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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 JANUARY 7, 2010

Chair Lacher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A quorum was present at approximately 6:10 p.m. Those in attendance were as follows:

PRESENT

Manatee County

Jim Lacher
Gerald Noeske
Jill Winters
1 Vacancy

Sarasota County

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

City of Sarasota

John Teran
Tollyn Twitchell

Town of Longboat Key

Charlie Czech

City of Bradenton

Don Bingham
James Bruen

City of North Port

Michael Hatfield

City of Palmetto

Mickey Hopkins

ABSENT

Manatee County

Dale Stephenson (Excused)
Thomas O'Brien
Stanley Hochman
Steve Shroyer (Excused)
Lawrence Miller

Sarasota County

Joseph Miller
Pamela Thompson (Excused)

City of Venice

Michael Gelormino (Excused)

Island Transportation Planning Organization

Robert Engel

1 **Staff**

2 Michael Howe, Executive Director
3 Sue Clapsaddle, HR/Fiscal Manager
4 Mike Maholtz, Transportation Planner
5

6 **Others**

7 Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group
8
9

10 **CHAIR REPORT**

11
12 Chair Lacher provided a brief overview of last month's MPO Board meeting:

- 13
- 14 ➤ The new MPO Chair is City of Bradenton Councilwoman Marianne Barnebey
 - 15 ➤ TBARTA discussion ensued regarding the sun rail and rapid transits throughout the state and lack
 - 16 of funding for park-n-ride lots
 - 17 ➤ There was a request from the Nokomis Civic Center to finish a 2001 landscaping project on US
 - 18 41
 - 19 ➤ Passed TIP amendments that were presented to the CAC as well
 - 20 ➤ Discussion ensued regarding the 10th Street and US 41 in Sarasota – changing it to a roundabout
 - 21 ➤ EPA is sending out a new emission standards and was to be done in December
- 22

23 Mr. Howe stated he had a few other items but requested Mr. Maholtz expound upon the EPA standard.

24
25 Mr. Maholtz reported that the announcement was expected to be made by the Secretary of EPA on
26 December 21st. He reported that today he received an email that they did in fact change it lower than it
27 was originally set at. It was recommended that this area be in a non-attainment status in the first round of
28 evaluations. The recommendation will be published in the Federal Register within the next week. Once
29 published, there is a 60 day public comment period with the final declaration being in the summer of this
30 year.

31
32 As far as the MPO Board meeting, Mr. Howe added that Commissioner Joe Barbetta, Sarasota County,
33 was elected Vice Chair. The new officers of the Public Transportation Task Force are Commissioner
34 Donna Hayes serving as Chair and Commissioner David Garofalo serving as Vice Chair.

35
36
37 **STAFF REPORT AND FDOT REPORT**

38
39 Mr. Howe reported on the following:

- 40
- 41 ➤ Thanked the members for serving on the CAC
 - 42 ➤ Per Rod Warner's request, copies of the MPO's Legislative Positions/Talking Points adopted by
 - 43 the MPO Board along with a copy of the submittal letters were provided in members' folders
 - 44 ➤ With regard to TBARTA, next year there will be an important vote in Hillsborough County to
 - 45 pass a one-half cent sales tax to try to fund the first piece of the TBARTA Master Plan. Some of
 - 46 the other counties in the area, such as Manatee County, because it is not a charter county, do not
 - 47 have the same ability as Sarasota and Hillsborough do to have infrastructure surtax.
 - 48 ➤ The 6 year transportation bill has been extended again through January (originally expired on
 - 49 October). In December the House of Representatives passed a Jobs for Mainstreet Act which is

1 the second round of Stimulus which would supply about \$28 billion for highways and \$8 billion
2 nationwide for transit.

- 3 ➤ Last month after the CAC and MPO Board approved the Work Program, FDOT found some
4 additional Strategic Intermodal System (SIS) money. In this area, I-75 is an SIS facility. \$9.2
5 million was found to do the Preliminary Engineering (PE) work for the next piece of I-75. FDOT
6 is now expanding to 6 lanes the portion from SR 681 down to River Road on I-75. This is for the
7 PE of the next piece that would go from River Road down to Sumter Boulevard in North Port.
8 ➤ Presented Rod Warner with a Certificate of Appreciation for his dedication and service as 2009
9 CAC Chair.

