

2 **SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
3



4  
5 8009 15<sup>th</sup> Street East  
6 Sarasota, Florida 34243  
7

8 **9:30 A.M.**  
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10 **MINUTES FOR JUNE 22, 2015**  
11

12 Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto,  
13 provided the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager,  
14 confirmed a quorum was present.  
15

16 **PRESENT**

17  
18 **Sarasota County**

19 Commissioner Alan Maio  
20 Commissioner Christine Robinson  
21 Commissioner Charles Hines

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23 **Manatee County**

24 Commissioner Carol Whitmore for  
25 Commissioner Vanessa Baugh  
26 Commissioner Charles B. Smith for  
27 Commissioner Larry Bustle  
28 Commissioner John Chappie for  
29 Commissioner Betsy Benac

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31 **City of Sarasota**

32 Commissioner Susan Chapman  
33 Mayor Willie Shaw

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35 **City of North Port**

36 Commissioner Linda Yates  
37 Vice Mayor Jacqueline Moore

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39 **City of Venice**

40 Councilman Jim Bennett

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42 **Island Transportation Planning**  
43 **Organization (ITPO)**

44 Mayor Bob Johnson, Holmes Beach

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46 **City of Palmetto**

47 Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant

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49 **City of Bradenton**

50 Councilman Patrick Roff  
51 Councilman Gene Brown

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54 **Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority**

55 Commissioner Jack Rynerson

57 **Non-Voting Advisors**

58 Laura Lockwood for  
59 Secretary Billy Hattaway, FDOT District One

61 **ABSENT**

63 **Town of Longboat Key**

64 Commissioner Jack Daly

66 **MPO Staff**

67 Michael Howe, Executive Director  
68 Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager  
69 David Hutchinson, Planning Manager  
70 Mike Maholtz, Senior Transportation Planner  
71 Colleen McGue, Transportation Planner  
72 Rob Eschenfelder, MPO Legal Counsel

74 **Others**

75 Dorian Popescu, CAC Chair  
76 Claude Tankersley, TAC Chair  
77 Roxann Lake, FDOT  
78 Vicki Nighswander, Citizen  
79 Nick Lepp, Renaissance Planning Group  
80 Richard Dryer, Tindale Oliver  
81 Randy Prescott, FDOT

1 Chair Bennett welcomed and recognized Mr. Gary Tibbetts of Congressman Vern Buchanan's Office, Ms.  
2 Liz Alpert, City of Sarasota, Ms. Laura Lockwood, FDOT and Manatee County Commissioners  
3 Carol Whitmore, John Chappie and Charles Smith. 4

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

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8 No one from the public came forward.  
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11 **II. CAC/TAC/BPTAC CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 12  
13 1. Mr. Dorian Popescu, Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported on the activities of  
14 the June 4, 2015 CAC meeting.  
15  
16 2. Mr. Claude Tankersley, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair, reported on the  
17 activities of the June 8, 2015 TAC meeting.  
18  
19 3. Mr. Bruce Henry, Bicycle/Pedestrian/Trials Advisory Committee (BPTAC) Chair, reported  
20 on the activities of the May 18, 2015 BPTAC meeting.  
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23 **III. PTTF REPORT (Public Transportation Task Force)**

24  
25 Commissioner Jack Rynerson, Chair, reported on the following:  
26

27 Mr. Richard Shine, FDOT, reported on the following:

- 28 - FDOT will be receiving funding in the next fiscal year and will be making more  
29 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) bus stop improvements.  
30 - FDOT is conducting interviews for a vacancy in the Public Transit Department.  
31 - Received a report from Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT):  
32

33 Received a report from Manatee County Area Transit (SCAT):

- 34 - ADA improvements continue on Cortez Road, Manatee Avenue, and US 41  
35 improvements are complete.  
36 - MCAT is currently working on Palmetto ADA improvements.  
37 - ADA improvements have been completed on 200 plus bus stops to date.  
38 - Pilot programs for the real time camera feed have been installed in 7 Paratransit  
39 buses; the cameras should help with emergency situations.  
40 - Received an update regarding Automatic Passenger Counters (APC): 30 of 36 buses  
41 have been installed with the APCs; The APCs are able to provide GPS information  
42 and passenger information (boarding on and off the bus).  
43 - Wireless Internet (WiFi) has been installed at the Downtown Bradenton station and  
44 will be installed at the Desoto station soon.  
45 - MCAT is in the process of on putting up four "How To" videos on their website.  
46

47 Received a report from Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT):

- 48 - Some changes that will be taking place in November, 2015:  
49 - Route 9 in North Port will become a Super Route to Toledo Blade  
50 Boulevard; will stop at North Port City Hall and a smaller bus will continue  
51 the route.  
52 - Also in North Port and Venice a Super Route on Sundays from Sarasota to  
53 South Venice will be added; the Super Route will run every hour and will be

1 one fare from Lemon Avenue in Sarasota to the North Port City Hall and  
2 will also start earlier (between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m).

3       ▪ In Siesta Key, SCAT is working on improving services; one bus will be in  
4 operation on the keys, which should help with ridership from Turtle Beach  
5 to Siesta Village.

