



## Forward Pinellas Board Special Meeting

August 2, 2023

*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 held this public meeting in person on August 2, 2023, at 11 a.m. in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building.

#### **The board approved the Apportionment Plan.**

The Forward Pinellas Board approved the Apportionment Plan with a total of 19 members. Subject to approval by the governor, the new board composition would consist of four seats for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), four for the City of St. Petersburg, two for the City of Clearwater, and one seat each for the Cities of Largo, Pinellas Park, Dunedin, and Tarpon Springs. There would be shared seats with a three-year rotation for the Cities of Oldsmar/Safety Harbor, Belleair/Belleair Bluffs/Seminole, Gulfport/Kenneth City/South Pasadena, and the beach communities. The Pinellas Suncoast Transportation Authority would have one voting seat as well.

#### Discussion:

- Commissioner Eggers made the motion to approve the new alternative apportionment plan he proposed at July's Board Meeting, which would expand on a prior alternative to give another seat to St. Pete. He reiterated this plan is most reflective of population proportions as per the Census. He also stressed the importance of more representation in context to the prospective regional MPO.
- Councilmember Allbritton seconded Commissioner Eggers motion. He, Mayor Bujalski, and Councilmember Muhammad agreed this alternative is most reflective of population proportions as well and supported the total of 19 because it is an odd number.
- Councilmember Driscoll noted the purpose of this plan is to get closest to the population proportion, with a recognition it may not perfectly align, and signaled her support for the 19-member plan.
- Councilor Burke requested, based on population, to amend the motion to move Seminole into a 2-city grouping, rather than 3-city grouping. There was a lack of support to amend the motion as requested.
- Mayor Will expressed his support of a different option with 15 seats instead. His alternative would add a seat for Tarpon but would have kept St. Petersburg at two seats and Clearwater at one set. Mayor Bujalski responded that she cannot support this because, based on the Census, there needs to be more seats for St. Pete.
- Citizens to be heard:

- Commissioner Mike Eisner of Tarpon Springs expressed his gratitude to the board for providing a seat for the City of Tarpon Springs.

Other items:

- Public comment: David Geddis Jr. expressed his personal thought that the overpasses being built on U.S. 19 are past due and the roundabout in construction in Palm Harbor is a presumed obstruction to emergency vehicles.