MPO Annual Audits 2020-21 (FY21)**

Following a presentation by Julie Davis and Justin Twigg, auditors from Rivero, Gordimer and Company, the board approved and accepted the audit reports for the PPC and MPO. (vote: 10-0; Councilmember Reed had stepped out)

- **Complete Streets Grant Program Recommendations**

Following a presentation by Angela Ryan, Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the Complete Streets Grant Program awards as outlined. (vote: 11-0)