

**November 13, 2019**

*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 board voted unanimously to adopt the Advantage Pinellas Plan, the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan for Pinellas County**

- The Long Range Transportation Plan is a long-term view of how to fund and prioritize transportation projects for the next 25 years, with a new plan adopted every five years
- At this meeting, the board approved the System Performance Report and Cost Feasible Plan Balancing Tables
- The cost feasible plan includes:
  - Bike/Ped projects:
    - \$62M for priority corridors
    - Constructing a minimum of 4 overpasses at high-conflict trail crossings
  - Roadway Projects:
    - \$1.7B in county, state and city projects through 2045
    - Very few capacity projects remain unfunded in Pinellas County
  - Transit Projects:
    - \$344M in capital funding
    - \$1.63B in operating from existing sources to operate the current system
    - Comparable amounts remain unfunded to expand service
      - Does not include CSX or premium regional service
- The majority of comments by the board members were related to specifically wanting to include waterborne transportation as a funding priority, which will be addressed in the final plan documentation
- Several Citizens Advisory Committee members commented in support of the plan, specifically supporting more flexible state funding, now mostly limited to capacity projects
  - The CAC had written a letter to the Forward Pinellas Board and the Board of County Commissioners advocating that the county dedicate a funding source for transit and urge more flexible state funding for Pinellas's specific non-capacity roadway needs
  - Commissioner Janet Long said she would advocate for a Florida Legislature Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) study on the transportation funding process

**Board members discussed the ongoing efforts to improve safety and accessibility on Drew Street**

- Clearwater resident Mike Riordon had come to the board the previous two meetings to speak about the urgent necessity of making improvements to Drew Street, also speaking at this meeting
- The project had been delayed in implementation, partly because the four-mile study area was overseen by three jurisdictions (Clearwater, FDOT, and Pinellas County)
- FDOT District 7 identified \$385K in its budget this fiscal year to do an engineering study of Complete Streets improvements to Drew Street

- The board praised FDOT's quick work and asked if anything could be done quickly to address speeding issues in the corridor, per Riordon's request
- FDOT staff noted that ameliorating measures would be looked at but that reducing speeds in practice often requires changes to the physical roadway rather than simply a speed limit change

**Pinellas County staff gave an overview of its Capital Improvement Program, which encompasses many of the local work program changes incorporated in the fall update of the Transportation Improvement Program**

- The presentation addressed major roadway, intersection, sidewalk, trail and ITS/ATMS operational improvements within the next five years
- Major roadway projects
  - Haines Road improvements from 60th Ave to US 19 - \$4.9M
    - Improving to 2 lane urban from 2 lane rural, adding bicycle lanes
  - Forest Lake Blvd Capacity improvements from Pine Avenue to west of Racetrack Road - \$12M
    - Widening from 2 lane divided to 4 lane divided, providing ADA sidewalks and pedestrian features
    - Phased construction to maintain two-lane traffic
- Major intersection projects:
  - Sunset Pt Rd at Betty Lane - \$3.15M
    - Reconstruct approaches and add left turn lanes on East/West approaches
    - Provide shoulders/bike lanes, ADA sidewalks and pedestrian features
  - NE Coachman Rd at Old Coachman Rd - \$1.4M
    - Providing left turn lanes on all four approaches, as well as shoulders/bike lanes on all approaches
    - Providing ADA improvements, sidewalks, and improving trail connectivity
    - Installing pedestrian signals
  - Whitney Rd at Wolford Rd - \$2.75M
    - Reconfigure intersection alignment
    - Provide shoulders and bike lanes on all three approaches
    - Provide pedestrian features
    - Improve drainage
- Major sidewalk projects:
  - Sunset Point Road Phase III (Alt. 19 to Trail Crossing) - \$580K
  - Indian Rocks Road Phase IIB (Wilcox Rd to 8th Ave SW) - \$615K
  - Park Blvd SRTS (Starkey Rd. – 66th St. N) - \$1.52M
  - 42nd Avenue (35th Street N to 46th Street N) - \$2.45M
  - Hercules Ave. N. Phase II (Sherwood St. to Sunset Point Rd.) - \$1.5M
- Major shared use path projects:
  - Pinellas Trail/Duke Energy Trail Phase IIB (NE Coachman Rd to Sunset Point Rd) - \$2.2M
  - Ream Wilson/Pinellas Trail Improvements (NE Coachman Rd) - \$500K
  - Pinellas Trail North Loop (John Chesnut Sr. Park to Enterprise Rd Overpass) - \$8.2M
- ITS/ATMS program
  - Gulf Blvd. \$1.6M - in the award process
  - CR1, \$2.4M - substantial completion

- Alt US 19 S, \$3.0M - under construction
- Belcher Rd S, \$1.3M - substantial completion

