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CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
of the
SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
MPO Conference Room
7632 15th Street East
Sarasota, Florida

6:00 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2009

Chair Warner called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was present. Those in attendance were as follows:

PRESENT

Manatee County

James Lacher
David Sessions
Stanley Hochman
Gerald Noeske
Steve Shroyer

Sarasota County

Kafi Benz
Dorian Popescu
Rod Warner
John Hendricks
Millie Small
1 Vacancy

City of Sarasota

John Teran
Tollyn Twitchell

Island Transportation Planning Organization

Robert Engel

City of Bradenton

Don Bingham

City of Palmetto

Mickey Hopkins

Non-Voting Member

Manon Lavoie, FDOT

ABSENT

Manatee County

Thomas O'Brien
Jill Winters (Excused)
Lawrence Miller
Dale Stephenson

Sarasota County

Mitch McKnight (Excused)
Joseph Miller
Pamela Thompson (Excused)

City of Venice

Michael Gelormino (Excused)

Town of Longboat Key

Charlie Czech (Excused)

City of North Port

Michael Hatfield (Excused)

City of Bradenton

James Bruen (Excused)

1 **Staff**

2 Bob Herrington, Planning Manager

3 Sue Clapsaddle, HR/Fiscal Manager

4 Mike Maholtz, Transportation Planner

5
6 **Others**

7 Kate Lowman, resident of Laurel Park

8 Jude Levy, Laurel Park Neighborhood Association

9 Rene Desjardins, Laurel Park Neighborhood Association

10 Andy Dorr, Downtown Partnership

11 Jennifer Willman, Jacobs Engineering

12 Nick Lepp, Renaissance Planning Group

13 Millie Headdy, Sarasota League of Women Voters

14
15 Chair Warner reordered the agenda and noted there were members of the public present from various
16 Neighborhood Associations who wished to address the BRT route through Sarasota. He also welcomed
17 Millie Headdy with the Sarasota League of Women Voters.

18
19 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

20
21 1. Kate Lowman, resident of Laurel Park, noted that the associations are requesting that SCAT, the
22 MPO and County Commission consider an alternative to the currently proposed locally preferred
23 alternative in the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Her neighborhood is specifically concerned about the
24 central section that runs through the downtown part of Sarasota. Tests conducted by Laurel Park
25 residents show that an alternative route down Orange Avenue currently used by two SCAT bus
26 routes is faster in both directions. She requested that either Orange Avenue or US 301 be
27 considered.

28
29 Mr. Herrington pointed out that the route selected was endorsed by the MPO Board. Any further
30 changes to that would have to be made by the governing body that oversees SCAT which is
31 Sarasota County Government. This route has already been submitted to the Federal Government
32 for funding. The Federal Government has agreed to proceed to the next step. Mr. Herrington
33 stated that in order to meet the federal requirements, Sarasota County has to hold public hearings
34 to receive public input.

35
36 2. Jude Levy, President of Laurel Park Neighborhood Association, noted they had never been
37 contacted until the spring wherein the City of Sarasota advised they ought to start attending
38 meetings. They have inquired as to how Osprey Avenue was selected but have yet to receive any
39 response. The proposed alternative goes right through a historic neighborhood. Copies of letters
40 to the City, County and SCAT officials were distributed. Ms. Levy read into the record excerpts
41 from the City of Sarasota Commission meeting of September 15, 2008 and the Joint County/City
42 Commission meeting of June 4, 2009, a copy of which as been made part of the record.

43
44 Ms. Lavoie stated that the PD&E is not complete. When the PD&E begins, there will be plenty of public
45 meetings and public hearings; it was not too late. First there will be a feasibility study and then look at
46 the details as which route to go. Right now there is no feedback from anyone because there is no activity;
47 they are waiting to see if the funds even become available. There will be plenty of time to voice
48 concerns.

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3. Rene Desjardins, Laurel Park resident, who spoke on behalf of Tim Bekkering, Burns Square Association President. Mr. Desjardins read Mr. Bekkering's concerns, a copy of which has been made a part of the record. The Burns Square is very much in favor of this future/potential BRT opportunity, however, would like to see the route go down Orange Avenue.
 4. Andy Dorr, Policy Chair and Chair Elect of the Sarasota Downtown Partnership distributed copies of the Downtown Partnership concerns regarding the proposed BRT. One concern is the location of the route. For 30 years, every Saturday morning the association has hosted the Farmer's Market located at the Lemon Avenue Mall along with other ongoing events downtown. If the preferred route goes through the middle of the mall, another location would have to be sought for future events. It was suggested that the route be shifted from 1st Street to Orange Avenue and head south. He felt the BRT should run up Ringling Boulevard to US 301, serve the east end and promote re-development and head onto US 301 and then US 41 toward Sarasota Memorial Hospital. The two suggestions on the route would include improvement that would better serve the long term growth of the downtown area and investments and also protect the single family neighborhoods

18 Discussion ensued regarding the neighborhood working for the past 15 years calming the traffic on
19 Osprey. The Orange Avenue corridor was the logical choice, not Osprey Avenue; and that the suggested
20 routes of the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association made sense.