10
11
12 **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

13
14 There was no one from the public in attendance.

15
16
17 **I. CONSENT SECTION**

18
19 1. Approval of the December 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes

20
21 Chair Lacher entertained a motion to approve the December 3, 2009 meeting minutes.

22
23 Ms. Benz: So moved.

24
25 Mr. Bingham: I second the motion.

26
27 Mr. Twitchell requested the minutes be amended showing his absence as excused (noted
28 he called the MPO Office).

29
30 Ms. Benz: I move we accept the minutes as corrected.

31
32 Ms. Hopkins: I second the motion.

33
34 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

35
36
37 Chair Lacher re-ordered the agenda to allow for Committee Action items to be heard prior to CAC
38 Member Presentations.

39
40 Regarding Agenda Item III-2, Follow-Up to December Fuel Tax Presentation – Dorian Popescu, Mr.
41 Popescu stated he had nothing to follow up as he noted to Mr. Herrington, he still has not received
42 anything from Tallahassee. This item will be deferred until possibly the next meeting in March.

43
44
45 **II. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS (May Require CAC Action)**

46
47 There were no reports or presentations scheduled.

1 **IV. COMMITTEE ACTION**

2
3 1. Long Range Transportation Plan Update – Socioeconomic Data Projections

4
5 Mr. Mike Maholtz reported that the current Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
6 extends to year 2030. The current update which extends to 2035 is due to Federal
7 Highway in December of this year.

8
9 The population projections for the MPO's 2035 LRTP update are under development in
10 partnership with local government staff. The projections build upon allocations for the
11 2007 base year and use the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business
12 Research (BEBR) mid-range population estimates for both Sarasota and Manatee
13 counties to establish a control total.

14
15 Mr. Maholtz introduced Mr. Whit Blanton of Renaissance Planning Group. Mr. Blanton
16 referenced materials contained in the members' folders, one of which was the
17 population/employment projections within both counties as well as the unincorporated
18 areas.

19
20 The 2030 LRTP estimated a more aggressive growth scenario and used an estimate of
21 995,000 people for 2030. Taking into account the recent slowdown in construction, the
22 2035 population estimate for the LRTP update is an increase of only 3,000 more people
23 from the previous plan.

24
25 Discussion ensued regarding the CAC approving data projections that were significantly
26 less than the figure proposed for 2035. Mr. Bruen questioned the impact of going with a
27 lower figure. Mr. Blanton replied that there was a margin for error. He explained the
28 2035 data will be incorporated into the transportation model to see where the roads get
29 congested. The direct impacts will be presented to the CAC at its March meeting.

30
31 Mr. Popescu: I move that we approve the socioeconomic data
32 projections as presented by our consultant.

33
34 Ms. Benz: I second the motion.

35
36 MOTION CARRIED (one opposition – Mr. Bruen)

37
38 2. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update – Vision, Goals and Objectives

39
40 The vision, goals and objectives guide both the development of the LRTP and the
41 identification of benchmarks that will be used to measure progress toward achieving
42 those outcomes over time.

43
44 Mr. Blanton stated that he was trying to reflect local policy initiatives within both
45 counties and trying to anticipate what will happen with the next transportation
46 authorization. He referenced the 2035 LRTP Goals and Policy Objectives Statements
47 contained in members' folders. The objectives listed will be narrowed down to
48 approximately 8 to 12. Mr. Blanton explained that objectives will be evaluated as far as
49 looking at a corridor and determining what is the most appropriate strategy.
50

1
2 Discussion ensued regarding some of the objectives listed being unrealistic and too many
3 to be meaningful. Mr. Blanton stated he wanted to ensure that nothing was left out and
4 found to be in compliance. The performance measures will be more specific as to what
5 to really evaluate.
6

