



## Board Meeting Summary & Action Sheet

July 8, 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 held this public meeting virtually on July 8, at 1 p.m. to ensure public safety in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please see the following link for more information about virtual meeting [policies and procedures](#).

Commissioner Eggers asked to take a moment of silence for Independence Day, as well as those families and individuals affected by COVID-19, as well as the police officers and those protesting for change over the past few weeks' events.

Forward Pinellas Director announced the promotion of Rebecca Stysly to Finance and Accounting Analyst 1.

Forward Pinellas Director announced that the [Resilient Tampa Bay Transportation Project](#), a regional effort between Forward Pinellas, Hillsborough MPO, Pasco MPO, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, and the Florida Department of Transportation, received the [National Association of Development Organizations' 2020 Excellence in Transportation Award](#).

#### **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**The board unanimously approved a modification to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

- The proposed amendment would add a resurfacing project (445886-1) along I-275 from the Sunshine Skyway Bridge to the Maximo Point Bridges. This is a new project, with preliminary engineering being added to the TIP for \$1,362,942 in FY 2021. This project will not affect any current projects in the FY 2019/20-2023/24 TIP.

#### **PRESENTATIONS AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

**Commissioner Long presented updates for the PSTA Activities Report.**

- On Wednesday, July 8, 2020, the PSTA unveiled their new brand for the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (CA-BRT) – “SunRunner.”

**Commissioner Seel presented updates for the TBARTA Activities Report.**

- On June 22, 2020, TBARTA adopted the Envision 2030 Regional Transit Development Plan.

**Bill Ball, from Tindale-Oliver, presented on the [TBARTA Envision 2030 Regional Transit Development Plan](#).**

- Ball introduced and compared economic and financial impacts of three investment scenarios for Envision 2030: Scenario 1: Status Quo; Scenario 2: Low-Impact; Scenario 3: High-Impact.
- TBARTA adopted the unfunded Regional Transportation Vision Network, the Status Quo Scenario, and continued evaluation of calls to action in collaboration with local partners.

**Forward Pinellas Board unanimously adopted the [Multimodal Prioritization Projects Approval](#) Process**

- Forward Pinellas develops an annual list of transportation priorities for state and federal funding. Moving forward, Forward Pinellas will apply a competitive scoring process to align the selection of priorities with the county's land use goals and Advantage Pinellas. Forward Pinellas will score

projects on Safety, Equity and Health, Mobility, Economics, Environment, and Resiliency, as well as their countywide significance and public and local government support.

- The Call for Projects opens on July 10, 2020 and will go to the Forward Pinellas Board for approval in March 2021. Click Here for more information: <https://forwardpinellas.org/2020-call-for-projects/>

**Amy Elmore, Forward Pinellas' Communications and Outreach Manager, presented the [Communications Road Map and Monthly Communications Report](#)**

- The Communications Road Map is a strategic plan that outlines objectives and target metrics to achieve the overall goal of engaging more residents and stakeholders into our overall planning processes.
- Each month, a Communications Report will be included in the informational items for the board so they can see how Forward Pinellas is progressing with their communications goals.
- The board and residents are encouraged to get involved by following Forward Pinellas on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), stay up to date with our blogs, and invite us to speak at other meetings throughout our community.

**SPOTlight Update:**

**Indian Shores Gulf Blvd Sidewalk Update**

- The Mayor and Town Council of Indian Shores would like to have a sidewalk built from 191<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Whitehurst Avenue as part of a drainage project to reduce ponding after rains. The ponding is occurring on the shared bicycle and pedestrian path, creating hazardous situations. Drivers also frequently use the shared bike/ped path to pass vehicles waiting to turn left, adding to the safety hazard.
- FDOT has an \$8 Million drainage project currently underway that will fix much of the ponding issues. This project will also include additional signage and incorporating green pigment paint into the pavement where pedestrians and cyclists operate, due to constraints that hinder construction of a sidewalk at this time.
- The Mayor and Town Council are seeking a larger project to add a sidewalk with lateral separation from the roadway as part of a more complete drainage project. Forward Pinellas will continue working with the Town, FDOT and other partners as appropriate on how best to fund and advance this project.