21
22 Mr. Popescu: I move that our Chair show to the MPO Board, our support for
23 the alternate route moving it away from the residential areas.

24
25 Ms. Benz: I second the motion.

26
27 Motion Carried with 1 opposition (Mr. Twitchell) and two abstentions (Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Bingham).

28 29 30 **CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT**

31
32 Chair Warner reported on the following:

- 33
34 ➤ Cost constraints have slowed down the priority list. There were some progress points worth
35 noting. For example, the Advanced Transportation Management System (ATMS) Cameras have
36 been installed at some intersections for red light runners. Ground was broken on the Honore
37 Avenue extension which amounts to focusing on managing intersections rather than widening
38 roads or adding turn lanes.
- 39 ➤ Encouraged the new members to visit the MPO's website at www.mympo.org to view the July
40 MPO meeting minutes which really puts the purpose of the MPO and how it works into
41 perspective.

42
43 Vice Chair Sessions had nothing to report.

44 45 46 **STAFF REPORT**

47
48 Mr. Herrington reported on the following:
49

1 expressed concern with the CAC's participation on the JCAC and issues regarding voting.
2 The JCAC received a presentation from ~~Renaissance Planning Group~~ regarding the CCC's
3 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) due in September 2009. **Renaissance**
4 **Planning Group is preparing the Sarasota/Manatee MPO 2035 LRTP due in September**
5 **2010**. The November JCAC meeting will be hosted by the Sarasota/Manatee MPO but held
6 at the FDOT District Seven Office.

7
8 Under CAC Member Presentations, Chair Warner explained this new item has been placed on
9 the agenda to set aside time to allow CAC Members to make formal presentations on
10 transportation matters of significant interest to the CAC, MPO Board and the FDOT.

11
12 **To demonstrate this new segment**, Chair Warner provided a PowerPoint presentation
13 regarding Roundabouts at **Interstate Interchange Off-Ramps**:

- 14
15 ▪ Examples were shown of **interstate interchange off-ramp**
16 roundabouts in use and planned throughout the United States.
- 17 ▪ **There are no interchange off-ramps today in the state of**
18 **Florida.**
- 19 ▪ Managing corridors and intersections with roundabouts in order
20 for traffic to flow smoothly, quickly and more safely
- 21 ▪ Roundabouts used as off ramps to move traffic and cut down
22 fuel consumption from cars sitting and waiting for traffic signals to change
- 23 ▪ **Off-ramp roundabouts remedy** backing up traffic **on to** the
24 **interstate** highway, such as the situation at University Parkway and Fruitville Road
25 during peak hours, a dangerous situation.
- 26 ▪ **An MPO Resolution** ~~Legislation~~ was passed in 2002 that every
27 improvement at an intersection would consider a roundabout.
- 28 ▪ The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also calls for
29 consideration of roundabouts as an alternative when using FHWA funds. **(The July 10**
30 **2009 FWHA letter was referenced).**
- 31 ▪ An advantage to roundabouts is no longer having to maintain
32 traffic signals at interchanges

33
34 **An "as is" aerial depiction of the intersection at US301/US41 was displayed as well as**
35 **the 2002 roundabout design proposed for the intersection by Michael Wallwork that**
36 **was purchased by the MPO, relating to current added lane at US301/US41.**

37
38 As a Sarasota County representative to the CAC, Chair Warner wrote an email to FDOT
39 District One Secretary Stan Cann regarding the roundabouts function and FDOT observing
40 the MPO's Policy and Practices **compiled in a 2007 MPO staff update** ~~regarding same~~.
41 Chair Warner stated hopefully prior to the July 27 ~~23, 2009~~ MPO Board meeting answers
42 from FDOT will be forth coming.

