



## Board Meeting Summary & Action Sheet

October 14, 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 held this public meeting in person on October 14, 2020 at 1 p.m. in the Magnolia Room at the Pinellas County Cooperative Extension. Presenters and members of the public also had the opportunity to participate virtually 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](#).

### **RECOGNITIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Forward Pinellas Board recognized October as National Community Planning Month in Pinellas County with the theme - PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL TO RECOVERY.**

Join us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to see our personalized videos and best planning practices and ideas to raise awareness of the important planning work being accomplished in our communities.

**The Forward Pinellas Board recognized October 26, 2020 – November 1, 2020 as Pedestrian Safety Awareness Week in Pinellas County.**

Forward Pinellas has joined Vision Zero communities throughout the world to get to zero deaths and serious injuries through our “Safe Streets Pinellas” initiative. In addition, we are also continuing an annual media campaign increasing awareness of one of the most dangerous times of year for kids and pedestrians – Halloween and the end of Daylight Saving time.

**The Forward Pinellas Board congratulated the Safe Streets Pinellas Art Contest Winners!**

All artwork is available on the Safe Streets Pinellas website, [forwardpinellas.org/safestreets/gallery/](http://forwardpinellas.org/safestreets/gallery/)

### **PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

**The board voted unanimously to continue the following amendment to the Countywide Plan Map:**

- [The City of St. Petersburg seeks to amend a property from Public/Semi-Public and Residential Low Medium to Residential Medium and Residential Low Medium](#)

Case CW 20-16 is being legally challenged at the local level by a citizens group. The City of St. Petersburg has requested to defer this item until after the legal challenge has concluded. The legal proceeding is scheduled for November 17 – 19, 2020 and the judge’s decision will have a direct impact on when or whether the board will consider this future land use map amendment.

**The board unanimously approved the following amendments to the Countywide Plan Map:**

- [The City of Pinellas Park seeks to amend a property from Retail & Services to Employment](#)
  - Location: 12575 US Highway 19 North
  - Area Size: Approximately 2.19 acres
  - Existing Uses: Contractor shop
  - Surrounding Uses: Commercial, retail

The purpose of this amendment is to allow for outdoor storage on the subject property.

- The City of Largo seeks to amend properties from Retail & Services, Employment, Office, Public/Semi -Public, Residential Medium, Residential Low Medium, Recreation/Open Space and Preservation to Activity Center and Multimodal Corridor.
  - Location: Largo Tri-City Area
  - Area Size: Approximately 736.2 acres
  - Existing Uses: Residential, Retail, Office, Recreation/Open Space
  - Surrounding Uses: Residential, Retail, Recreation/Open Space

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to activate the last of three major Activity Centers and portions of two Multimodal Corridors in this area of Largo.

This plan was developed to support the [Gateway Master Plan](#) and intends to utilize the activity center and multimodal corridor categories as a means to establish a regulatory framework for the area to become a major center with robust transit services and numerous housing options. The City of Largo reached over 1,000 residents through online surveys, community forums, stakeholder interviews and a scenarios charette and this input was able to shape plan recommendations related to multimodal transportation, sustainability and resiliency, land use and housing, lighting, and public art.

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

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

- PSTA met virtually on September 30, 2020. The next meeting will also be held virtually on October 28, 2020. Due to projected property tax revenues and federal government assistance related to COVID, PSTA is projecting a positive budget and funding availability.
- PSTA is launching an autonomous vehicle project in St. Petersburg.
- In addition, PSTA will be partnering with the City of Clearwater for the advancement of the Clearwater Ferry and a new intermodal center in Downtown Clearwater.
- PSTA is continuing construction of the SunRunner Bus Rapid Transit project.

### **Executive Director Blanton presented updates for the TBARTA Activities Report.**

- TBARTA met virtually on September 25, 2020. They voted to elect new officers for the next fiscal year and unanimously approved retaining Jim Holton as Board Chairman and Commissioner Janet Long as Secretary-Treasurer and approved Richard McClain as the new Vice-Chairman.
- The board unanimously approved a second amendment to TBARTA's interlocal agreement with PSTA. The initial agreement allowed PSTA to provide TBARTA grant administration management, administration procurement and accounting services. The first amendment extended the original agreement for an indefinite term. This second agreement allows for reciprocal services from TBARTA to PSTA.
- TBARTA proposed a regional Tampa Bay study based on a presentation from Hyperloop Transportation Technologies, which operates an electromagnetically propelled, levitating capsule that provides a safe, quality passenger experience. Phases one and two of the study would focus on creating a tunnel concept in infrastructure connecting Tampa, St. Petersburg,

and Bradenton. The third phase entails a network concept connecting Bradenton to Miami. Further consideration of the hyperloop will be discussed at the October policy meeting.

**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) D7 SafeTRIP Program Engineer Margaret Kubilins, P.E. presented on SafeTRIP.**

- Due to the location, complexity, and volume of traffic that passes through Tampa's Westshore Interchange (I-275/SR 60), the reconstruction of this interchange and the improvements along I-275 to Downtown Tampa will be complicated.
- Therefore, FDOT is working on a comprehensive approach to ensure safety and mobility during the reconstruction of the Westshore Interchange through a new initiative called SafeTRIP. SafeTRIP is a comprehensive strategy that will address Traffic Management, Regional Demand, Innovation and Smart Work Zones, and Public Engagement (TRIP).
- FDOT's vision for SafeTRIP is a well-planned and innovative construction zone that maintains safety and reliability for the local community, traveling public, and construction workers by providing quality transportation choices, strategic innovation, and proactive communication. The SafeTRIP program will be updated as needed and incorporate lessons learned during pilot projects as FDOT gains data and performs evaluations.