7 Chair Lacher entertained a motion to accept the policy goal changes as submitted.
8

9 Ms. Benz: So moved.

10
11 Mr. Hatfield: I second the motion.
12

13 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
14

15 Mr. Warner questioned the density for rail. Mr. Maholtz referred him to the Public
16 Transportation System Analysis Study which addresses what density is needed to support
17 different types of transit.
18

19 3. Amendment to the FY 2009/10 – 2013/14 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
20

21 Mr. Howe stated there were a few amendments. FDOT announced the grant award for
22 the Sidewalks to School Program and some school safety and bicycle equipment. During
23 the Stimulus funding issues, it was planned for letting of construction the US 301 from
24 University to downtown which was fully funded. Because they were looking for
25 qualified Stimulus projects on a regional level, Sarasota County, the MPO and FDOT
26 thought if Stimulus dollars were used on the shovel ready US 301 project (which has
27 begun already), take the dollars freed up on US 301 and move it to the north Cattlemen
28 project which connects to the new Benderson shopping development at University. It is
29 changing from year 2010/11 to 2011/12. The good news is that Sarasota County was
30 going to have to upfront approximately \$20 million with payback by FDOT. FDOT has
31 put the project in year 2011 and will now pay for the entire project.
32

33 Mr. Warner: I move that we accept the changes to the TIP.

34 Ms. Hopkins: I second the motion.
35
36

37 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
38
39

40 **III. CAC MEMBERSHIP PRESENTATIONS**
41

42 1. Longboat Key Review of Sarasota Bayfront Connectivity – Charlie Czech
43

44 Mr. Czech provided a PowerPoint presentation on a study done by Florida Transportation
45 Engineering out of Miami. The Town of Longboat Key hired a consultant to review the
46 Sarasota Bayfront Connectivity plans to determine how it might impact the residents of
47 Longboat Key.
48

- 49 ➤ Some options included: a) no build alternative; and b) put roundabouts at 14th,
50 10th, Fruitville and Gulfstream Avenue to determine the level of service

- 1 ➤ Roundabouts were designed for an 18 wheeler which is one criteria used to make
2 the geometric assumptions
3

4 Ms. Benz pointed out the presentation/configuration was so different than that of the City
5 of Sarasota.
6

7 Discussion ensued regarding advantages/disadvantages of roundabouts, safety issues and
8 congestion.
9

10 Mr. McKnight pointed out that Trans Associates will come back to the CAC at which
11 time the scope/design will be presented.
12

13 Mr. Warner stated that Trans Associates has been assigned to come back with two
14 directions. One is the no build alternative. Secondly, do a modeling of traffic flow
15 around both 10th and 14th Streets - roundabout. This is due to come back before the City
16 of Sarasota Commission by March 1st. Trans Associates will meet with FDOT to ensure
17 all standards are met prior to going before the City Commission.
18

19 Mr. Popescu suggested that the consultant, FTE, make a presentation on the study at a
20 future meeting.
21

22
23 **V. DISCUSSION SECTION**

24
25 There were no items brought forward for discussion.
26

27
28 **VI. OTHER BUSINESS**

29
30 1. Once Around the Table

- 31
32 ➤ Mr. Popescu stated that with regard to the population projects, the plan is updated
33 every five years.
34 ➤ Mr. Warner requested that the ITS/ATMS presentation be scheduled for the
35 March meeting. Mr. Hendricks concurred.
36 ➤ Mr. Czech expressed concern last month regarding flooding on SR 789 on Anna
37 Maria Island north of Coquina Beach. He was told that because it was on a
38 barrier island that there was no place for the water to go. He stated he believed
39 there was room for a holding pond.
40 ➤ Chair Lacher requested FDOT address the safety initiatives as a result of the
41 numerous fatalities on I-75 over the holidays. Mr. Howe noted there was an
42 actual FDOT Safety Plan and that an overview of that could be presented.
43

44 **VII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

45
46 No meetings in February; the next meeting will be March 4, 2010.
47

48 **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

49
50 Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:50 p.m.