

1
2 **SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

3
4 **SUDAKOFF CENTER**
5 **New College**
6 5700 North Tamiami Trail
7 Sarasota, Florida

8
9
10 9:30 A.M.

11
12 **MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 27, 2009**

13
14 Chair Patterson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Councilwoman Barnebey provided an invocation
15 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager, confirmed a quorum was
16 present.

17
18 **PRESENT**

19
20 **City of Sarasota**

21 Commissioner Terry Turner
22 Vice Mayor Kelly Kirschner

23
24 **City of North Port**

25 Commissioner David Garofalo

26
27 **Manatee County**

28 Commissioner Carol Whitmore for
29 Commissioner Larry Bustle
30 Commissioner John Chappie for
31 Commissioner Donna Hayes

32
33 **City of Bradenton**

34 Councilwoman Marianne Barnebey

35
36 **Sarasota County**

37 Commissioner Joseph Barbetta
38 Commissioner Nora Patterson
39 Commissioner Jon Thaxton

40
41 **City of Palmetto**

42 Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant

43
44 **Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority**

45 Commissioner Bob Waechter

46
47 **City of Holmes Beach (ITPO)**

48 Mayor Rich Bohnenberger

49
50 **Town of Longboat Key**

51 Mayor Lee Rothenberg

52
53 **Non-Voting Members**

54 Ben Walker, FDOT for
District Secretary Stan Cann

MPO Staff

Michael Howe, Executive Director
Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager
Keith Drake, Principal Planner
Mike Maholtz, Transportation Planner

Others

Rod Warner, CAC Chair
Christina Eckert, TBARTA/Jacobs
Whit Blanton, Renaissance Planning Group
Jim Ley, Sarasota County Government
Ed Hunzeker, Manatee County Government
Jan Parham, FDOT
Christine Diaz, FDOT
Mollie Cardamone, Citizen
Kate Lowman, Citizen
Rene Desjardins, Citizen
Jude Levy, Citizen

Absent

Manatee County

Commissioner Joe McClash

City of Venice

Councilwoman Vicki Noren Taylor

1 Chair Patterson recognized Commissioner John Chappie, alternate for Commissioner Donna Hayes,
2 Commissioner Suzanne Atwell, alternate for Commissioner Terry Turner and Commissioner Sandy Haas
3 Martens, alternate for Commissioner Rich Bohnenberger.
4

5
6 **I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

7
8 No one from the public came forward.
9

10
11 **II. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

12
13 There were no Committee Reports.
14

15
16 **III. CHAIR'S REPORT**

17
18 1. Chair Patterson reported on the following:

- 19
20 - The United States Secretary of Transportation, Mr. Ray LaHood along with
21 Congressman Vern Buchanan made a visit to the area and held a Town Meeting.
22

23 Vice Chair Barnebey reported on the following:

- 24
25 - On behalf of the Chair and MPO Board attended the joint meeting of the Chairs
26 Coordinating Committee (CCC) and the Central Florida Alliance. Discussion
27 was held regarding Stimulus dollars, the use of Stimulus dollars and the rules and
28 regulations associated with same. Also discussed was the duplication of local,
29 State and Federal regulations on top of the Stimulus requirements.
30 - Attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC)
31 which also held similar discussion regarding Stimulus funding and its rules and
32 regulations associated with same.
33

34
35 **IV. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

36
37 1. Mr. Howe reported on the following:

- 38
39 - Thanked the University of South Florida (USF) for the use of its wonderful
40 facility.
41 - Pointed out Secretary LaHood stated the Federal Act would probably be
42 delayed for approximately a year and a half.
43 - Recognized Nanette Eubanks' 8 year anniversary with the MPO.
44

45
46 **V. CAC/TAC CHAIR'S REPORT**

47
48 Mr. Rod Warner, CAC Chair, reported on the activities of the July 9, 2009 CAC meeting.

49 Mr. Warner pointed out extensive discussion was held by the CAC at its meeting regarding
50 policies that roundabouts being considered as alternatives on intersection projects and interchange
51 off ramps. He pointed out turn lanes are being added at the Fruitville and University Parkway off
52 ramps and at the US 301/US 41 intersection in Sarasota without roundabouts even being

1 considered. Chair Patterson pointed out the Policy was created by the MPO for FDOT to
2 consider roundabouts as an alternative to intersection improvements.
3

4 Commissioner McClash stated a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study was
5 recently presented for improvements on I-75 and asked why roundabouts were not considered for
6 improvements on I-75. Mr. Combs responded FDOT is aware of the MPO's Policy regarding
7 roundabouts and FDOT has considered roundabouts in several PD&E Studies in the past, as well
8 as intersection improvements. He stated FDOT will be going back and analyzing roundabouts as
9 part of the intersection/interchange improvements on I-75.