43
44 Mr. Hendricks stated roundabouts were worth serious consideration but added he is tired of
45 hearing about them; a lot of the CAC's time is spent on this subject. Mr. Hendricks
46 requested Chair Warner be careful in monopolizing the meeting with roundabouts. Chair
47 Warner invited Mr. Hendricks to present a counter demonstration **during this new CAC**
48 **agenda segment** at ~~for~~ a future meeting

49

1 Discussion ensued regarding roundabouts promoting safety, educating the elderly learning
2 to navigate them, and a roundabout presentation presented by Mr. Walwork. **[End of Chair
3 Warner's email]**
4

5 Discussion ensued regarding word smithing the minutes; the minutes are not to be verbatim
6 unless all comments/ conversations are to be included. Mr. Herrington stated all meetings are on
7 tape, minutes are not verbatim but rather a summary and offered that should a member want
8 something reflected in the minutes, they should so note by requesting it "for the record."
9

10 Mr. Lacher called the question.

11
12 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
13

14
15 **III. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS (May Require CAC Action)**
16

17 1. Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)
18

19 Ms. Jennifer Willman, Jacobs Engineering, stated the Master Plan was adopted by the
20 TBARTA Board on May 22, 2009. Copies of brochures were distributed which
21 highlights what is in the plan. The plan considers a variety of transportation modes and
22 addresses mobility, traffic safety, freight movement, emergency evacuation and economic
23 development needs around the region. A PowerPoint presentation was given. The mid
24 term plan focuses on where we should begin by the year 2035 and includes:
25

- 26 ➤ Short-distance rail
 - 27 ➤ BRT in exclusive lanes
 - 28 ➤ BRT in mixed traffic
 - 29 ➤ Managed lanes
 - 30 ➤ Express bus
- 31

32 The long term regional network shows what the future can be for year 2050.

33
34 It is anticipated that at the October 23rd TBARTA Board meeting, a decision will be made
35 regarding what the priorities are and what corridors would begin to be studied in more
36 detail. The corridor study would be November 2009 through March 2010.
37

38 Mr. Herrington noted that the local jurisdictions were very much involved with the land
39 use aspect with TBARTA. A lot of changes will have to be made to incorporate this plan
40 and process.
41

42 Chair Warner requested that the PowerPoint presentation be posted on the MPO's
43 website. Mr. Maholtz, MPO staff, will follow up posting Ms. Willman's presentation.
44

1 2. Long Range Transportation Plan Update Kick-Off

2
3 Mr. Mike Maholtz, MPO Staff/Project Manager for the LRTP introduced Mr. Nick Lepp,
4 Renaissance Planning Group. Mr. Maholtz referenced the schedule contained in the
5 agenda packets and noted that an updated version with minor changes would be
6 distributed.

7
8 Mr. Lepp provided a PowerPoint presentation and stated that the LRTP is updated every
9 five years. The update is to be adopted by December 2010. Some of the key issues
10 include transit service expansion and regional connectivity, protecting the region's
11 environment and nature resources, discouraging sprawl development, creating a more
12 healthy and livable community, and supporting economic opportunity in targeted areas.

13
14 Mr. Maholtz stated that a Steering Committee has been formed to help guide the plan
15 over the next 14 months. Staff is seeking assistance from the CAC and requested two
16 volunteers to serve on the committee– one from Sarasota County and one from Manatee
17 County. Ms. Hopkins and Mr. Popescu volunteered to serve. Mr. Maholtz stated that the
18 committee would meet after the TAC meetings at the MPO office. The first meeting will
19 be held on October 12, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

20
21
22 **III. CAC MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS**

23
24 1. Performance Measures/Texas Transportation Institute on Urban Mobility

25
26 Mr. John Hendricks provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Urban Mobility Report.
27 The full mobility report can be viewed at www.mobility.tamu.edu. Some key points in
28 the report included that congestion was a problem in America's 439 urban areas and has
29 worsened in regions of all sizes; congestion trends and solutions; delay times; wasted fuel
30 and cost; future changes and combining performance measures.

31
32 Discussion ensued regarding implementation of traffic counts and whether they were
33 taken into consideration. Chair Warner stated that one should not assume and hoped that
34 was the case for the record that the CAC expects before and after measurements.

35
36 Mr. Hendricks asked if it was typical to look at the results to improve traffic flow. Mr.
37 Herrington stated that was a record kept by both counties of the average daily travel as
38 part of the ATMS project. Mr. Maholtz added both counties have a very extensive
39 system where they count traffic on a series of roadways throughout the county on an
40 annual basis and is being analyzed. He noted that FDOT also has its own count program
41 along with annual reports; there is a link to FDOT's annual report on the front page of the
42 MPO's website. Some are permanent count stations and some are temporary count
43 stations which are ongoing.

44
45 Mr. Hendricks stated his question was regarding measurements in travel time and stated
46 he would be interested in having someone present this at a future meeting.

47
48 Chair Warner inquired whether the presentation could be posted on the MPO's website.
49 Mr. Hendricks stated he would have to check with representatives from the Texas