**US 19 Pedestrian Throughway/Underpass Update**

- Based on direction from the Forward Pinellas Board, FDOT has been working to create pedestrian crossings every quarter mile on US 19 from State Road 580 to County Road 95, which is in the design phase. They can only accommodate a half-mile spacing for this segment, which includes design of a pedestrian throughway/underpass on US 19 south of Republic Drive and additional at-grade and overpass crossings further to the north. FDOT and Forward Pinellas have received concerns from local business owners that visibility would be an issue and this section of the road is not utilized by pedestrians.
- The director reported that FDOT cannot relocate the underpass and still meet the board's direction, and pointed to the video animations prepared by the Department showing little visual impact.
- After discussion about the amount of pedestrian usage today and in the future, the board said it would like to study the issue further and asked that it be placed on a future agenda to review additional information and provide further direction to the Department, as desired.

**Drew Street Preliminary Engineering Scope of Services**

- A preliminary engineering study for Drew Street – from Osceola Street to US 19 - is underway and is currently in the data gathering phase. The goal is to present an analysis of options and obtain consensus on improvements from all partners, Pinellas County, the City of Clearwater, and FDOT. This phase should be complete in nine months.
- In addition, FDOT is working on closing sidewalk gaps where right-of-way is available as quickly as they can.

#### **Safe Streets Pinellas Online Campaign**

- The Virtual Safe Streets Pinellas Campaign has already reached 10,000 people online and residents have made over 200 comments on transportation issues they are seeing in their community.
- Board members are encouraged to follow Forward Pinellas on social media and help spread the word about this campaign.

#### **Public Participation Plan (PPP) Evaluation Report**

- Forward Pinellas has participated in an average of 150 meetings, workshops and public events each year from 2017- 2019.
- From 2018 – 2019, there was a 12% increase of unique page views for the Forward Pinellas Website, and Forward Pinellas Facebook posts reached more than three times higher.

#### **Forward Pinellas Equity Assessment**

- Forward Pinellas will complete an equity assessment for its organization, its structure, committees, public outreach methods, projects, work products, and the outcomes of our planning activities. Staff is just beginning to develop the scope of work. UNITE Pinellas will serve as an external sounding board to help guide us through this process. We will begin conducting interviews with key stakeholders in our minority and disadvantaged communities to help shape the work plan. Our goal is to bring back this scope for board approval in September 2020.

#### **Other Items**

- TMA Leadership Group Meeting will be held on July 10, 2020 virtually.
- The MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee and the Joint Chairs Coordinating Committee will follow the TMA meeting on July 10<sup>th</sup> – Regional priorities Update & Summit with Central Florida MPO Alliance Virtual Meeting.
- The next board Meeting will be September 9, 2020. Virtual options for participation will be available. Please visit our website for more information: [www.forwardpinellas.org](http://www.forwardpinellas.org)

## **Action Sheet**

**July 8, 2020**

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

- **Consent Agenda** (roll call vote: 12-0)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of the June 10, 2020 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
  - C. Map Adjustment – City of Clearwater – Official Acceptance
  - D. Approval of Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged (CTD) Agreement and Adoption of Associated Resolution

- E. Approval of Procurement #20-01 Forward Pinellas Planning Consultants Selection
- F. Approval of Procurement #20-03 Auditing Firm Recommendation
- G. Approval of the Pinellas Planning Council Work Plan
- H. Approval of Annual Budget and Millage Rate for FY 21 and Adoption of Associated Resolution
- I. Approval of Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment
- J. Approval of Counts, Cras Data and Level of Service Program Scope of Services

- **Amendment to the FY 2019/20-FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program**

Following a presentation by FDOT and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the amendment to the TIP. (roll call vote: 12-0)

- **Multimodal Prioritization Process**

Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board approved the new Multimodal Prioritization Process as outlined. (roll call vote: 12-0)