### **Board members briefly discussed the TMA Leadership Group meeting the previous Friday**

- The TMA is being formalized in the agreement as a subcommittee of the MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee, which is established by Florida Statutes
  - MPOs are taking back supervision of the CCC activities, with TBARTA moving to a supporting role and providing web site and related meeting support
- The TMA will be electing an annual chair and vice chair in February, which will be helpful for the legislative delegation to have one regional point of contact
- The TMA voted to add two items to the regional priority list: supporting HART exploration and assessment of CSX tracks in Hillsborough and supporting the TBARTA 41-mile Regional Rapid Transit project in the I-275 corridor

### **The board approved three amendments to the Countywide Plan**

- An amendment brought forward by the City of Largo to amend a property at Meadow View Avenue and Fulton Drive SE from Public/Semi-Public to Residential Low Medium in order to convert a parsonage on the church property to a single family home
- An amendment brought forward by the City of Largo to amend a property within the Bay Vista employment hub from Office, Retail & Services, and Target Employment Center to Retail & Services and Target Employment Center, establishing a single land-use classification across the whole property
- An amendment brought forward by the City of Largo to to amend a property at 1651 McMullen Road from Residential Low Medium to Public/Semi-Public in order to expand the Lake House Assisted Living Facility

### **The board approved an amendment and a modification to the TIP**

- The amendment advanced construction funding for a bridge replacement project at 40th Avenue North east over Placido Bayou from year five to the current year, costing \$9.6M
- The modification reflected a change in estimated Federal Transit Administration planning funds to actual funds, a positive change of just over \$46K.

### **Forward Pinellas Staff presented the 2019 Trends and Conditions Report**

- The trends and conditions report is updated every two years and looks at a variety of data points on both land use and transportation
- Highlights included 43 new miles of trail countywide since 2013 and growth in transit-supportive development patterns
- Points to work on included a 3.6% rise in crashes and 7% rise in fatalities over a four-year period from 2014-2018.

### **Other Items**

- The board voted unanimously to continue in 2020 with the same slate of officers
- Belleair Bluffs Commissioner Suzy Sofer will replace St. Petersburg Councilmember Darden Rice as the alternate to the MPOAC
- The board authorized Executive Director Whit Blanton to write a letter supporting the Work Program and commenting on deferrals of US 19 funding in the FDOT tentative five-year work program
- TBARTA has approved a work order for consultant WSP to do a high-level study of innovative technologies such as Hyperloop, gondolas and air taxis.
- PSTA, Pinellas County and Forward Pinellas staff continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss transportation funding needs and what sources might best meet them

## Action Sheet

**November 13, 2019**

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 9-0; Commissioner Sofer and Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of the October 9, 2019 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments (CAC)
  - C. Acceptance of Year-End Financial Report
  - D. Approval of 2020 Board and Committees Meeting Schedules
  - E. Acceptance of the Planners Advisory Committee (PAC) Roster for 2020
  - F. Countywide Plan Map Annual Update – Official Acceptance
  - G. Approval of Award for #19-05 Communications and Web Support and Authorization of Agreement (This item was pulled and acted on separately with the same vote)
  - H. Approval of Transit Oriented Development Strategic Plan Participation Agreement
  - I. Approval of Forward Pinellas Travel Policy
  - J. Approval of FDOT Agreement for Downtown St. Petersburg Area Master Plan
  - K. Approval of St. Petersburg Agreement for Downtown St. Petersburg Area Master Plan
  - L. Approval of Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan (TDSP) Amendments
- **Proposed Amendment to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program**  
Following a description of the amendment by FDOT staff and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the amendment to the TIP amendment by roll call vote to:
  - Advance the construction funding for a bridge replacement project at 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue North east over Placido Bayou from year five to the current year. (vote: 8-0; Commissioner Sofer and Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)
- **Proposed Modification to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program**  
Following a presentation by FDOT staff and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the modification to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 TIP by roll call vote. (vote: 8-0; Commissioner Sofer and Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)

- **Fall Update to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas and Pinellas County staff and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the fall update of the TIP by roll call vote. (vote: 11-0)
  
- **Adoption of the Advantage Pinellas Plan (2045 Long Range Transportation Plan)**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff and public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, closed the public comment period and adopted the System Performance Report and Cost Feasible Plan Balancing Tables to adopt the 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan by roll call vote. (vote: 11-0)
  
- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**  
Three cases were recommended for approval:
  1. CW 19-21 – City of Largo (vote: 9-0; Commissioners Long and Seel stepped out)
  2. CW 19-22 – City of Largo (vote: 10-0; Commissioner Long stepped out)
  3. CW 19-23 – City of Largo (vote: 10-0; Commissioner Long stepped out)
  
- **Countywide Trends and Conditions Report**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board approved the trends and conditions report. (vote: 11-0)
  
- **Election of 2020 Officers**  
The board voted to maintain the same officers on its Executive Committee for another year. (vote: 11-0)
  
- **MPOAC, Chairs Coordinating Committee and TMA Leadership Group Committee Appointments**  
The board voted to maintain the current committee appointments with the exception of replacing Commissioner Suzy Sofer as an alternate for the MPOAC in place of Councilmember Darden Rice. (vote: 10-0; Commissioner Seel was out of the meeting)