10 Regarding the turn lanes referenced by Mr. Warner, Mr. Combs stated they are interim
11 improvements and there are not enough funds to study a roundabout. FDOT has nothing
12 programmed in the future in respect to the right-of-way. Discussion ensued regarding
13 roundabouts and same being considered as an alternative for intersections and off ramps. FDOT
14 will report back to the Board.
15

16
17 Mr. Leon Kotecki, TAC Chair, reported on the activities of the July 13, 2009 TAC meeting.
18

19 Commissioner McClash asked if there is an exception to the rule for consideration to use Congestion
20 Management System (CMS) dollars for operation of the trolley. Mr. Howe responded that it is Federal
21 Policy along with State Policy that does not permit for the use of operational cost of funding from CMS
22 box. Commissioner McClash stated Secretary LaHood indicated some of the language may be freed up
23 allowing the use of CMS funds for operation cost.
24

25 Commissioner McClash suggested beginning the CMS process earlier than February, such as in
26 September or October. As directed by the Chair, Mr. Howe will notify the TAC solicitation of CMS
27 projects will begin earlier.
28

29 30 **VI. FDOT REPORT**

31 32 1. Mr. Combs reported on the following:

- 33
- 34 - There was no impact to the Work Program from the raid on the Trust Fund due to
35 the State identifying resources through Sun Rail not going forward, low bids, as
36 well as looking at reserve boxes. It had been thought a sweep of the Trust Fund
37 would make Florida ineligible for future Stimulus money, but the State is now
38 learning this may not be the case and FDOT will monitor same. All 50 States
39 have obligated 50% of their money.
- 40 - Also as part of the Stimulus, 3 applications have been submitted for rail
41 initiatives: 1) High Speed Rail (HSR) from Miami to Tampa with an emphasis on
42 an Orlando to Tampa segment first; 2) an East Coast railway for Amtrak service
43 from Miami to New York; and 3) right-of-way for a Commuter Rail Corridor in
44 the Orlando area.
- 45 - Locally Stimulus funded projects are going well, the US 301 project is on track
46 for a September letting as well as the Automated Traffic Management System
47 (ATMS) for a November letting.
- 48 - FDOT received a letter (provided in Members' notebooks) from the Nokomis
49 Area Civic Association (NACA) regarding the length of time it has taken to
50 complete the Nokomis US 41 widening project. Mr. Gonzalez reported that cost
51 over (10%) and time over (20%) is evaluated on every project by FDOT. The
52 Nokomis US 41 project ran over on time however was under on the cost

1 (approximately 8.9%). The NACA requested for an independent audit of the
2 project, FDOT agrees and the audit is in progress with FDOT's Central Office
3 (Tallahassee) Audit Department. The Audit Department will be reviewing the
4 project for contractual and performance related measures. The report will be
5 distributed once completed.
6

7 Commissioner Thaxton commented that the audit is being performed by an entity
8 outside of the District but questioned the audit not being independent since it is
9 being performed by the FDOT. Mr. Gonzalez responded he will be strictly
10 reviewing the audit to ensure the outcome is strong enough to have the same
11 credibility as if it were done outside of the FDOT.
12

13
14 **VII. CONSENT SECTION**

15
16 Commissioner Garofalo: I move approval of the Consent Agenda.

17
18 Mayor Groover Bryant: I second the motion.
19

20 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

21
22 The Consent Items approved were:

23
24 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

25
26 The June 22, 2009 Board Meeting minutes were approved.
27

28 2. Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Appointment

29
30 Ratified the appointment of Mr. Michael Gelormino to the CAC representing the City of
31 Venice.
32

33
34 **VIII. BOARD ACTION**

35
36 1. Amendment to the FY 2008/09-2012/13 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and
37 Amendment to the FY 2009/10-2013/14 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
38

39 Mr. Drake explained the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District One, has
40 requested changes to the FY 2008/09-2012/13 TIP and the FY 2009/10-2013/14 TIP on two
41 projects to reflect funding and project description corrections.
42

43 Commissioner McClash: I move to approve the changes.

44
45 Commissioner Haas Martens: I second the motion.
46

47 Chair Patterson requested a vote by the show of hands.
48

49 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
50

51 2. Project Priorities
52

1 Mr. Drake explained that each year the MPO Board adopts an annual list of Project Priorities
2 for its three (3) programs: Major Improvement Projects, Congestion Management System
3 (CMS) Projects and Regional Enhancement Projects.
4

