

May 13, 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

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The Forward Pinellas Board held this public meeting virtually on Wednesday, May 13, at 1 p.m. to ensure public safety and comply with the Governor's Safer at Home order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Forward Pinellas Executive Director introduced the new Forward Pinellas Board Member, Commissioner Connor Donovan, representing the City of Tarpon Springs, City of Oldsmar and City of Safety Harbor.

The Forward Pinellas Board unanimously adopted Emergency Resolution 20-01 defining procedures for virtual meetings of the board and committees during the current, locally declared, state of emergency.

- The board will continue to hold virtual meetings through Zoom as long as the Governor's Safer at Home order is in effect at the time of the scheduled meeting.
- The public can watch these meetings live through the Pinellas County website ([www.pinellascounty.org/TV](http://www.pinellascounty.org/TV)), on YouTube ([www.youtube.com/pcctv1](http://www.youtube.com/pcctv1)), or on cable television: Spectrum 637, Frontier 44, WOW! 18
  - The public can also call into the meeting and listen at 1-312-626-6799, 1-646-558-8656, 1-253-215-8782, 1-301-715-8592, 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-9128. Webinar ID: 885 3247 7408
- The public can send advanced comments by leaving a voicemail at 727-464-5307 or Emailing [info@forwardpinellas.org](mailto:info@forwardpinellas.org).
- The public can participate in the meeting live by visiting <https://forwardpinellas.org/attend> (Webinar ID number: 885 3247 7408) or calling in to the Zoom meeting at one of the following numbers: 1-312-626-6799, 1-646-558-8656, 1-253-215-8782, 1-301-715-8592, 1-346-248-7799, or 1-669-900-9128. (Webinar ID number: 885 3247 7408)
- For full details on Virtual Meeting Policies and Procedures, visit: <https://forwardpinellas.org/blog/forward-pinellas-to-hold-virtual-meeting/>

The board unanimously approved a modification to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The FDOT proposed a TIP modification, adjusting the yearly amount of Federal Highway Planning (PL) funds for 2020-2023(FY) to match the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
  - FY 2020 PL funds are being adjusted from \$1,614,350 to \$1,392,350
  - FY 2021 PL funds are being adjusted from \$1,022,963 to \$1,219,948.
  - FY 2022 PL funds are being adjusted from \$1,022,963 to \$997,948

The board unanimously adopted the Transportation Priorities (Multimodal and Transportation Alternatives)

- The board, acting as the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization, adopted the annual priority lists of projects for state and federal funding. These include the Multimodal Priority List and the Transportation Alternatives Program Priority List.
- *Newly Funded Projects:*
  - 22nd Street South – St. Petersburg Complete Streets (FY 24/25)
  - PSTA Bus Replacements (FY 24/25)
  - Alt 19 @ Florida Avenue intersection modification (FY 21/22)

- *New projects proposed for funding*
  - Skinner Blvd (SR 580) Complete Streets (Agency Grant)
  - 18th Ave S Bike/Ped Facility (Advantage Pinellas Active Transportation Project)
  - Gulf to Bay Blvd (SR 60)/Duke Trail Overpass (Advantage Pinellas Active Transportation Project)
  - Gateway Intermodal Center (SPOTLight Priority)
  - Pasadena Ave (SR 693) Operational Projects (SPOTLight Priority)
- Karen Mullins joined in as a participant and shared concerns about the Gulf to Bay and Belcher Road intersection not being shown on the priority list.

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

- A land use amendment brought forward by the City of Clearwater to amend Public/Semi-Public to Office at 407 N. Belcher Rd., that will allow the property owner to lease the space for financial office rather than a medical office use.
- A land use amendment brought forward by the City of Safety Harbor to amend a parcel from Residential Low Medium to Recreation/Open Space, at 1550 Martin Luther King Jr. St. N. in order to expand the Folly Farms Nature Preserve.

**The board approved (11 – 1) an amendment to Ordinance No. 15-30 of the Countywide Rules:**

- This ordinance amends the Countywide Rules to adopt the Residential Rural land use category and updates definitions for Submerged Land and Agricultural-Light.

