

February 12, 2020

*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

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#### The Forward Pinellas Board adopted regional transportation priorities

- Includes the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group Recommended 2020 Top Priorities
  - Funded projects
    - Howard Frankland Bridge Replacement
    - Gateway Expressway
    - I-275 Interchange at Overpass (Phase I)
    - I-275 Express Lanes from I-375 to Gandy Blvd.
    - I-275 Interchange at Big Bend Road
    - I-275/SR 60/Westshore Interchange
    - I-275 Operational Improvements north of downtown Tampa
  - Top Priorities for the Tampa Bay Region
    - I-75 Interchange at Gibsonton
    - I-75 Interchange at Overpass (Phase II)
    - Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit
    - Regional Rapid Transit in the I-275 Corridor
    - Support HART's exploration and negotiation for use of the CSX right-of-way for passenger transportation
- Also includes the MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee 2020 Regional Transportation Priority Projects
  - Funded projects
    - Suncoast Parkway 2 Expansion
    - TBARTA Regional Transit Development Plan
  - Top Priorities for the Greater Tampa Bay Region
    - Central Polk Parkway Segment 1
    - US 41 from SR 44 to SR 200
    - Desoto Bridge Replacement
    - Bradenton-Palmetto Connector
    - CR 557 from US 17/92 to I-4

#### The board approved retaining the same safety performance measures and targets for another year

- Performance measures were aspirational and based on trend data to improve achievability
  - Number of fatalities : 10.8% decrease
  - Number of serious injuries: 17.7% decrease
  - Rate of fatalities: 10.7% decrease
  - Rate of serious injuries: 19.8% decrease
  - Number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries: 1.7% decrease
- Average Annual Fatalities continue trending up and increased by 6.34%, but is less than the 15.24% increase from the previous report
- Average Annual Serious Injuries continue trending down and decreased by 4.28%
- Board members and the executive director discussed ideas for improving
  - Identify and advance projects in the Transportation Improvement Program that can achieve results
  - Complete Streets
  - Vision Zero – Safe Streets Pinellas
  - Engage and educate the community

- Board members unanimously approved retaining the same the targets and agreed to continue monitoring for progress and opportunities for improvement

#### **The board accepted the final documentation from the Advantage Pinellas Plan**

- The Advantage Pinellas Plan was adopted by the board at its November 2019 meeting
- The Plan documentation demonstrates how and why the plan was developed
- There was extensive conversation about continued delays of certain local projects that have been on priority lists for decades
  - Specifically, 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, 62<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North and the intersection at Belcher Rd/SR 60 were cited
  - It was acknowledged that the schedule for these projects to receive funding is determined by Pinellas County using Penny for Pinellas funds; Forward Pinellas merely includes the schedule that the County provides
  - The County is still in the process of determining allocations for Penny IV and this may be further addressed through that process

#### **The board unanimously adopted the Active Transportation Plan**

- Jamie Krzeminski, consultant with HDR, provided a presentation to the board
- The Active Transportation Plan is a major update of the 2013 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan
- The goal of the plan is to promote active transportation in our communities and focused on defining strategic connections for safe and efficient movement
- The Plan was developed considering stakeholder input, demand analysis, levels of traffic stress and specific evaluation criteria
- The Plan includes the top 10 priority projects in 47 key corridors
  - 18<sup>th</sup> Ave S/Salt Creek Trail Ext.
  - 28<sup>th</sup> Street North
  - Sunset Point Road/Main Street
  - 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue North
  - 142<sup>nd</sup> Ave N/16<sup>th</sup> Ave SW
  - Nebraska Ave Loop
  - Joe's Creek Greenway
  - San Martin Boulevard
  - Oldsmar Trail
  - 70<sup>th</sup> Ave North
  - Four overpasses to be funded over 25-year period
  - One overpass included in each phase (all on the Duke Energy Trail)

#### **The board received a presentation from FDOT on the US 19 interchange design alternatives**

- Ken Spitz, Transportation Planning Manager for FDOT D7 presented the interchange design alternatives currently being considered for the northern portion of US 19 from Tampa Road to Alt US 19
- The feasibility review was based on traffic projections through 2040
  - No additional through lanes are proposed
  - No funding is currently committed
- The various alternatives were outlined in detail with video demonstrations
  - Displaced Left Turn
  - Restricted Crossing with U-Turn
- The board members expressed concerns about bicycle and pedestrian safety, wrong-way drivers, right-of-way needs, and public education for navigation of these intersections
- Citizen Ron Ogden spoke about the innovative intersections and the ability of the elderly population to navigate them in hopes there would be extensive community engagement as these ideas move forward

- There was discussion about traffic volumes and the ability of these interchanges to handle the increases compared to the overpasses
- Secretary Gwynn addressed the board about their concerns and encouraged them that the technology of cars in the future will decrease the room for driver error and cited other communities that have implemented these interchanges without any issues

**Board members discussed positions on transportation and land-use related bills currently making their way through the process in this year's legislative session**

- Letters were authorized to be written opposing specific bills
  - HB 459 and SB 954 relating to building design
  - HB 519 on private property rights protection
- A letter was also authorized to be written reinforcing the position of Forward Pinellas in opposition to SB 1000 and HB 1371 concerning the use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) at mid-block crossings
  - FDOT District Secretary David Gwynn spoke to the board about their efforts to oppose and/or amend this bill

**The board approved one land use amendment to the Countywide Plan:**

- An amendment brought forward by Pinellas County to amend a property at 4700 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue North from Residential Low Medium to Residential Medium in order to allow for 13 additional multi-family units to be added
- Mayor Bradbury was concerned about higher densities than the surrounding properties and opposed the amendment

**Other Items**

- The executive director introduced new Planning Analyst Nousheen Rahman, who began in February and will be working on the land use case predominantly
- The executive director and chair recognized staff member Tina Jablon for her five years of service
- Hilary Lehman thanked the board for the opportunity to serve the public in her role over the last 3.5 years as communications and outreach manager. She is leaving to take a new position with Eckerd College.

**Action Sheet**

**February 12, 2020**

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 11-0)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of the January 8, 2020 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
  - C. Acceptance of Quarter One Financial Report
  - D. Approval of Additional Waterborne Transportation Subcommittee Member
  - E. Approval of Procurement #20-01 Planning Consultants
- **Annual Adoption of Regional Transportation Priorities**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff and public hearing, the board, in its role as the

metropolitan planning organization, approved the 2020 Regional Transportation Priority Project List as approved by the Chairs Coordinating Committee and recommended by the TMA Leadership Group. (vote: 11-0)

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

One case was recommended for approval:

1. CW 20-01 – Pinellas County (vote: 10-1 with Mayor Bradbury opposing)

- **Safety Performance Measures and Targets**

Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the Safety Performance Measures and Targets. (vote: 11-0)

- **Advantage Pinellas Final Documentation**

Following a presentation of the documentation by Forward Pinellas staff and discussion, the board accepted the final Advantage Pinellas documentation. (vote: 10-1 with Commissioner Long opposing)

- **Adoption of the Active Transportation Plan**

Following a presentation, the board approved the Active Transportation Plan. (vote: 10-0; Mayor Bujalski had stepped out of the meeting)

- **Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee Update**

Following introduction by the executive director and discussion, the board authorized letters to be written opposing HB 459 and SB 954 relating to building design, opposing HB 519 on private property rights protection, and reinforcing the position of Forward Pinellas on SB 1000 and HB 1371 concerning the use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs). (all votes: 9-0; Commissioners Long and Seel had left the meeting)