



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING AGENDA**

September 12, 2018 – 11:00 a.m.

315 Court Street, 5th Floor

Board of County Commissioners Conference Room

THE PLANNING COUNCIL AND METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION FOR PINELLAS COUNTY

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2018

3. LEGAL OVERVIEW

Chelsea Hardy, County Attorney, will provide an overview of the legal parameters that govern the committee.

4. REVIEW OF PREVIOUS COMMITTEE WORK

Staff will provide an overview of the work that was completed last year, including the mission statement, goals & objectives, outreach to local governments & chambers of commerce, and work products.

5. LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE AND KEY DATES

6. 2019 AREAS OF INTEREST

Several potential areas of interest have been identified based on conversations with elected officials and statewide organizations.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, or family status. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Office of Human Rights, 400 South Fort Harrison Avenue, Suite 300, Clearwater, Florida 33756; [(727) 464-4062 (V/TDD)] at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Appeals: Certain public meetings result in actions taken by the public board, commission or agency that may be appealed; in such case persons are advised that, if they decide to appeal any decision made at a public meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**FORWARD PINELLAS
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY
MARCH 14, 2018**

Committee Members in Attendance:

Councilmember Doreen Caudell, Forward Pinellas Vice-Chair
Councilmember Darden Rice, City of St. Petersburg

Also Present:

Whit Blanton, Executive Director
Sarah Caper, Principal Planner
Tina Jablon, Administrative Secretary
David Sadowsky, County Attorney's Office
Darryl Henderson, Clearwater Regional Chamber of Commerce, VP Public Policy &
Economic Development
Cheryl Reed, City of Largo
Brian Lowack, Intergovernmental Liaison, Pinellas County

The Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee met in the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners 5th Floor Conference Room.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 14, 2018

Councilmember Rice moved, seconded by Vice-Chair Caudell that the summary from the February 14, 2018 meeting be approved (vote 2-0).

3. STATE LEGISLATION

Whit Blanton updated the committee on the final outcomes regarding bills of interest and the impacts locally and regionally. Highlights included:

- Statewide Alternative Transportation Authority - Did not pass which would have given Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) the ability to match 50% with local governments to carry out a regional transportation project
- Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) - No substantive changes were made to the structure of MPO's despite the number of bills that were considered. Changes that were approved removed the minimum threshold for county commissioners and limits to the size of a board. Additionally, term limits were established.
- Community Redevelopment Areas - Challenges did not pass.
- Dockless Bike Share – No legislation was passed.
- Texting while driving as primary offense did not pass.

- Tourist development tax revenues are now allowed for expanded purposes including infrastructure with a demonstrated positive impact on tourism. This could include transportation.
- TBARTA received \$1M in funding primarily for the Regional Transit Development Plan

It was discussed that all of these items are subject to the governor's approval or veto and the timeline for that was reviewed.

4. FEDERAL LEGISLATION

Whit Blanton reported that there has not been much movement on the infrastructure package. Hopefully the final budget will include the Capital Investment Grant program to help fund the Central Ave Bus Rapid Transit project. Letters were included in the package that Forward Pinellas sent out in support of the project.

5. CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

Whit Blanton and Brian Lowack attended the Constitution Revision Commission public hearing on March 13th and advised the committee members of their experiences.

6. UPDATES

PSTA has a trip planned next week to meet with legislators.

Whit Blanton discussed the strategizing that has been taking place to expand regional transit service to include routes to Tampa International Airport.

7. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

At the request of Vice-Chair Caudell, Darryl Henderson outlined the details for the Clearwater Regional Chamber's annual legislative breakfast to be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018.

The committee decided to break and resume meeting again in September for the next legislative session.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

SUMMARY

At the August 4, 2017 meeting, the Legislative Committee developed the following goals and objectives:

- Raise awareness of Forward Pinellas and MPOAC priorities in Pinellas County and the Tampa Bay region
- Align legislative requests among the cities and county governments to provide a shared reference among staff and elected officials in Pinellas County
- Hold face-to-face meetings with local elected officials and the Pinellas Legislative Delegation

The committee also decided on work products to accomplish the objectives:

- Package of Transportation Project Priorities
- Mission, roles and responsibilities of the new TBARTA and how it relates to advancing transit in our region
- Suggestions for ways to fund transit in the region, particularly the role of the TBARTA Regional Transit Development Plan in advancing planned transit projects
- Position document regarding regionalism and the potential merging of the MPOs

At the October 11, 2017 meeting, the legislative committee approved a mission statement for the committee, below.

The Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee is organized as a standing committee to provide input and recommendations to the full board on local, state or federal policy matters affecting land planning, redevelopment and transportation of countywide, regional or statewide significance. The committee's charge is to focus efforts on Advocacy, Communication and Education (ACE) to raise awareness on the impacts and benefits of potential legislation, provide information to the public, stakeholders and policymakers, and increase understanding of the Forward Pinellas Board and its member organizations on relevant legislative or policy issues. As a public body, the committee will fully comply with all aspects of Florida's Government in the Sunshine laws, and will work to collaborate with appropriate government affairs staff representing public and private entities in Pinellas County and Tampa Bay.

Following the mission statement, goals, objectives and desired work products, the Legislative Committee, supported by staff, sent letters to local governments, chambers of commerce and other organizations to compile information on potential areas of interest. Legislative and policy positions from statewide agencies of interest, such as the MPO Advisory Council and Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association, were tracked and presented to the committee. Statements of principles were developed and key bills were tracked throughout the Florida legislative session. The Legislative Committee recommended policy positions for the full board's consideration and action.

ATTACHMENT(S): None

ACTION: None required; informational item only; or as deemed appropriate by the committee

Legislative Committee – September 12, 2018

5. Legislative Schedule and Key Dates



SUMMARY

The Florida Senate has released its 2019 Session Dates.

ATTACHMENT(S): Florida Senate 2019 Session Dates

ACTION: None required; informational item only; or as deemed appropriate by the committee

2019 SESSION DATES

August	1, 2018	Deadline for filing claim bills (Rule 4.81(2))
January	25, 2019	Friday, 5:00 p.m., deadline for submitting requests for drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, <u>including requests for companion bills</u>
March	1, 2019	Friday, 5:00 p.m., deadline for approving final drafts of general bills and joint resolutions, <u>including companion bills</u>
March	5, 2019	Regular Session convenes (Article III, section 3(b), Constitution) 12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction (Rule 3.7(1))
April	20, 2019	All bills are immediately certified (Rule 6.8) Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day (Rule 6.4(4))
April	23, 2019	50th day—last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings (Rule 2.9(2))
May	3, 2019	60th day—last day of Regular Session (Article III, section 3(d), Constitution)

Legislative Committee – September 12, 2018

6. 2019 Areas of Interest



SUMMARY

Staff will provide information on potential areas of interest have been identified based on conversations with elected officials and statewide organizations.

The Citizens Advisory Committee took action on a legislative matter at the August 23, 2018 meeting, urging the Florida legislature to pass a statute as a primary offense prohibiting the use of a hand held devise while operating a motor vehicle with appropriate conditions and exemptions.

ATTACHMENT(S):

- MPOAC 2019 Legislative Policy Positions
- Discussion Points for Pinellas County Legislative Delegates
- Florida Bicycle Association Letter

ACTION: None required; informational item only; or as deemed appropriate by the committee

FLORIDA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

2019 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE POLICY POSITIONS (Underlined text indicates additions to the 2018 Policy Positions)

Priority Policy Positions

The MPOAC supports State Legislation that:

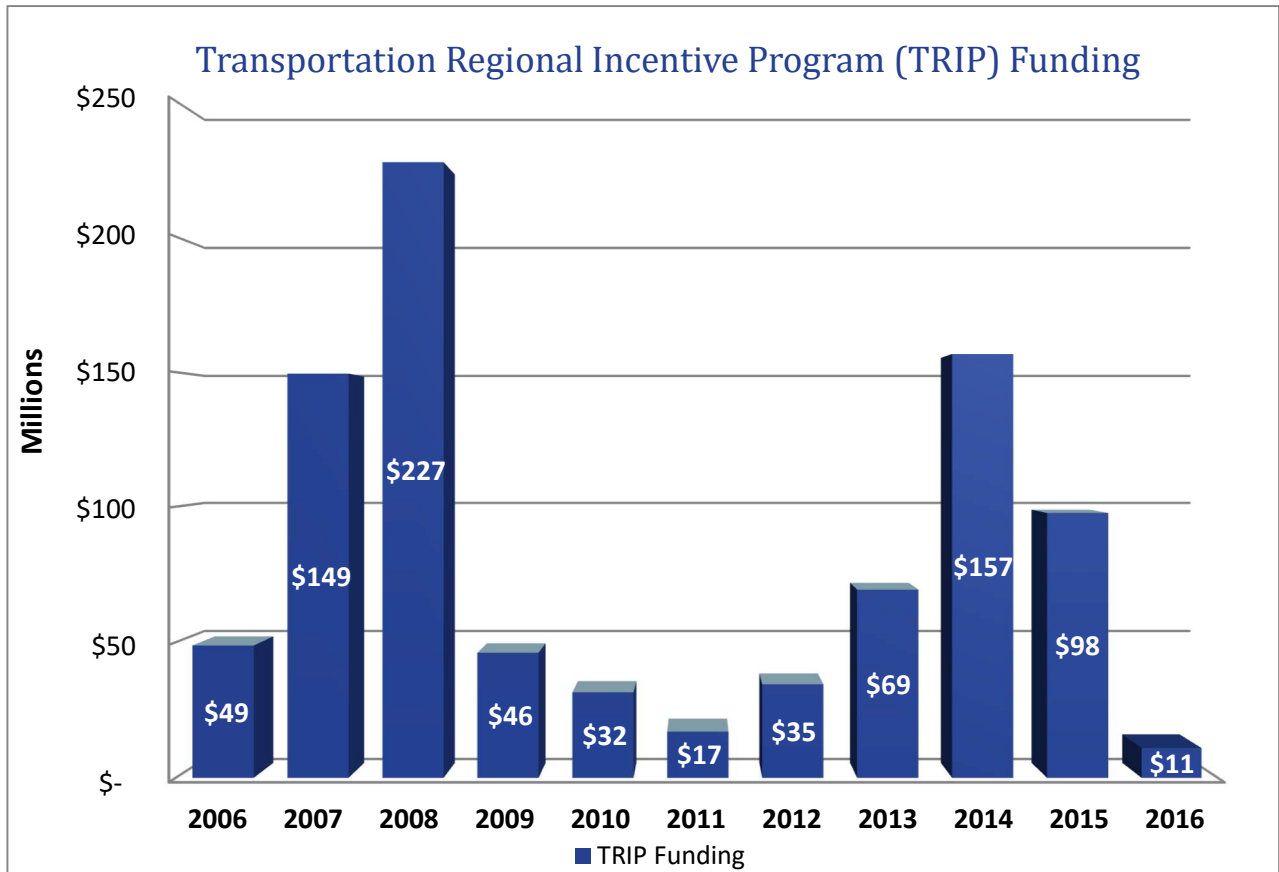
1. Implements the recommendations from the MPOAC transportation revenue study and other options for expanding transportation revenue sources.

Key Recommendations:

- Expand the Charter County and Regional Transportation System Surtax to allow municipalities over 150,000 in population (or the largest municipality in a county) and all counties located in MPO areas to enact up to a one cent local option surtax by referendum.
 - Index local option fuel taxes to the consumer price index in a manner similar to the current indexing of state fuel taxes.
 - Identify potential revenue replacement sources for the current motor fuels tax which is no longer able to fully support the current or future needs of the transportation system.
 - Charge alternatively fueled vehicles a fee equal to the fuel tax paid by gasoline or diesel fueled vehicles.
 - Ban legislative appropriations for individual transportation projects (commonly referred to as earmarks). As an alternative, create a competitive grant program that benefits local projects.
2. Regulates distracted driving as a *primary* offense by prohibiting the use of handheld electronic wireless communications devices and other similar distracting devices while operating a moving motor vehicle.

The 2013 Florida legislature enacted the “Florida Ban on Texting While Driving Law.” The law prohibits operation of a moving motor vehicle while manually typing, sending or reading interpersonal communication (texting, e-mailing, instant messaging, etc.) using a wireless communications device, with certain exceptions. The law provides for enforcement of the ban as a secondary offense, meaning a driver would have to be pulled over for some other violation to get a ticket for violating the ban on texting. The 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018 Florida Legislatures underscored the severity of distracted driving by considering bills that would have substantially increased the penalty for distracted driving, including making it a primary offense. Additionally, the legislature considered expanding the applicability of the law to include all uses of handheld electronic devices while driving. This legislative proposal would seek to strengthen the enforcement mechanism for the texting while driving ban by making it a primary offense to use handheld electronic wireless devices while driving.

3. Restores funding to 2007 levels for the Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP). The TRIP leverages state documentary stamp tax proceeds to promote regional planning and project development by providing state matching funds for improvements to regionally significant transportation facilities identified and prioritized by regional partners. This proposal seeks to restore TRIP funding by reducing diversions of documentary stamp proceeds for non-transportation purposes.



Additional Policy Positions

The MPOAC supports State Legislation that:

4. Allows Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) funds to be used on roads and other transportation facilities not designated on the SIS if the improvement will enhance mobility or support freight transportation on the SIS.

Current state law does not permit SIS funds to be spent on roads or other transportation facilities that are not part of the SIS, even if proposed improvements would directly benefit users of SIS facilities by enhancing mobility options or supporting freight movement in a SIS corridor. This legislative proposal would broaden the State's ability to improve passenger and freight mobility on SIS corridors by making eligible the expenditure of SIS funds on non-SIS roads and other transportation facilities where the benefit to users of SIS facilities can be demonstrated.

5. Establishes flexible and predictable funding for transit projects (capital and operating) identified through the metropolitan transportation planning process by removing various funding limitations for the State Transportation Trust Fund (STTF).

