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2 **SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
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8 **MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2014**  
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10 Chair Bustle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Councilman Jim Bennett, City of Venice, provided  
11 the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager, confirmed a  
12 quorum was present.

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14 **PRESENT**

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16 **Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority**

17 Commissioner Jack Rynerson

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19 **Sarasota County**

20 Commissioner Joe Barbetta  
21 Commissioner Christine Robinson  
22 Commissioner Nora Patterson

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24 **Manatee County**

25 Commissioner John Chappie  
26 Commissioner Larry Bustle  
27 Commissioner Betsy Benac

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29 **City of Sarasota**

30 Commissioner Susan Chapman  
31 Mayor Shannon Snyder

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33 **City of North Port**

34 Commissioner Linda Yates

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36 **City of Venice**

37 Councilman Jim Bennett

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39 **City of Bradenton**

40 Councilman Patrick Roff

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42 **Town of Longboat Key**

43 Commissioner Phill Younger

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**City of Palmetto**

Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant

**Non-Voting Members**

Secretary Billy Hattaway, FDOT District One  
Vice Mayor Rhonda DiFranco, City of  
North Port

**ABSENT**

**Island Transportation Planning**

**Organization (ITPO) Bradenton Beach**

Mayor Bill Shearon

**MPO Staff**

Michael Howe, Executive Director  
Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager  
David Hutchinson, Planning Manager  
Mike Maholtz, Transportation Planner

**Others**

Alex Davis Shaw, TAC Chair  
Jennifer Stults, FDOT  
Roxann Lake, FDOT  
Claude Tankersley, BPTAC Chair  
Larry Cohen, Citizen  
Bruce Dillon, Citizen  
Ronnie Snyder, Citizen  
Rod Warner, Citizen  
Commissioner Cheryl Cook, City of North Port

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77 Chair Bustle presented Commissioner Nora Patterson, Sarasota County, with a Certificate of Appreciation  
78 for her dedicated service as 2013 MPO Chair.

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80 Chair Bustle recognized Commissioner Cheryl Cook, City of North Port, and Mr. Danny Bilyeu of  
81 Congressman Vern Buchanan's office.  
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**I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

- Mr. Ronnie Snyder, Citizen, expressed concern with the lack of lighting along University Parkway and the potential increase in traffic due to the completion of the new mall at University and I-75 and the international rowing competition.

Councilman Bennett requested staff to provide, for future meetings, a map of University Parkway depicting the Manatee and Sarasota County lines and identifying State and Federal roadways.

- Mr. Rod Warner, Citizen, expressed concern with older road users in the MPO area and consideration for same in the MPO's Project Priorities.
- Mr. Bruce Dillon, Citizen, expressed support of the extension of the Legacy Trail North in Sarasota. Friends of the Legacy Trail are hosting a fund raiser "Tour de Parks" to assist in raising funds in support of a feasibility study for same.

**II. CAC/TAC/BPTAC CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. David Hutchinson on behalf of Mr. Joe Justice, 2014 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Vice Chair, reported on the activities of the January 9, 2014 CAC meeting.

Ms. Alex Davis Shaw, 2014 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair, reported on the activities of the January 13, 2014 TAC meeting.

Mr. Claude Tankersley, 2014 Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trails Advisory Committee (BPTAC) Chair, reported on the activities of the January 6, 2014 BPTAC meeting.

**III. FDOT REPORT**

Ms. Roxann Lake, FDOT, reported on the following:

- ~ Department personnel met with Councilman Roff the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup> regarding his request for a possible crosswalk on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West in Bradenton. Per the discussion traffic counts did not justify a traffic signal at the intersection. An island with possible midblock crosswalk that would accommodate pedestrian crossings at the location was suggested as an alternative. Councilman Roff mentioned pedestrian activity is higher on the weekend so the Department will be doing some additional pedestrian counts on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Once the concept is completed with the City's approval the Department will develop a plan for design and construction.
- Regarding the Board's request to remove FM 434728-US 41 and Hansen Street project from the Work Program, due to safety concerns this project will remain in the work program. This project is a large intersection project and the median closure is part of it. Design is scheduled to begin in FY 2017, and a review will be conducted at that time to confirm the safety needs/concerns of the area to determine the appropriate roadway treatments. Public involvement will be conducted at the appropriate time.
- FDOT is in the process of reviewing the Board's request to conduct a I-75/University Parkway Network Alternative Analysis Study to determine cost feasible projects in the area bounded by Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, Honore Avenue, Linger Lodge and 17<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Regarding the Board's request to expedite and accelerate the Right-of-Way (ROW) and Construction of the programmed US 41, 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Street Roundabouts Design, the Project

1 Manager has indicated that the consultant is already ahead of schedule by approximately six  
2 weeks and while they may be able to continue to produce ahead of schedule, they will not be  
3 able to gain enough time to advance the project significantly. FDOT is still committed to  
4 continue to look for opportunities to save time and begin construction on the earliest  
5 possible date. FDOT would not commit to construction unless it could be complete prior to  
6 the rowing event.