6       ▪ The Express service will be cut by 50% due to the FDOT grant funding  
7 expiring; there will no longer be a midday service.

8 - Comprehensive Operations Analysis (COA): Committee evaluations were on May  
9 14, 2015 and oral presentations are scheduled for July 1, 2015; same will be going  
10 in front of the Board of County Commissioners in August or September, 2015. The  
11 COA will be completed by August or September 2016.

12 - Status of Privatization of Paratransit; Committee evaluations were on May 29, 2015,  
13 oral presentations will be on June 22, 2015; same will go in front of the Board of  
14 County Commissioners in August or September, 2015. If it is approved it will be  
15 implemented in November, 2015.

16 - Route 13 in Venice will not be going through the shopping plaza any more due to  
17 the safety of the pedestrians. The buses are bigger and are having a hard time  
18 turning and going through the parking lot. SCAT is coordinating with FDOT and  
19 the Venice City Engineer to design 2 shelters on US 41 Business in Venice at  
20 Palermo Place. The anticipated construction of shelters will be by the end of the  
21 year. Councilman Jim Bennett strongly urged SCAT to look into other options in  
22 relation to having the shelter out on US 41 Business; there have been several public  
23 complaints due to this change.

24  
25  
26 **IV. FDOT REPORT**

27  
28 Ms. Laura Lockwood, FDOT, reported on the following:

- 29  
30       ~ Invited the Board Members to attend a Florida Transportation Plan Strategic Intermodal  
31 System Policy Plan Workshop to be held on June 23, 2015 at Lee Tran in Ft. Myers.  
32       ~ Announced Mr. Zach Birch, FDOT District One Government Liaison will now also serve as  
33 FDOT's Communications Manager.

34  
35 Ms. Roxann Lake, FDOT, reported on the following:

- 36  
37       ~ Referenced a flyer indicating locations of "Safe Phone Zones" encouraging travelers to get  
38 off of the road and into a safe area when using mobile telephones.  
39       ~ Regarding the refuge islands on US 41 in Manatee County, currently it is contract day 162  
40 of 284 current days and all refuge islands and separators have been placed.  
41       ~ FDOT has addressed a request from a Waterford resident to remove debris and a dead tree  
42 and for the tree to be replaced.  
43       ~ Mr. Lawrence Massey, FDOT, will provide an update regarding the Central Manatee  
44 Network Alternative Analysis (CMNAA) to the Board at its July meeting.

45  
46 Chair Bennett questioned the status of the study regarding congestion on Longboat Key. Ms.  
47 Lockwood responded FDOT is working on same with possible completion within the next couple of  
48 months.

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51 **V. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

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53 Mr. Michael Howe encouraged the Board Members to speak with the Legislators regarding the  
54 importance of the Reauthorization of the Transportation Bill.

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2 **VI. CHAIR'S REPORT**

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4 Chair Bennett had nothing to report on.

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7 **VII. CONSENT SECTION**

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9 Commissioner Yates requested Sumter Boulevard, Toledo Blade and River Road be referenced in  
10 item IX.-1 of meeting minutes from April 27, 2015.

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12 Mayor Groover Bryant: I move approval of the consent agenda with the requested change.

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14 Commissioner Rynerson: I second the motion.

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16 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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18 The consent items approved were:

19  
20 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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22 The April 27, 2015 Minutes of Sarasota/Manatee MPO Regular Board meeting were approved.

23  
24 2. Federal Transit Administration Grant for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/2016

25  
26 The MPO Board adopted Resolution No 2015-02 authorizing Staff to file a grant application and  
27 any related agreements with the FDOT who is the Administrator of these funds.

28  
29 3. Reappointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

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31 MPO ratified the reappointment to the CAC of Mr. John Teran from the City of Sarasota.

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34 **VIII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING**

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36 **Please note that the following public hearing item was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. or reasonably**  
37 **thereafter and was advertised accordingly.**

38  
39 1. Adoption of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015/2016 – FY 2019/2020 Transportation Improvement  
40 Program (TIP)

41  
42 Ms. Colleen McGue, MPO, explained the process to develop the TIP started in June 2014 when  
43 the MPO Board adopted its Project Priority List. That list was forwarded to FDOT to prepare its  
44 Draft Tentative Five Year Work Program which includes roadway improvements, transportation  
45 alternatives, bridge, safety and public transportation projects (i.e. transit, aviation, port,  
46 intermodal and transportation disadvantaged program projects).

47  
48 At the December 2014 MPO Board meeting, FDOT presented the Draft Tentative Five Year  
49 Work Program that addressed the priorities that were set by the MPO Board in June 2014. The  
50 TIP must be submitted to FDOT by July 15, 2015.

51  
52 Chair Bennett opened the public hearing. Having no one come forward Chair Bennett closed the  
53 public hearing.  
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1 Commissioner Yates pointed out the Cranberry Boulevard at Hillsborough Avenue project was  
2 listed as a roundabout on page B-25 and then as an intersection improvement on page B-55. Ms.  
3 McGue clarified that it is a mistake and will update the TIP so that the project is listed as  
4 intersection improvements on Page B-25.