5 Once adopted, the project priorities lists are submitted to FDOT for its direction and guidance
6 in programming projects in its upcoming Five Year Work Program (Fiscal Years 2010/2011 –
7 2014/2015).
8

9 Mr. Drake explained each MPO Member jurisdictions have submitted applications for
10 prioritization in the Enhancement and Congestion Management System (CMS) programs. No
11 new Major Improvement Projects were accepted this year pursuant to MPO Board direction;
12 however we do have three (3) requests for replacement of existing projects on the Major
13 Improvement List. Submitted projects were first reviewed and prioritized by the Technical
14 Advisory Committee Project Prioritization Subcommittee based upon criteria adopted by this
15 MPO.
16

17 The final adopted Project Priority Lists will become part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010/2011-
18 2014/2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which is the major planning
19 document for securing state and federal funding and will include projects programmed by the
20 Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) as a result of this project.
21

22 **► Major Improvement Projects:**

- 23
- 24 ■ Priority No. 2 Sarasota County's North Cattlemen Road project which is already fully
25 funded for construction in the current State and MPO Plans replaced the Sarasota
26 County US 301 project which is being funded with American Recovery and
27 Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds.
28
- 29 ■ Priority No. 10 the Manatee County 15th Street East (US 301 Boulevard) project was
30 replaced by Manatee County with a new intersection improvement for US 301 at 44th
31 Avenue East.
32
- 33 ■ Priority No. 15, the Manatee County Upper Manatee River Road Project was replaced
34 by Manatee County with roadway improvements for 44th Street Avenue East from 45th
35 Street to Lakewood Ranch Boulevard.
36

37 Commissioner McClash reminded the Board there is an unwritten policy that establishes
38 fairness between the two counties on alternating the funds on major projects so that each
39 county may receive an equitable share of Federal and State Transportation Funds.
40 Commissioner McClash suggested a footnote be added to the Major Improvement Project
41 Pories list that states FDOT should consider equity between counties before programming
42 MPO priority dollars.
43

44 Mr. Drake provided a review of MPO Staff's Equity Report that reflects the activities of the
45 Draft Tentative Work Program as presented by FDOT each year and does not represent any
46 actual money spent.
47

48 Chair Patterson pointed out over the past years the big hit has been the right-of-way (ROW)
49 for the Venice Bypass. To complete the middle segment of the ByPass is about \$15 million
50 in construction. Since the \$31 million right-of-way funds are not available until 2014/2015,
51 right-of-way acquisition needs about two years generally. Consequently, funding
52 construction in the next year does not work. Thus it would be better for any Venice funding

1 to go to the North Segment which needs about \$4 million for right-of-way. She pointed out
2 that Manatee County is in similar position with the US 301 Parrish which needs
3 approximately \$3.2 million. Commissioner Patterson suggested putting the money in for
4 design for Manatee County's project and then giving construction dollars to the ByPass.
5 Commissioner McClash agreed and stated FDOT should be given that direction.

6
7 Commissioner Bustle suggested if SR 64 West of I-75 was also included then the equity
8 would be even between the two counties. Chair Patterson pointed out the policy was not
9 intended to even things out but to take turns with the larger projects.

10 Discussion ensued regarding the Equity Report. It was determined to establish true equity the
11 report would need to be revisited another five years back.

12
13
14 Commissioner McClash: I move the Board accept the Major Improvement Project Priority
15 List as submitted with the asterisk on the bottom of the list
16 stating FDOT should consider equity between counties before
17 programming MPO priority dollars and also include the
18 recommendation of the Chair to include the design phase of the
19 Manatee County US 301 Parrish project.

20
21 Commissioner Garofalo: I second the motion.

22
23 Discussion ensued regarding providing direction to FDOT. Mr. Howe clarified the Board's
24 direction to FDOT is to complete the North Cattlemen project in Sarasota County, fund the
25 design for US 301 for \$3.5, and if there are additional dollars then the construction segment
26 of Venice ByPass.

27
28 Councilwoman Noren Taylor thanked Mr. Howe for sending a letter to Representative
29 Buchanan regarding the Venice ByPass and its importance.

