

March 11, 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

The Forward Pinellas Board awarded funding for its grant programs

- **Complete Streets**
 - Funded concept planning project
 - \$100,000 to the City of Pinellas Park for 78th Avenue
 - Funded construction project
 - \$1,000,000 to the City of Dunedin for Skinner Boulevard
 - There were concerns expressed by board members about certain aspects of the concept plan for Skinner Boulevard during the discussion. The City will continue to engage the public during the design phase of the project.
- **Planning & Place-Making**
 - Funded projects
 - \$50,000 to the City of Pinellas Park to prepare a master plan and construction documents for the City Center District
 - \$50,000 to the City of St. Petersburg to develop two Demonstration and Pilot Project Policy Guides

Amendments were made to the FY 2019/20-FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program

- **40TH AVENUE NE OVER PLACIDO BAYOU**

Updated the cost estimate of the bridge replacement project from \$5,488,352 to \$10,328,093 with a local payback of \$3,750,000
- **PSTA INNOVATIVE COORDINATION ACCESS & MOBILITY**

Provides grant funding of \$100,000 with a local match from PSTA of \$150,000 to support innovative projects for the transportation disadvantaged to improve coordination of transportation services and non-emergency medical transportation services
- **PSTA “EYES OF THE CITY” HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM**

Provides grant funding of \$43,630 with a local match from PSTA of \$10,908 to offer training hours for employees and educational materials for training and public outreach with the goal to create awareness of human trafficking and crime related issues with an educational campaign designed for bus operators, administrative employees, and the community at large in Pinellas County
- **CENTRAL AVE BRT DOWNTOWN ST PETERSBURG TO ST PETE BEACH**

Increased the costs for the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) portion by \$840,018 and the local funds portion by \$2.1 million for the project reflecting project funding shares of all the partners.

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

- An amendment brought forward by the City of Tarpon Springs to amend the local zoning designation of a property contained within the *Sponge Docks and Community Redevelopment Area Special Area Plan* Activity Center located at the northwest corner of North Safford Avenue and East Live Oak Street to allow for additional uses
- An amendment brought forward by Pinellas County to amend a property located east of McMullen Booth Road, just north of Curlew Road from Recreation/Open Space to Public/Semi-Public to allow for a medical office building

- Concerns over traffic safety were expressed by homeowners and members of the Home Owners Association Board of Directors from the Landmark Oaks Community, which is located across the street from the proposed development
- Those concerns were addressed by representatives for the applicant who outlined voluntary traffic control improvements at the median both developments would share that would be part of the Development Agreement
- Board members had questions about the traffic safety and conditions being created by the proposed voluntary improvements and about the Scenic Non-Commercial Corridor designation
- The Development Agreement provides for additional landscaping/beautification requirements in addition to traffic access management improvements
- An amendment brought forward by the City of Largo to amend a property located on Highland Avenue SE, approximately 400 feet south of East Bay Drive from Recreation/Open Space to Employment to allow for the development of a self-storage facility on a parcel that is currently vacant
 - A Development Agreement limits development to this use and provides buffering, landscape and structural requirements

The board received two topical presentations:

- **Resilient Tampa Bay: Transportation**
 - Karen Kiselewski of Cambridge Systematics presented to the board the recommendations from a resilience and durability to extreme weather study
 - This is a result of grant funding from an FHWA 2018-2020 pilot program
 - A regional vulnerability assessment of surface transportation needs produced a list of highly critical and highly vulnerable road segments
 - The study created a toolbox of recommended strategies with implementation best practices
 - The presentation entailed an overview of the estimated costs of implementation vs. the cost of doing nothing
- **Transit Oriented Development and Value Capture Study**
 - Professor Taryn Sabia, Director of the Florida Center for Community Design and Research at USF School of Architecture & Community Design, presented to the board
 - She presented case studies, best practices and key takeaways

The board unanimously approved the transmittal of its draft FY 20/21 – 21/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Sarah Caper, Forward Pinellas staff, outlined the planning priorities and activities that would be undertaken over the two years
- She defined the tasks, work products, and budget tables associated with the planned activities
- The document will be transmitted to the review agency and then modified as needed
- The Forward Pinellas Board will adopt the final version at its May meeting
- The new UPWP will begin on July 1, 2020

The board approved and accepted the final audits for both the PPC and MPO

- Scott Anderson of Cherry Bekaert presented the audit findings to the board
- Both the PPC and MPO received clean audits

The board received the 2019 Progress Report from PSTA on the Transit Development Plan

- Heather Sobush of PSTA provided board members an overview of the Transit Development Plan and what the plan entails
- She highlighted accomplishments, grant awards received, priority projects and the mission and goals of the plan

- She discussed the public outreach that has been undertaken under the plan and the findings
- She addressed financial scenarios shown in the plan and discussed with board members additional service needs as funding becomes available

Other Items

- There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Pinellas Park Councilwoman Patti Johnson and she was recognized for her commitment and dedication to the Transportation Disadvantaged Program
- The board will be appointing a new member to the Local Coordinating Board to replace Councilwoman Patti Johnson at its next meeting
- The executive director recognized March as Florida Bicycle Month
- The Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee held its final meeting for this Legislative Session and will resume meeting again in October in preparation for next Session
- PSTA is partnering with the cities of Clearwater and Dunedin to provide free Park and Rides to the beach and the Toronto Blue Jays spring training games
- TBARTA has entered into a master agreement with the University of Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research and awarded a contract to Enterprise Leasing for van pool services

Action Sheet

March 11, 2020

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 12-0)
Approved to include the following:
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the February 12, 2020 Meeting
 - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
 - C. Approval of Procurement #20-02 Forward Pinellas Crash Data, Traffic Counts and Level of Service Database Program
 - D. Map Adjustment – City of Clearwater – Official Acceptance
- **Proposed Amendment(s) to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
Following a presentation by FDOT and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved four amendments to the TIP by roll call vote. (vote: 12-0)
- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**
Three cases were recommended for approval:
 1. CW 20-05 – City of Tarpon Springs (vote: 12-0)
 2. CW 20-06 – Pinellas County (vote: 10-2; Commissioners Sofer and Welch opposed)
 3. CW 20-07 – City of Largo (vote: 12-0)

- **PPC and MPO Annual Audits 2018-19 (FY19)**
Following a presentation by the auditing firm, the board approved and accepted the annual audits of the PPC and MPO. (vote: 12-0)

- **Draft FY 2020/21-2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program**
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the transmittal of the draft UPWP. (vote: 11-0; Mayor Bujalski had stepped out of the meeting)

- **Forward Pinellas Grant Programs Awards**
 - **Complete Streets**
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board approved the funding award for concept planning as outlined. (vote: 12-0)

 - **Complete Streets**
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board approved the funding award for construction as outlined. (vote: 10-2; Commissioners Seel and Smith opposed)

 - **Planning & Place-Making**
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board approved the funding awards as outlined. (vote: 11-0; Mayor Bujalski had stepped out of the meeting)