- 7 - Commissioner Patterson has requested the Department to review the posted speed limit on  
8 SR 72, east and west of the entrance to Twin Lakes Park, which is 45 miles per hour and  
9 changes to the 55 miles per hour near the park entrance; she also requested a signal warrant  
10 analysis on SR 72 at Ibis Street. These requests have been submitted to FDOT's Traffic  
11 Operations Department for review.
- 12 - Regarding the International Rowing Facility signing request, Matt Weaver received approval  
13 from FDOT Central Office to evaluate the Park as a major tourist attraction due to the  
14 regional importance and types of events being held at the facility. Sarasota County will need  
15 to complete a brief traffic study showing the current/expected annual trip generation for the  
16 facility. If the traffic study shows that Nathan Benderson Park meets the trip generation  
17 requirement, the Department would allow the Park to be signed on the Interstate.
- 18 - Landscaping on 675 North to Moccasin Wallow Road will be programmed in July as a new  
19 stand-alone project. Once the contract is let, Manatee County will be asked to sign an  
20 agreement to maintain the landscaping.
- 21 - Regarding Commissioner Patterson's comment that the trees on US 301 north of Myrtle  
22 Street appear to be dead/distressed, the trees usually look this way this time of year; all of  
23 the plantings are covered under a bonded 1 year warranty by the contractor. A walk through  
24 will occur in March 15, 2014 to request any trees that have not become established to be  
25 removed and replaced at no cost. The contractor is also obligated to maintain the new  
26 landscaping for 1 year.

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29 **IV. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

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31 Mr. Howe and reported on the following:

- 32 - Noted handouts provided to Members regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization  
33 Advisory Council (MPOAC) Weekend Institute for Elected Officials.
- 34 - Referenced the 2014 Florida MPOAC Legislative Priorities and Policy Positions provided  
35 to Board Members.
- 36 - Along with Councilman Bennett attended the MPOAC Board Meeting in Orlando on  
37 Thursday.
- 38 - Pointed out two CAC applications provided to the Members; information regarding same  
39 may be found under the Consent Section of the agenda.

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42 Councilman Bennett reported on the following:

- 43 - Along with Mr. Howe attended the MPOAC in Orlando on Thursday.
  - 44 - MPOAC Training Institute is highly beneficial and recommends Board Members attend.
  - 45 - A new program being pushed at the State level is the allocation of funds to purchase open  
46 space; funding will be coming from the Real Estate Transfer Tax, which unfortunately is  
47 also a source of transportation funding.
  - 48 - Voted to take no action regarding a red light camera bill until a study is done to further  
49 determine the benefits of same.
  - 50 - Recommend visiting the MPOAC's website at [www.MPOAC.org](http://www.MPOAC.org) to view the section on  
51 the redevelopment of the Spacecoast.
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3 **V. CHAIR'S REPORT**  
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5 Chair Bustle had nothing to report on.  
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8 **VI. CONSENT SECTION**  
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10 Vice Chair Snyder: I move approval of the consent agenda.

11 Mayor Groover Bryant: I second the motion.  
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13 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
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15 The consent items approved were:  
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18 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes  
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20 Approved the October 28, 2013 and December 16, 2013 Meeting Minutes of the  
21 Sarasota/Manatee MPO.  
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23 2. Appointments to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)  
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25 Ratified the appointments of Mr. Larry Mau and Mr. Jordan Leep from Manatee County to  
26 the CAC.  
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29 **VII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING**  
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31 **Please note that the following public hearing items were scheduled for 9:45 a.m. or reasonably**  
32 **thereafter and were advertised accordingly.**  
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34 1. Amendment to the FY 2013/2014 – 2017/2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)  
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36 Mr. Maholtz presented a TIP Amendment as requested by the Florida Department of  
37 Transportation (FDOT) related to the expansion of the scope of 15<sup>th</sup> Street East (Manatee  
38 County) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) to extend northward from SR 70 to  
39 US 41 along US 301.  
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41 Chair Bustle opened the Public Hearing. Having no one come forward Chair Bustle closed the  
42 Public Hearing.  
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44 Commissioner Chappie: I move approval.

45 Councilman Roff: I second the motion.  
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47 Chair Bustle noted this item requires a vote by the show of hands.  
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49 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
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2. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Amendment

Mr. Maholtz explained FDOT is requesting to amend the LRTP to extend the limits of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Northward to US 41 (along old US 301).

Chair Bustle opened the Public Hearing. Having no one come forward Chair Bustle closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Rynerson: I move to amend the 2035 LRTP to extend the 15<sup>th</sup> Street PD&E Study from the original project limits of Tallevast Road to SR 70 to the new limits; Tallevast Road to US 41.

Commissioner Yates: I second the motion.

Chair Bustle noted this item requires a vote by the show of hands.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**VIII. BOARD ACTION**

There were no items scheduled for action.

**IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority Regional

Commissioner Benac reported on the following:

- TBARTA met on January 24, 2014 and welcomed new members Commissioner Christine Robinson, Sarasota County, Commissioner Sandra Murman, and Mayor Rick Kriseman, City of St. Petersburg.
- Held discussion regarding the financial analysis study regarding the possibility of merging the Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA). It was determined there would not be a financial benefit in merging the two transit agencies.
- Received a presentation regarding a new Public Private Partnership (P3) that is being negotiated with FDOT for SR 54 and SR 56 in Pasco County for improvements.

**X. MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Councilman Bennett stated it would be beneficial if a workshop was held for the Board Members regarding how the various jurisdictions deal with signalization issues. Mr. Howe stated same could be accomplished prior to a regular MPO Board meeting.

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**XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

No meeting in February; the next meeting will be held March 24, 2014, location to be announced.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Patterson adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.

A Joint Meeting of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda and Sarasota/Manatee MPO followed this Board Meeting.