30
31 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

32
33 **► Enhancement Projects**

34
35 Mr. Drake explained the TAC Prioritization Committee used the FDOT District One
36 specific criteria to evaluate projects for funding in the Regional Enhancement Program:

37

38 #1 Legacy Trail Pedestrian Overpass, Sarasota County	\$ 4 million
39 #2 Multi Use Regional Trail (MURT), City of Sarasota	\$300,000
40 #3 Palma Sola Causeway Multi Use Trail, Manatee County	\$541,000
41 #4 East County Gateway Trail Study, Manatee County	\$175,000

42

43 Commissioner McClash asked how much money could be expected from the
44 Enhancement Program. Mr. Drake answered approximately \$4 million in the new 5th
45 Year. Chair Patterson clarified the \$4 million expected is for the 12 counties within
46 District One.

47
48 Discussion ensued regarding the likelihood that the Sarasota/Manatee MPO will not be
49 awarded the full \$4 million. Chair Patterson explained Sarasota County Board of
50 Commissioners changed the request to \$2 million for the project with a \$2 million match
51 to increase the chances of the award of the funds.
52

1 Discussion ensued regarding the same list of projects being ranked on a regional list. Mr.
2 Howe explained the Sarasota/Manatee MPO and its regional partners, the Polk TPO and
3 Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO, have come to a passive agreement that each MPO
4 have an equal amount for their project request for the Regional Trail Application. Then a
5 "Ranked Priority List" would be attainable. It was agreed on \$1.2 million per project
6 between the 3 MPOs, therefore #1 priority of the Legacy Trail would be \$1.2 million.
7

8 Commissioner Garofalo: I move to approve the 2009 Enhancement
9 Project Priority List as presented.

10 Councilwoman Noren Taylor: I second the motion.

11
12 Chair Patterson changed Sarasota County's application amount to \$1.2 million.

13
14 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

15
16 **► Congestion Management System (CMS)**

17
18 Chair Patterson explained the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Prioritization
19 Subcommittee met and scored projects by Federal, State and MPO criteria for CMS
20 funding. When the full TAC convened, two new projects were introduced, one each
21 from the City of Bradenton and Sarasota County. This practice has been acceptable in
22 the past.
23

24
25 At its meeting the TAC allowed the City of Bradenton to add its project as there were still
26 funds that had not been programmed. Regarding the Sarasota County project, it was
27 evaluated and scored by Sarasota County staff and separately by Keith Drake. The
28 project scored highest for all projects that had previously been submitted and scored by
29 the Subcommittee. By adding the Sarasota County project to the list it ranked in the
30 Number #1 position, the City of Sarasota's project was bumped, but the City stated
31 Sarasota County's project was worthwhile and it would not object.
32

33
34 When put to a vote, the City of North Port TAC representative voted against accepting
35 the Sarasota County project because it was past the internal deadline MPO staff had
36 established. The rest of the TAC supported accepting the walk on project. The City of
37 North Port TAC representative expressed concern with the City of Sarasota project
38 having qualification issues which would have allowed it the second position and funding
39 and but for Sarasota County bringing its project in late.

40
41 Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to allow projects to be submitted past the
42 deadline set in place. Commissioner Thaxton suggested for the Sarasota project that was
43 submitted late to be brought back for evaluation next year. Chair Patterson agreed and
44 clarified if Sarasota County pulls its project from the list the City of North Port would
45 then receive \$170,000 for its smaller project and the City of Sarasota would receive
46 \$809,000 for its project.

47 Vice Mayor Kirschner: I move approval of the Manatee County's CMS Project
48 Priority List as presented and to modify Sarasota
49 County's CMS Project Priority List to reflect the
50 removal of the Sarasota County's project (Beach Road)
51 and reprioritize to #1 the City of North Port's
52 intersection improvements.

1
2 Commissioner Thaxton: I second the motion.
3

4 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
5
6

7 **IX. DISCUSSION**
8

9 1. Regional Transportation Enhancement Program
10

11 Mr. Howe explained as announced by FDOT at the June 22, 2009 MPO Board Meeting,
12 FDOT has introduced a new funding program for improvements to regional trails in FDOT
13 District One comprised of 12 counties and 5 MPOs.
14

15 In order to launch this program funding in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 will be totally dedicated to
16 "regional trails" projects with approximately \$4 million to be allocated within the District.
17 The following year 2015/2016 and thereafter approximately \$1.2 million will be devoted to
18 "regional trails" with the remainder (\$2.8 million) programmed for local enhancement
19 projects.
20

21 Under Agenda Item VIII-2 the MPO Board adopted and prioritized its 4 regional projects of
22 the Sarasota/Manatee MPO. In order to qualify for FDOT funding the Sarasota/Manatee
23 MPO must then come to agreement on "ranked" priority lists with our two regional partners,
24 the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO and a separate list with the Polk TPO as part of the
25 West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC).
26

