

January 8, 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 Executive Director gave a presentation on evolving regional partnerships and the new direction for the MPO Chairs Coordinating Committee

- The eight county MPOs are taking back administration of the CCC, previously under TBARTA's purview, in order to have a more hands-on approach to regional coordination
 - The MPOs will rotate staff service responsibilities quarterly
- CCC responsibilities include coordinated project selection, regional public involvement, regional conflict resolution, and regional air quality planning
- The change also includes incorporating the tri-county Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area Leadership Group as a subcommittee of the CCC
 - This change lends statutory heft to the TMA Leadership Group and allows for the already-existing interlocal agreements to be updated and applied
 - The change also includes a voting structure for the TMA and a yearly chair so that there might be a regional point person on transportation issues
 - In future, the governing CCC statute may be amended to remove the CCC from the TBARTA structure entirely; TBARTA is still providing some staff services and meeting space for the CCC
- The board approved the recommendations unanimously

The board formed a subcommittee to centralize the conversation about efforts regarding waterborne transportation

- Five board members were appointed to the committee: Clearwater Councilmember David Allbritton, Dunedin Mayor Julie Ward Bujalski, St. Petersburg Councilmember Brandi Gabbard, Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Cookie Kennedy, and Belleair Bluffs Commissioner Suzy Sofer
- The subcommittee was formed due to efforts to discuss countywide waterborne transportation in the past being piecemeal and somewhat ineffective
- The board also discussed the need for countywide continuity on other issues, such as consistency in trail signage and crossing design and scooter regulation

Forward Pinellas staff unveiled Safe Streets Pinellas, the Forward Pinellas Vision Zero effort

- Safe Streets Pinellas is a Vision Zero effort coordinated by Forward Pinellas and launching this spring
 - Vision Zero is a safety philosophy that originated in Sweden that holds that traffic deaths and severe crashes are preventable and should not be accepted
 - The logo for Safe Streets Pinellas incorporates Pinellas County's assets of sunshine and water and reflects all modes of transportation because all modes are affected by safety issues
- Safe Streets Pinellas will develop an action plan to look at fatal and severe injury collisions and present a plan for addressing them
 - To that end, Forward Pinellas staff members are currently putting together a task force of 15-20 people from various agencies and municipalities countywide
 - There will also be an ambassadors program, where community members are integrated into the effort to help spread the word about the program
- Board members had questions about the effort and were excited to begin the program
 - Members suggested coordinating with schools on education efforts, developing a series of short video PSAs, and brainstorming innovative ideas so that people might realize the enormity of the safety issue in Pinellas County
- Forward Pinellas will host a Safe Streets Pinellas kickoff summit in the coming months

FDOT District Seven staff presented an update on the SR 693 Pasadena Avenue Corridor Study from Shore Drive South to 66th Street

- When FDOT reached out to the public, safety was the number one concern for community members
 - Crashes are highest in the eastern section of the corridor near 66th Street North
- The study yielded several concepts for improving safety and traffic flow in the corridor
 - One concept to decrease the left turn crashes included protected left turns at Central Avenue, a closed median and increased median width, as well as new crosswalks and road design modifications to decrease speeding
- Adding wide sidewalks, bike lanes, and maintaining lane width would require obtaining new right-of-way
 - One option for decreasing the need for ROW is to have a shared bus and bike lane, with the anticipated arrival of the Central Avenue BRT project and accompanying dedicated bus lanes
- Some of these options are linked with planned resurfacing projects, but are not the majority of improvements
 - The construction phase of the Pasadena Avenue Study remains unfunded, and improvements could take five years or more to come to fruition
 - FDOT is working with PSTA to coordinate and phase improvements with the planned BRT project

A consultant presented an update on the concept plan for 54th Avenue North in Lealman in unincorporated Pinellas County

