

**September 11, 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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**Forward Pinellas staff presented the Advantage Pinellas update**

- Staff presented the results of a MetroQuest survey conducted in July, which informed development of the Long Range Transportation Cost Feasible Plan
  - Nearly 5,000 people responded, with fairly proportional representation among Pinellas County zip codes
  - Bicycle/Pedestrian options were very popular, with more support for protected bike lanes
  - Dedicated bus lanes and bus queue jumps were unpopular, but respondents did support weekend and more frequent bus service
  - Respondents were unsure about many emerging solutions and technology but positive on traffic signal timing, waterborne transit, and elevated transit
  - Rail was a popular option, especially regional rail
  - Respondents supported interchanges, intersections, and maintenance of roads, but not toll roads and widening
- The last of three focus group sessions will be held Oct. 3
  - Outreach results have been consistent with focus groups, in-person outreach and online or written surveys
- As development of the Advantage Pinellas Plan draws to a close, the focus is on aligning revenues with projects and how to fund specific priorities
  - Strategic Intermodal System funds are limited to designated SIS facilities and fixed guideway transit, with transit operating on SIS facilities excluded
  - Local funds are flexible and can serve as local match, but almost totally committed to local projects already (primarily operations and maintenance)
  - Other Arterial funding is available for non-SIS state roads, but for non-state roads require a 50% local match that is often unavailable
  - TMA funds are flexible, cover all modes and reflect MPO priorities
    - Looking to match these funds with public-outreach based priorities to do non-capacity focused projects

**Within the Advantage Pinellas update, the executive director gave a presentation on transportation funding that he and County Administrator Barry Burton have been presenting around the county and developed in partnership with PSTA**

- The plan focuses on the countywide transportation needs, investment corridors, and how these needs could be funded
- There are three major intended outcomes:
  - Reduced Road Congestion
  - Safer Transportation Corridors
  - Enhanced Transit Service
- The plan looks at how to connect people, jobs & training, affordable housing, and future development

- There are three priority transit investment corridors: US 19 South, Roosevelt Blvd./East Bay Drive, and US Alternate 19 South
  - Funding would maintain and strategically enhance transit service
- Options for funding include a local option fuel tax, transportation sales surtax (from ¼ or ½ cent to a full penny under state law), or increased millage rates
- The Board of County Commissioners will have a transportation work session in October to give further direction on a path forward to be decided in early 2020
- Board members discussed the impact of tourism on priority corridors, as well as the need to get state legislators on board with the funding discussion
  - The executive director stated that in his meetings with legislators, they have been generally very supportive of the County/PSTA/Forward Pinellas partnership and strategic approach
  - Board members also commented that as the process goes forward, they would like to see information about which funds would cover which projects

**The board approved four amendments to the Countywide Plan and deferred one to October**

- An amendment brought forward by the City of Safety Harbor to amend a property at Railroad Ave. and Booth St. from Residential Low Medium to Public Semi-Public in order to expand the local public works facility was deferred to the October meeting due to lack of information on resident input
- The board unanimously approved four other amendments:
  - An amendment from the City of Largo to amend a property at 1756 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. from Residential Very Low to Residential Low Medium to support redevelopment
  - An amendment from the City of Tarpon Springs to amend a property at 721 S. Disston Ave. from Office to Residential Medium to develop an additional single family residence on the property
  - An amendment from the City of Safety Harbor to amend a property at 1538 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. St. N from Residential Low Medium to Recreation/Open Space to keep the property as the Folly Farms Nature Preserve
  - An amendment from the City of Safety Harbor to amend a property within the city's Activity Center from Community Town Center to Public as part of an update to the Downtown Master Plan; this was a Tier II Map Amendment

**FDOT staff presented an update on the design process for the planned Palm Harbor roundabout on Alternate US 19 at Florida Avenue**

- The department has received multiple requests for a traffic signal but the intersection does not qualify
- Currently, the road has one through lane each way, a two-way-turn lane and bike lanes in both directions with a recently installed Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon at the crosswalk
  - The planned roundabout would shift the Pinellas Trail a bit to the west and relocate some sculptures in the right-of-way
  - The roundabout should help ease traffic from and onto Florida Avenue, where it is currently difficult to make a left turn onto Alt 19

- FDOT is holding a public workshop in partnership with Pinellas County on Thursday, Nov. 4 at Palm Harbor University High School, as well as a virtual public hearing on Jan. 9
  - The project is not yet funded for construction

### **Two residents spoke during the Citizens to be Heard portion of the meeting**

- Sharon Calvert of Tierra Verde spoke against Central Avenue BRT, various lane elimination projects, and the I-275 boulevard concept in Hillsborough County
- Clearwater resident Mike Riordon spoke in favor of the Drew Street Complete Streets concept plan that was funded by Forward Pinellas and will be coming before the board as an update in October, speaking passionately about the need for speedy implementation as a public safety issue

### **Other Items**

- PSTA is holding public workshops for the Central Avenue BRT as the project reaches 60% design completion; the end station will now be located at the Pinellas County-owned parking lot that provides beach access
- Program Planner Jared Austin was recognized for his recent promotion from planner
- At its next meeting on September 27, TBARTA will approve its FY 2020 operating budget of \$7.5M, which includes planning work on the transit vision for Tampa Bay and studies for innovative technologies
- The board approved the annual roll-forward amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program, as well as a TIP modification to carry over unused funds into the next Unified Planning Work Program
- The board discussed the Vision Zero award and the importance of the upcoming effort for improving safety in Pinellas County for all users
- Forward Pinellas staff announced the annual call for projects for the Complete Streets Grant Funding, Planning & Placemaking Grant Funding, and Transportation Alternatives Grant Funding programs, with awards to be approved in March 2020
- The Forward Pinellas legislative committee reconvened prior to the meeting, adding Clearwater Councilmember David Albritton; the committee will take up urban agriculture and flexibility of transportation funding as issues during the upcoming legislative session

## **Action Sheet**

**September 11, 2019**

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 10-0)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of the Minutes from the July 10, 2019 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments (CAC and TCC)
  - C. Acceptance of Quarter Three Financial Report

- D. Cancellation of the December Forward Pinellas Meeting
- E. Ratification of Agreement with Indian Rocks Beach for Special Planning Project
- F. Approval of Award for #19-04 Vision Zero Effort and Authorization of Agreement
- G. Approval of Scope and Fee for Advantage Pinellas Documentation
- H. Approval of Procurement #19-05 Communications and Web Support

- **Modification to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 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 modification to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 TIP by roll call vote. (vote: 10-0)

- **Roll Forward Amendment 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: 10-0)

- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**

Four cases were recommended for approval:

1. CW 19-14 – City of Largo (vote: 10-0)
2. CW 19-16 – City of Tarpon Springs (vote: 10-0)
3. CW 19-17 – City of Safety Harbor (vote: 10-0)
4. CW 19-18 – City of Safety Harbor (vote: 10-0)

One case was deferred to the October Forward Pinellas meeting:

1. CW 19-15 – City of Safety Harbor (vote: 10-0)