**The board unanimously ratified an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program and adopted amendments of the Internal Control Structure Policy Manual to allow for future TIP amendments to be handled administratively during emergencies:**

- In March 2020, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) proposed an emergency amendment to the FY 2019/20 – 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to complete planned projects, and ensure continued employment for Florida residents, this amendment enables FPN 445410-1 to proceed with a bid letting date of July 2020. This project will install an opaque visual barrier on top of the existing median barrier wall on US 19 from 126th Avenue North to South of Seville Boulevard.
- Forward Pinellas is ensuring it can continue to make amendments to the TIP during emergency situations by adding the following language to the Internal Control Structure Policy Manual: “In the event of a locally declared emergency which prevents the Forward Pinellas Board from convening, the Executive Director is authorized to approve amendments to the Transportation Improvement Program if said amendments either add a project already in the Long Range Transportation Plan to said Program, or to add projects or phases of a project with a construction budget of five million dollars or less. Such amendments shall not affect the allocation of funds to or by Forward Pinellas or approved project priorities, and shall be subject to ratification by the Forward Pinellas Board.”

**SPOTlight Update:**

**Gateway Area Mid-County Master Plan:** The Executive Director provided an update on the transition of the Gateway Master Plan from a planning focus to an implementation focus through development of a memorandum of agreement between the five local government partners, including Forward Pinellas. The expectation is for the agreement to be approved by the respected governing bodies later this year.

**US-19 Project:** As an update on the US-19 project, adjacent land owners have asked the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) to reconsider the location of the pedestrian/bicycle underpass north of SR 580. The Forward Pinellas team is awaiting an analysis from FDOT and will report to the board in July. We will make sure to communicate this to local business owners and concerned citizens.

**Waterborne Transportation Subcommittee:** This meeting will be rescheduled during the summer due to the pandemic. Updates will be presented as soon as this is scheduled.

**I-275 Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) Update:**

SEIS is a federal process for environmental considerations, including neighborhood and community impacts. This study covers I-275 in Hillsborough County from the Howard Frankland Bridge to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, and I-4 from I-275 to East of 50<sup>th</sup> St. in Hillsborough County. Forward Pinellas is a partner in planning for the regional transportation network. A video presentation from FDOT is included in each board members' packet for individual review and can be viewed here:

<http://tampainterstatestudy.com/public-hearing/>. Forward Pinellas will address any questions or provide time for discussion at its June meeting as necessary.

**Other Items**

- The executive director introduced new Communications and Outreach Program Manager, Amy Elmore, who began in April with Forward Pinellas.
- Michael Smith thanked the board for his appointment to the Local Coordinating Board.

**Action Sheet**

**May 13, 2020**

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

- **Emergency Resolution**  
Following introduction of the item by Forward Pinellas staff and reading of the virtual meeting procedures to be implemented, the board adopted Resolution 20-01 to provide for virtual meetings and public participation during the COVID-19 emergency. (roll call vote: 12-0)
- **Consent Agenda** (roll call vote: 12-0)  
Approved to include the following:
  - A. Approval of Minutes of the March 11, 2020 Meeting
  - B. Approval of Committee Appointments
  - C. Acceptance of Quarter Two Financial Report
  - D. Approval of Forward Pinellas/FDOT Joint Certification Statement and Summary
  - E. Cancellation of the August Forward Pinellas Board Meeting
  - F. Approval of Transportation Performance Measures Consensus Document
  - G. Approval of Procurement #20-03 and Selection Committee Members for Auditing Services
  - H. Adoption of the FY 2020/21- 2021/22 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
  - I. Approval of Proposed Amendments to the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)
  - J. Approval of Appointment of Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Chair
- **Proposed Modification to the FY 2019/20 – FY 2023/24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**  
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 TIP. (roll call vote: 12-0)

- **Annual Adoption of Transportation Priorities**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff and a public hearing, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, approved the Multimodal and Transportation Alternatives Priority Project Lists. (roll call votes: 12-0)
  
- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**  
Two cases were recommended for approval:
  1. CW 20-08 – City of Clearwater (roll call vote: 11-0, Commissioner Long had stepped away)
  2. CW 20-09 – City of Safety Harbor (roll call vote: 12-0)
  
- **Countywide Rules Amendment – Residential Rural**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff and a public hearing, the board adopted Resolution 20-03 and recommend approval of the amendment to the Countywide Planning Authority. (roll call vote: 11-1)
  
- **Ratification of Transportation Improvement Program Amendment**  
Following a presentation by Forward Pinellas staff, the board, in its role as the metropolitan planning organization, ratified the TIP amendment that was handled administratively by the Executive Director, in collaboration with the Chair, in March. The board also approved an amendment to its Internal Control Structure Policy Manual to further clarify the emergency authority of the Executive Director related to the TIP. (roll call vote: 12-0)