

Board Meeting Summary & Action Sheet

November 10, 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 November 10, 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](#).

The board adopted the Gateway/Mid-County Area Master Plan Memorandum of Understanding

After three years of extensive community outreach and collaborative effort between four local governments, the [Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority](#), the [Florida Department of Transportation \(FDOT\)](#), and [Forward Pinellas](#), all local governments have adopted a Memorandum of Understanding that shows a commitment to implement the plan by meeting regularly and exchanging information, considering the [Gateway Master Plan](#) when revising plans, land development regulations or developing capital improvement programs, and working cooperatively with the private sector and other public partners in realizing the vision for the Gateway. The Forward Pinellas Board has now adopted the Memorandum of Understanding as well.

The board unanimously approved an amendment to the FY 2020/21-FY2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) proposed an amendment to the FY 2020/21 – 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the addition of wrong-way driver vehicle detection equipment on exit ramps at various locations along I-175, I-275, and I-375.
- St. Petersburg Councilmember Gabbard applauded the effort, noting that she remembered a man who lost his life because he went the wrong way down one of those roads. She was thankful we are addressing this issue.

Forward Pinellas staff presented an update to the FY 2020/21-FY2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Each fall, Forward Pinellas updates its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to incorporate any changes or additions made to the Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) of local partners at the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1.
- As the local government with the largest transportation budget, Pinellas County staff presented specific updates to the County CIP that have been incorporated into the Forward Pinellas fall TIP update. Some of these projects in various phases include:
 - Roadway Projects
 - East Lake Rd.
 - Lakeshore Estates
 - Nebraska Ave.

- Intersection Improvements
 - Belcher Rd. at SR 60/Gulf-to-Bay Blvd.
 - Lakeview Rd. and Keene Rd. Drainage Improvement
 - Whitney Rd. at Wolford Rd.
 - ATMS/ITS
 - Keystone Rd.
 - Alderman Rd.
 - SR 580, Curlew Rd. and Tampa Rd.
 - Bridge Replacement
 - Dunedin Causeway Bridges
 - San Martin Blvd over Riviera Bay
 - Beckett Bridge
 - Sidewalks/Shared Use Paths
 - Pinellas/Duke Energy Trail Extension North Loop Gap
 - Pinellas/Duke Energy Trail Extension (Phase 2)
 - Virginia Ave.
- To view all the updates and existing projects in the Forward Pinellas TIP, visit the interactive TIP tool at <https://bit.ly/FPTIPmap>.

The board approved the Scope of Work for an Equity Assessment

Forward Pinellas is conducting an equity assessment of its agency operations and planning activities. Staff has developed a scope of work that outlines the necessary steps to develop a strong connection with the community that will ensure our work county-wide is inclusive and equitable for all people in all communities in Pinellas County. The board approved the scope of work, which Forward Pinellas will complete over the next year using its in-house staff. Councilmember Rice offered guidance to further define the word “equity,” recognizing that people have different needs and “equity” doesn’t mean everyone gets the same, but rather that people get what they need.

The board unanimously approved the legislative earmarks and transit funding position statement based on the Legislative Committee recommendation

The board approved the draft Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group position statement on legislative earmarks and transit funding, with a call for expanded flexibility of the state’s Transportation Trust Fund within large urbanized areas.

The board will act on legislative policy priorities at its next meeting in January 2021.

The board accepted the Countywide Trends and Conditions Report

Forward Pinellas’ *Countywide Trends and Conditions Report* provides an annual snapshot of the county’s transportation system, including roads, trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and transit services. In 2019, 62% of all traffic fatalities involved pedestrians, bicyclists or motorcyclists. This year, we saw a 35% increase of residents working from home since last year as well as more than 100% increase in trail users in May and June. For the full Countywide Trends and Conditions Report, visit <https://bit.ly/trends-conditions>.

The board recommended approval of two amendments to the Countywide Plan Map

- The board recommended approval of two amendments:
 - An amendment from the City of Tarpon Springs to amend properties at 685 and 687 East Klosterman Rd. from Residential Low Medium to Preservation to preserve wetlands on a portion of the property. (Unanimously)
 - An amendment from the City of St. Petersburg to amend a property at 1525 29th St. North from Residential Medium to Multimodal Corridor to develop a multifamily triplex.(11-1)
 - A neighboring property owner expressed concerned that the potential uses allowed under the proposed land use designation were so broad that many things could be allowed next to his home.
 - St. Petersburg staff clarified that any uses that would need a special exception, specifically a parking lot, would go through a regulatory review process beforehand. In addition, the property had code violations and a derelict home; however, the violations have come into compliance and the home has been demolished. Also, no site plan is required at this stage in this process.
 - Councilmember Rice expressed that she is in favor of redevelopment along appropriate corridors; however, she would like to ensure the developer respects the concerns of the neighborhood.
 - Chairman Eggers noted that this amendment would provide transition between commercial/mixed use corridors and single family neighborhoods with the “missing middle” housing concept.