27 Mr. Howe announced the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Staff has initiated and held several
28 coordination meetings with Polk TPO and Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO Staff. Mr.
29 Howe stated he was seeking authority from the Board to continue discussions with the
30 MPO's regional partners and to come back to Chair Commissioner Patterson in the month of
31 August to approve any ranked order list that has been negotiated with the Charlotte County-
32 Punta Gorda MPO and Polk TPO. He pointed out he will not accept a ranked order list with
33 the regional partners unless the Sarasota/Manatee MPO has the #1 position on one of those
34 lists. FDOT's deadline for submittal is August 31, 2009 and same will be presented to the
35 MPO Board at its September meeting for ratification.
36

37 Chair Patterson stated she would be unavailable during the negotiation process.
38 Commissioner Garofalo suggested a subcommittee be established. The following Members
39 will serve on the Regional Enhancement Subcommittee: Commissioner Garofalo,
40 Commissioner Patterson, Councilwoman Barnebey and Commissioner McClash.
41

42 Vice Mayor Kirschner: I move to authorize Mr. Howe to continue negotiations and
43 ratification by the Chair and if agreement cannot be met with the
44 #1 position the Subcommittee will be called and same will be
45 brought to the Board in September for its approval.
46

47 Commissioner Garofalo: I second the motion.
48

49 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
50

51 **X. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**
52

1. Tamiami Trail Petroleum Brownfields Revitalization Initiative

1
2 Mr. Channing Bennett, Federal Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) and Ms. Kim
3 Walker, of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) provided a PowerPoint
4 presentation regarding Petroleum Brownfields Revitalization Initiative along the Tamiami
5 Trail with examples of efforts already underway to focus these tools on a portion of the
6 Tamiami Trail; to describe the resources available; and to identify what the MPO Board can
7 do to assist in moving the initiative forward.

8
9 EPA Region 4 and FDEP staffs have been working with several local governments in
10 Manatee and Sarasota Counties, and the Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway Corridor
11 Management Entity to identify Petroleum Brownfields along the U.S. 41 corridor for
12 redevelopment. The goal of the initiative is to identify, assess, and cleanup abandoned
13 petroleum sites which will result into viable redevelopment projects to benefit the
14 surrounding communities. The outcome will be to reuse properties, making for a more
15 vibrant and attractive community.

16
17 Mr. Herrington stated staff will be seeking MPO Board authorization to apply for a Coalition
18 Grant to revitalize the area along the Tamiami Trail from Hillsborough County to
19 Charlotte/Sarasota County line.

20
21 Commissioner Thaxton: I move to authorize staff's recommendation to pursue
22 Brownfields Grants along the Tamiami Trail corridor.

23
24 Commissioner McClash: I second the motion.

25
26 Vice Mayor Kirschner asked the process for cities to identify properties and to apply for
27 Brownfields Grants. Mr. Herrington responded the Brownfields Committee has been
28 working closely with Manatee and Sarasota Counties along with its cities and have identified
29 locations along the Tamiami Trail that would possibly be eligible for the Grants.

30
31 Chair Patterson suggested the Citgo gas station in Nokomis should be an excellent candidate
32 for the Grant. Mr. Herrington responded he would check into this and report back.

33
34 Discussion ensued regarding the initiation process for Brownfields Grants. It was determined
35 the Brownfields Grants (a Federal grant) can be applied for by each local government or as a
36 coalition. The State program does require a local government Resolution for participation.

37
38 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

39
40 2. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One Commuter Services Program

41
42 This item was deferred to the September MPO Board meeting and will placed at the
43 beginning of the agenda per request by Vice Chair Councilwoman Barnebey and Board
44 consensus.

45
46
47
48
49
50 **IX. NEXT MEETING DATE**

1 No meetings in August, the next regular MPO Board Meeting will be held September 28, 2009 at
2 the Sudakoff Center at New College.

3
4 Commissioner McClash stated there is a void of information regarding the mass transit routes between
5 Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) and Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT); there is a need for a
6 regional map and time schedule.

7
8 Vice Mayor Kirschner stated the City of Sarasota's Downtown Improvement District has allocated
9 funding for a kiosk for public information and would possibly be interested in adding information/map for
10 SCAT and MCAT to same.

11
12 This issue will be brought to the Public Transportation Task Force (PTTF) at its September meeting and
13 the PTTF will report back to the Board.

14
15
16 **X. ADJOURNMENT**

17
18 Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.
19
20