



## Board Meeting Summary & Action Sheet

June 10, 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 June 10, 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 the families and individuals affected by COVID-19, the death of George Floyd, the police officers who have lost their lives, and the businesses that have been affected by the past few weeks' events.

The Forward Pinellas Board recognized Whit Blanton for his five years of service. His commitment and passion for Pinellas County are truly appreciated.

### PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

**The board unanimously approved three land use amendments to the Countywide Plan:**

- [The City of Clearwater would like to amend several properties](#) from Residential Low Medium, Retail & Services, Recreation/Open Space and Preservation to Multimodal Corridor and Preservation.
  - Location: 24323 & 24479 US Highway 19 N.
  - Area Size: 26.3 acres
  - Existing Uses: Vehicle storage, indoor recreation, closed mobile home park
  - Surrounding Uses: Commercial, Preservation, and Mini-Storage

The purpose of this amendment is to allow for the redevelopment of properties along this section of US 19 to strengthen the linkage between the Activity Center in the Countryside area and Sunset Point Road.

- [The City of Largo would like to amend a property](#) from Public/Semi-Public to Retail & Services.
  - Location: 2188 58th Street North
  - Area Size: 1.06 acres
  - Existing Uses: Grass parking lot
  - Surrounding Uses: Residential, administrative offices, convenience store

The purpose of this amendment is to allow for the development of a gas station and convenience store.

- [The City of Largo would like to amend a property](#) from Public/Semi-Public to Residential Low Medium.
  - Location: 2050 58th Street North
  - Area Size: 5.01 acres
  - Existing Uses: Vacant

- Surrounding Uses: Office, residential

The purpose of this amendment is to allow for single family residential development.

**The board unanimously adopted the FY 2020/21-FY 2024-25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).**

- Forward Pinellas is required to adopt the fiscal year (FY) 2020/21 – FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by July 1, 2020 for the county to receive state and federal funding for transportation projects.
- The TIP incorporates priority projects identified within Advantage Pinellas, our Long Range Transportation Plan, adopted in 2019, as well as other projects covered in the FDOT work program. Priorities for funding in the TIP include projects such as the Pinellas Trail Loop, the Harn Boulevard Overpass, the Curlew Road Interchange, and the Forest Lakes Boulevard project.
- Take a look at the [Interactive TIP Map](#) to explore all the projects included in the adopted TIP.

**PRESENTATIONS AND/OR ACTION ITEMS**

**The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) updated the board on the [US Alt-19/Palm Harbor Blvd & Florida Ave Roundabout](#).**

- Though FDOT has received many requests to add a signal at Alt-19 and Florida Avenue, the intersection did not qualify for a signal. FDOT sought community input for two solutions – a roundabout at Florida Avenue and a traffic signal at Alt-19 & Nebraska Avenue.
- The roundabout has been considered since 2015 as part of the Downtown Palm Harbor Master Plan. In 2019, FDOT held two public workshops to discuss the potential roundabout at Florida Avenue. Another community forum was held at the Palm Harbor Library.
- FDOT has made adjustments to the roundabout concept during the design phase based on public feedback. Some of these items include shrinking splitter islands to accommodate needs of surrounding businesses, relocating a sidewalk, and relocating crosswalks with flashing beacons (RRFB). More specifics on these adjustments can be seen in FDOT's presentation.
- The board previously made this project a priority so that the design phase could begin in 2019. After the presentation the board discussed several questions and concerns with the project, and ultimately conveyed its support for continuing with construction funding in the adopted Transportation Improvement Program in fiscal year 21-22.

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

- USDOT provided \$21.8 Million for the Central Avenue BRT project as the federal share to match state and local funding commitments
- COVID 19 Employee Response Program has been successful, showing no PSTA employees have been diagnosed.
- The first electric charging station is being constructed at PSTA's transfer hub on Scherer Drive and 34<sup>th</sup> Street North.

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

- [Innovative Transit Technology study](#) is underway and focuses on the technical, financial and regulatory issues for the Hyperloop, Air Taxis, and Aerial Gondolas.