The board unanimously voted to approve the Nominating Committee Slate for the 2021 Executive Committee

- In 2021, the Forward Pinellas Executive Committee will be:
 - Councilmember Darden Rice, Chair
 - Mayor “Cookie” Kennedy, Vice Chair
 - Commissioner Janet Long, Secretary
 - Vice Mayor David Allbritton, Treasurer

Other Items

- Four outgoing Board Members were recognized for their service to Forward Pinellas – Pinellas County Commissioner Welch, Tarpon Springs Commissioner Donovan, Belleair Bluffs Vice Mayor Sofer and Pinellas Park Mayor Bradbury.
- Al Bartolotta, Forward Pinellas Planning Division Manager, was recognized for his 32 years of commitment and dedication to Pinellas County and Forward Pinellas. The team wishes him a wonderful and relaxing retirement.
- Forward Pinellas has received the PSTA Transit Rider Advisory Committee (TRAC) Superior Transit Access Recognition (STAR) Award for the collaboration, consensus building, and outreach efforts around the US 19 corridor, specifically for the section between SR 580 and Curlew Road, that focuses on encouraging transit oriented development that ensures safe pedestrian access and safe transit rider access every half-mile along US 19.

- The new driverless shuttle project, called AVA (Autonomous Vehicle Advantage) from PSTA will launch on November 23, 2020 in St. Petersburg.
- TBARTA approved a Regional Transportation Disadvantaged Service Program Agreement with USERV to contribute \$150,000 a year for marketing and support services.
- Forward Pinellas will undergo the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Quadrennial Certification on January 28, 2021 to make sure we are compliant with all federal laws and policies regarding Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Forward Pinellas will hold a Board Workshop on January 29, 2021 to discuss agency objectives and priorities for the coming year.
- Staff reported from the MPOAC meeting that collaboration between Forward Pinellas and PSTA was highlighted as a best practice and demonstrates significant efforts to model this type of coordination. In addition, the MPOAC approved policy positions that, among other points, calls for transportation funding to be more flexible across all modes of transportation.

Action Sheet

November 10, 2020

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

- **Consent Agenda** (vote: 12-0)
Approved to include the following:
 - A. Approval of Minutes of the October 14, 2020 Meeting
 - B. Acceptance of Quarter Four and Year-end Financial Report
 - C. Countywide Plan Map Annual Update – Official Acceptance
 - D. Approval of 2021 Board and Committees Meeting Schedules
 - E. Acceptance of the Planners Advisory Committee (PAC) Roster for 2021
 - F. Approval of Scope of Services and Work Authorization for Congestion Management Process (CMP)
- **Proposed Amendment(s) to the FY 2020/21 – FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program**
Following an explanation by Jensen Hackett of FDOT, the board approved the amendment to allow for the addition of wrong-way driver vehicle detection equipment on exit ramps at various locations along I-275, I-175 and I-375. (roll call vote: 12-0)
- **Fall Update to the FY 2020/21 – FY 2024/25 Transportation Improvement Program**
Following a presentation by staff member Jared Austin and Nancy McKibben, Pinellas County Public Works Transportation Capital Planning Coordinator, the board approved the fall update to incorporate the recently adopted local government work programs into the current Transportation Improvement Program. (roll call vote: 12-0)
- **Countywide Plan Map Amendment(s)**
Two cases were recommended for approval:
 1. **CW 20-19 – City of Tarpon Springs** (vote: 12-0)

2. **CW 20-20 – City of St. Petersburg** (vote: 11-1, Vice Mayor Sofer opposing)

- **Countywide Trends and Conditions Report**

Following a presentation by staff member Robert Feigel, the board approved and accepted the report. (vote: 11-0, Councilmember Gabbard had stepped out)

- **Gateway/Mid-County Area Master Plan MOU**

Following a presentation by staff member Christina Mendoza, the board adopted the MOU to support implementation of the plan. (vote: 12-0)

- **Scope of Services for Equity Assessment**

Following a presentation by staff member Angela Ryan, the board approved the scope of work as outlined. (vote: 12-0)

- **Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers for 2021**

Commissioner Welch outlined the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and the board approved it as presented. (vote: 12-0)

As a result, the officers for 2021 will be as follows:

- Chair, Councilmember Darden Rice
- Vice Chair, Mayor Cookie Kennedy
- Secretary, Commissioner Janet Long
- Treasure, Councilmember David Allbritton

- **Forward Pinellas Legislative Committee Update**

Following an update by the executive director, the board voted to support the draft position statement of the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group concerning legislative earmarks and improved flexibility for transit funding with one minor change suggested. The board recommended separating the second bullet point under the fifth suggestion into two bullet points. This would allow for separate consideration to be given to the indexing of the local-option fuel tax to inflation and the idea of allowing the larger municipalities in a county to enact an independent transportation surtax by referendum. (vote: 11-0, Commissioner Long had stepped out)