**Forward Pinellas Principal Planner Angela Ryan invited everyone to join the Virtual Bike Your City self-guided scavenger hunt through beautiful Safety Harbor from October 16 – 31, 2020.**

- From downtown Safety Harbor to Phillippe Park and along the Bayshore Linear Greenway Trail, you can explore the beautiful biking areas that make Safety Harbor so unique. The Bike Your City scavenger hunt is an innovative way to promote bike advocacy and safety throughout Pinellas and provides residents and visitors with an amazing opportunity to come together and promote Community Planning Month even while physically apart. Register today: [bit.ly/BYCRRegister](https://bit.ly/BYCRRegister)

**The Forward Pinellas Board unanimously approved the composition of the 2021 Nominating Committee.**

- Each year the Forward Pinellas Board votes to elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer. Those positions comprise the board's Executive Committee. With the completion of the current chair's second year and several other board seats turning over with new members, Vice Mayor Suzy Sofer, Commissioner Ken Welch, and Commissioner Connor Donovan agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee to form a recommendation for a slate of officers for election at the November board meeting.

**SPOTlight Update:**

**Waterborne Transportation Committee Update from October 9, 2020.**

- The first Waterborne Transportation Committee meeting was held on October 9, 2020 and Mayor Joanne "Cookie" Kennedy was unanimously elected chair. She provided an overview of the meeting, reporting that the committee discussed the state of the waterborne transportation system, funding mechanisms for existing services, operating agreements, and next steps.

**TBARTA Aerial Cable Transit Scope Development Update**

- Mr. Blanton reported on progress working with TBARTA to conduct stakeholder interviews to gauge interest and identify issues to be addressed in a detailed study of a proposed aerial gondola system in Pinellas County.
- TBARTA will manage the work and has funding in place for the study.

## **Gateway Master Plan Memorandum of Understanding Update**

- Director Blanton reported that the City of Pinellas Park most recently adopted the Gateway Master Plan and Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which is a commitment to implement the plan. Forward Pinellas is expecting all partnering local governments to adopt the MOU this fall and be committed to considering recommendations of the plan throughout various implementation activities.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

### **Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group Meeting Update**

- Mr. Blanton reported on the latest Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group meeting, which was held virtually on September 18, 2020. The group unanimously approved sending a letter in support of TBARTA's Application for the Innovation and Service Development Grant provided by the Commission for Transportation Disadvantaged. If the grant is awarded, TBARTA will begin the three-year Transportation Disadvantaged Tampa Bay program by December 1, 2020, providing cross-county services for transportation disadvantaged persons.
- The Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group expressed support for the Draft Position Statement on Transit Funding, highlighting the drawbacks of state legislative earmarks for public transit projects. The overall draft position statement focuses on the fact that legislative earmarks do not result in new funding for transit and instead shift funds away from essential services that local transit agencies have already prioritized. This position statement will be brought before the Forward Pinellas Board on November 10, 2020 to make a recommendation to the TMA Leadership Group prior to its next meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee Update**

- The Legislative Committee met for the first time since March to discuss legislative issues and priorities for the 2021 Florida Legislative Session and will meet monthly through the end of the session in May 2021. The committee is expected to present a draft set of legislative priorities for the board's consideration in November.

### **Countywide Housing Strategy and Virtual Summit Series**

- Forward Pinellas and Pinellas County are bringing together industry leaders, elected officials, policymakers, planners, businesses, nonprofits and residents for a series of discussions on creating and sustaining more homes that are affordable. For more information, visit [www.homesforpinellas.org/summit](http://www.homesforpinellas.org/summit).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Homes for Pinellas Virtual Summit**  
For more information about the Homes for Pinellas Virtual Summit **or to register for each session**, visit: [www.homesforpinellas.org/summit](http://www.homesforpinellas.org/summit)
- **Safe Streets Pinellas: Nursery Road/ Duke Energy Trail Demonstration Project – October 26, 2020**
- **Virtual Bike Your City 2020 – October 16-31, 2020**  
Jump on your bicycles and enjoy riding around beautiful Safety Harbor while finding enchanting scavenger hunt locations! For more information or to register, visit: [bit.ly/BYCRRegister](http://bit.ly/BYCRRegister)
- **MPO Advisory Council Governing Board – October 29, 2020**

- **Gulf Coast Safe Streets Summit - November 16-19, 2020**
- **Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group Meeting – November 20, 2020**

The next board meeting will be **November 10, 2020**. Virtual options for participation will be available. Please visit our website for more information: [www.forwardpinellas.org](http://www.forwardpinellas.org)

## Action Sheet

**October 14, 2020**

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 8-0, Commissioner Long and Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of the September 9, 2020 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
  - C. Approval of Remaining Procurement #20-01 Planning Consultants Agreements
  - D. Approval of Scope of Services and Budget for Website Redesign
- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**  
Two cases were recommended for approval:
  1. **CW 20-17 – City of Pinellas Park** (vote: 9-0, Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)
  2. **CW 20-18 – City of Largo** (vote: 10-0)
 One case was deferred:
  1. **CW 20-16 – City of St. Petersburg** (vote: 9-0, Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)
- **Establishment of a Nominating Committee**  
Executive Director Blanton indicated that two outgoing board members have already agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee to include Vice Mayor Suzy Sofer and Commissioner Ken Welch. Following query by the Chair, Commissioner Connor Donovan also agreed to serve on the committee. The committee will meet on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. to form a recommendation for the full board concerning the Executive Committee appointments for 2021. The composition of the committee was unanimously approved by the board. (vote: 10-0)