- The plan was awarded funding in the first round of the Forward Pinellas Complete Streets program in March 2017
 - The concept plan was developed in coordination with the Linking Lealman Action Plan developed by Pinellas County
 - The wider Lealman CRA study area had 19 fatalities from 2012-2017
 - Both projects undertook an extensive public involvement effort, with multiple surveys, community meetings and events
- The 54th Avenue study area spanned from 49th Street North to 34th Street North
 - The goals of the project were to improve safety, look at whether 54th Avenue could be a viable “Main Street,” and prepare for future, incremental redevelopment
 - Three scenarios were presented - no-build, road diet, and wider roadway with new right of way, with no consensus yet on a preferred alternative
- The overall Linking Lealman plan endeavored to gain traction with quick wins, such as focusing on closing sidewalk gaps in areas of activity, such as near schools
 - Many projects are underway, such sidewalk improvement projects on 16th, 54th, 58th, and 62nd Avenues, resurfacing on 34th Street North, and new sidewalks on 46th and 42nd Avenues

The Forward Pinellas Executive Director presented an update on several ongoing items

- FDOT will be bringing back the updated analysis of interchange options for US 19 north of Tampa Road to the board in February
- The Gateway Master Plan is being reviewed with local governments and the MOU with a list of guiding principles will come back to the board for approval in late spring/early summer

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

- An amendment brought forward by Pinellas County to amend a property at Walsingham Road and 113th Street North from Residential Low Medium to Residential Medium in order for the Assisted Living Facility on the property to expand the number of beds

- An amendment brought forward by Pinellas County to amend a property at Alternate US 19 north of Crystal Beach Avenue from Residential Low Medium to Retail & Services in order to pair it with a neighboring parcel for an envisioned future retail and townhome development
- An amendment brought forward by Pinellas Park to amend a property at US 19 and 126th Avenue North from Retail & Services and Target Employment Center Overlay to Employment and Target Employment Center Overlay in order to develop the vacant parcel into a storage facility.

The board approved an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program

- The board had previously approved the addition of the project, a bridge replacement over Placido Bayou, for construction in the current year; however, the project cost was corrected and required amendment to \$5.5M

Other Items

- The executive director introduced new Principal Planner Angela Ryan, who began in December as an active transportation planner with Forward Pinellas after a 12 year career with the Army Corps of Engineers
- Clearwater resident Mike Riordon came before the board to ask that FDOT lower the speed limits on Drew Street while Complete Streets improvements are in the works
- The board recognized outgoing Citizens Advisory Committee Member Neil McMullen, as well as outgoing member Becky Afonso, who was not able to attend
- Belleair Bluffs Commissioner Joe Barkley is PSTA's new chair, filling the role previously held by County Commissioner Janet Long
- The TBARTA board is considering moving its meetings to every other month rather than monthly

Action Sheet

January 8, 2020

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 9-0; Mayor Kennedy had stepped out and Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)
Approved to include the following:
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the November 13, 2019 Meeting
 - B. Approval of Committee Appointments (CAC, LCB and TCC)
 - C. Authorization to Distribute Annual Report
 - D. Approval of Community Transportation Coordinator Annual Evaluation
 - E. Map Adjustment – City of Gulfport – Official Acceptance
 - F. Auditor Governance Letter – Receive and File
 - G. Approval of Agreement with Media Relations Group
- **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:
 - Corrected the previously approved cost of the bridge replacement project at 40th Avenue North east over Placido Bayou to a total cost of \$5,488,352. (vote: 9-0; Mayor Kennedy had stepped

out and Councilmember Rice had not yet arrived)

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

Three cases were recommended for approval:

1. CW 20-01 – Pinellas County (vote: 11-0)
2. CW 20-02 – Pinellas County (vote: 11-0)
3. CW 20-03 – City of Pinellas Park (vote: 11-0)

- **Evolution of Regional Partnerships**

Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board approved the changes to the Chairs Coordinating Committee Interlocal Agreement and Operating Procedures. (vote: 11-0)

- **SPOTlight Update**

Following an update to the board by the Executive Director, the board approved the formation of a waterborne transportation subcommittee and appointed Mayor Bujalski, Mayor Kennedy, Commissioner Sofer, Councilmember Allbritton and Councilmember Gabbard to sit on the committee. (vote: 11-0)