**Forward Pinellas Planning Division Manager Rodney Chatman reviewed the preliminary [FY2021 Pinellas Planning Council Budget](#) for informational purposes. The Final budget will be voted on in July.**

- Property tax revenues are projected to increase by 4.2% from FY20
- Operating expenses are projected to decrease by 16.4% from FY20
- Unassigned fund balance has been reduced as directed by the Forward Pinellas Board
- The previously proposed millage increase has been postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic

The Pinellas Planning Council Work Plan includes Countywide Plan Administration, such as land use amendments and consistency reviews, and Technical Assistance for zoning map maintenance, Countywide Rule interpretations and mapping for special projects. Other projects include data analytics, the Knowledge Exchange Series, and other special planning project activities.

**[Safe Streets Pinellas Goes Virtual](#). Project Manager Sarah Caper updated the board on the 8 week online campaign and how the public can get involved.**

- On average, two people are killed or seriously injured (KSI) on our streets every day. Safe Streets Pinellas is a Vision Zero initiative, based on the principle that loss of life is not an acceptable price to pay for mobility. The goal of Safe Streets Pinellas is to eliminate traffic deaths and severe injuries in the transportation system with a proactive, preventive approach.
- How do we achieve this goal?
  - Leadership
  - Safe Roadways and Speeds
  - Transparency and Accountability with an Equity-focused analysis
- Our 8-week online campaign will include an interactive story map, a feedback map where residents can place pins and attach images, educational social media components, and even prizes for participating.
- Follow our campaign by [signing up for updates through our blog](#), follow us on [social media](#), or check out our website: [www.forwardpinellas.org/safestroads](http://www.forwardpinellas.org/safestroads).

**The board reviewed the Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation.**

- Board members expressed that Whit Blanton has exceeded expectations especially in leadership, innovation, and developing partnerships. Communications is continually improving internally and his professionalism and responsiveness is greatly appreciated. His insight and commitment to projects and initiatives throughout the county has been invaluable and made a significant, positive impact. The board authorized a pay increase for the executive director at the same percentage as budgeted for all Pinellas County employees in the Unified Personnel System.

**SPOTlight Update:**

### **Gateway Area Master Plan**

Director Blanton updated the board on the next phase for the Gateway Area Master Plan, focused on implementing the plan. A Memorandum of Understanding has been developed to guide a shared commitment for achieving guiding principles outlined in the Master Plan. The MOU will be presented to local governments for their consideration this summer, with official action by the governing bodies anticipated by the end of 2020.

## Enhancing Beach Access

- The Gulf Boulevard Drainage and Sidewalk Project: Forward Pinellas is continuing discussion between the Town of Indian Shores and FDOT to determine the best way forward with this project.
- Waterborne Transportation Subcommittee, previously postponed due to COVID 19, is planning on resuming in September.

## US 19 Corridor

Forward Pinellas is planning a workshop for the US 19 Corridor Vision and Alternatives in 2021 to engage the board and members of the public in thoughtful discussion on the various plans, studies, and design alternatives in an effort to support a clear vision for how corridor mobility, accessibility and desired community and economic development go together. The executive director also reported on work completed by FDOT in response to concerns expressed by local businesses regarding a pedestrian underpass planned for US 19 north of SR 580/Main Street. He will follow up with those businesses in coming days.

## Other Items

- TMA Leadership Group Meeting will be in person on July 10, 2020 in Hillsborough County.
- The next Forward Pinellas Board meeting will be in person on July 8, 2020 at 1pm. This meeting will follow CDC social distancing guidelines. The public will still be able to participate and watch via Zoom. More information will be released about these details via social media and the Forward Pinellas website.

## Action Sheet

**June 10, 2020**

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

- **Consent Agenda** (roll call vote: 13-0)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of the May 13, 2020 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
  - C. Approval of Procurement #20-02 Consultants Selection and Agreement
  - D. Approval of Update(s) to the Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan
- **Adoption of FY 2020/21-FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the adoption of the TIP. (roll call vote: 13-0)
- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**  
Three cases were recommended for approval:
  1. CW 20-10 – City of Clearwater (roll call vote: 13-0)
  2. CW 20-11 – City of Largo (roll call vote: 13-0)
  3. CW 20-12 – City of Largo (roll call vote: 13-0)

- **Executive Director Annual Performance Evaluation**  
After the chair reviewed the results of the evaluation and the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the board approved a raise for the executive director commensurate with that to be received by all employees in the Unified Personnel System effective October 1, 2020. (roll call vote: 13-0)