Current state law limits the amount of funding that can be made available from the STTF for transit projects for both capital and operating expenses. These limitations, which are not in place for roadway funding, makes transit funding from the STTF less predictable for the purposes of planning and project implementation and artificially limits the ability of MPOs to implement priority transit projects. This proposal recognizes the critical role transit plays in moving people and goods within and between Florida's metropolitan areas by removing the distinction between transit and highway projects for the purpose of spending funds from the STTF.

6. Recognizes that federal metropolitan transportation planning funds shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure.

The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) provides funding to metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) to carry out their federally required duties. Those federal funds are given to states who in turn distribute them to MPOs based upon a formula agreed upon by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and the Florida MPOs and then approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) has determined that the expenditure of federal funds by MPOs shall be subject to all state requirements, laws and regulations even where such laws conflict with federal laws, regulations and requirements. This limits the ability of the Florida MPOs to use federal funds for their intended purpose and impinges on their ability to carry out their responsibilities as outlined in federal rule. This proposal would clarify that federal monies passed through the State of Florida to MPOs and the Florida MPO Advisory Council (MPOAC) shall not be regarded as state funds for purposes of expenditure.

7. Supports the advancement of innovative transportation mobility solutions and policies that make Florida the national leader in creative approaches to addressing transportation needs, while simultaneously protecting citizens from malicious tampering with such technologies by making tampering a punishable offense.

It is clear that transportation technologies will undergo a revolutionary leap forward over the next several years. A variety of transportation technologies are under development including autonomous vehicles and the hyperloop. It is the responsibility of the Florida legislature to ensure that the states laws and funding mechanisms support the development and implementation of these technological advances in the way people and freight will move in in and between our metropolitan areas. At the same time, it is incumbent upon the Florida legislature to ensure that the health and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors are protected from possible harm presented by these new technologies, including the malicious and intentional interference of the proper functioning of transportation vehicles and systems. This proposal supports legislative efforts to implement innovative mobility solutions and polices while protecting the health and welfare of Florida's citizens and visitors.

PINELLAS COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATES DISCUSSION POINTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

Informational Items

- MPO Regional Coordination Efforts
- Advantage Pinellas Strategic Vision
- I-275 Corridor / Regional Transit
- Downtown St. Petersburg Mobility Study
- AV Pilot

Legislative Items

- Strategic Intermodal System Eligibility
- Indexing Local Option Fuel Tax for Inflation
- TBARTA



September 7, 2018

Greetings,

Board of Directors

Patty Huff
President

John Egberts
Vice President

Jim Dodson
Secretary

Edward Mingus

J. Steele Olmstead

Courtney Reynolds

The Florida Bicycle Association is proud to celebrate over twenty years of service in winning victories for bicycling in Florida. As the only statewide, non-profit, membership driven bicycle education and advocacy organization, FBA is and always will be people, businesses, organizations and communities working together for active transportation and recreation.

FBA has a strong voice in Tallahassee to support legislation that protects vulnerable road users and addresses distracted driving. For the 2019 legislative session, our ask will include a motorist's hand-held device ban in addition to making texting while driving a primary offense and to expand Florida's current Move Over law to include PEOPLE. We will continue to support Complete Streets initiatives and trail systems – including natural surface trails – for the health and safety of all.

Advisory Board

Tim Bol

Chris Burns

Keri Caffrey

Dan Connaughton

Steve Diez

David Henderson

Henry Lawrence

Chris LeDew

Laura Minns

Dan Moser

Roger Pierce

Paula Saracki

John Sinibaldi

Lisa Walker

Randy Williams

It is unfortunate that Florida leads the nation in bicycle and pedestrian traffic fatalities. We know we can do better to stop these preventable crashes on our public roads. FBA is more than willing to put our legislative platform in front of legislators and, more importantly, your organization and advisory committees as a means to educate and bring awareness to our concerns. Please consider having our legislative platform on a meeting agenda prior to March 5, 2019, when the next Florida legislative session starts. We are more than happy to discuss and engage our transportation partners across the state.

Imagine what each of us can do to bring to zero what amounts to nearly 3,000 lives lost via preventable traffic crashes. Imagine bicycling as a safe and respected means of recreation and transportation throughout the state as part of that solution. We can do this!

Please consider the Florida Bicycle Association as your transportation partner and your bicycle education and advocacy resource. We are here for *you*. We will gladly promote your bicycle programs, be it trails, bicycle facilities, bike share or special cycling events on our website. If you don't see it, *let us know!* We offer this regardless of your membership to the FBA, although your membership builds the bond that unites us and creates a powerful voice in Tallahassee.

Becky Afonso
Executive Director

I look forward to hearing from you soon,

**Better bicycling
means a better Florida**

Becky Afonso
Executive Director