5  
6 Commissioner Whitmore asked if operational improvement funding (Page B-9) for Sarasota and  
7 Manatee Counties could be separated in the future. Discussion ensued regarding the procedure;  
8 it was determined FDOT and MPO Staff will work together to accomplish same.

9  
10 Regarding funding for Myrtle Street (Page B-55) in Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Mayor Shaw stated  
11 his recollection was the funding was being moved to an earlier year. Ms. McGue explained  
12 Staff had requested FDOT to examine if there is funding in earlier years to move the project up.

13  
14 Mr. Howe explained that in the past, the MPO had an advance funding policy which allowed  
15 local jurisdictions to put the money up front and then were reimbursed by the FDOT in the year  
16 programmed. Unfortunately when funding became strained at the Legislative level, the FDOT  
17 could not depend on its funding source in order to be able to make that commitment and the  
18 program dissipated.

19  
20 Mayor Groover Bryant asked the City of Bradenton, if there is an opportunity for advance  
21 funding, to consider the turn lane and projects coming off of the Green Bridge and requested  
22 support from Manatee County.

23  
24 Mayor Shaw: I move to approve the TIP and for the MPO send a letter  
25 requesting FDOT to reintroduce the advance funding  
26 policy.

27  
28 Commissioner Whitmore: I second the motion.

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

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32 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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35 **IX. BOARD ACTION**

- 36  
37 1. Joint 2015 Transportation Regional Incentive Program (TRIP) and Regional Transportation  
38 Alternative Projects (RTAP) Priority List Between Polk TPO and Sarasota/Manatee MPO  
39 (Colleen McGue, MPO)

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41 Ms. McGue, MPO, explained MPO staff met via telephone conference on May 18, 2015 with the  
42 Polk TPO staff to discuss, confer, and negotiate prioritized merged lists for TRIP and RTAP. The  
43 resulting prioritized lists for submission to FDOT for funding consideration were provided to the  
44 Board and may be found on the MPO's website at [www.MyMPO.org](http://www.MyMPO.org).

45  
46 The Joint TRIP/RTAP Priority List with Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO was previously  
47 adopted by the MPO Board at the April 27, 2015 Meeting.

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49 Commissioner Yates: I move approval of the TRIP and RTAP lists.

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51 Mayor Groover Bryant: I second the motion.

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53 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.  
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2. A Resolution Endorsing Changes to Drawbridge Operations Schedules to Alleviate Vehicular Traffic Delays by Reducing the Frequency of Drawbridge Openings (Michael Howe, MPO Executive Director)

Mr. Howe stated, as directed by the Island Transportation Planning Organization (ITPO) as well as the City of Venice, MPO staff has drafted a resolution for the MPO Board's endorsement. The resolution requests that the US Coast Guard reduce the frequency of drawbridge openings, in order to alleviate vehicular traffic congestion during the entire calendar year as the delays on the roads serving the island communities of Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key, Siesta Key and the City of Venice are no longer seasonal in nature.

Commissioner Robinson: I move to approve with the amendment for the first Whereas clause to read "the island communities of Sarasota and Manatee Counties served by drawbridges; and."

Mayor Shaw: I second the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. New Executive Director Recommendation (Michael Howe, MPO Executive Director)

Mr. Michael Howe, MPO Executive Director, recommended to the MPO Board for review and consideration the appointment of Mr. David Hutchinson, MPO Planning Manager, as the new Executive Director and appointing a Committee to negotiate an Employment Agreement.

Chair Bennett noted a member of the public questioned the MPO's selection process. Mr. Rob Eschenfelder, MPO Legal Counsel, explained the MPO is not covered under the State system of hiring protocols and the MPO may employ whatever search process it desires.

Commissioner Whitmore: I support Mr. Howe's recommendation of appointing Mr. Hutchinson as Executive Director to the MPO.

Commissioner Yates: I second the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Robinson: I move for the MPO Chair to appoint a Committee to negotiate an employment agreement with Mr. Hutchinson including in that a review of the past data collected from Mr. Howe's past contract and also to consider merit based increases.

Commissioner Chappie: I second the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**X. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS (May Require Board Action)**

1. Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update (Mike Maholtz, MPO Staff)

Mr. Mick Maholtz, MPO Staff, and Mr. Nick Lepp, Renaissance Planning Group provide an overview of the update of the LRTP:

- 1 ~ The Strategic Mobility Plan (2040 Long Range Transportation Plan) is the MPO's
- 2 guide to multimodal transportation investments that support and strengthen the
- 3 region's economic vitality, livability, and environment over the next 25 years.
- 4 ~ For the 2040 Plan, the Federal and State Funds for roadway capacity projects are
- 5 projected to increase by 5%, urban flexible funds used to support the Multimodal
- 6 Emphasis Corridor (MMEC) are projected to decrease by 20%, and local impact
- 7 fee/mobility fee projected revenue estimates are 40% less.
- 8 ~ In the current Plan (2035 LRTP) the Sarasota/Manatee MPO supported multimodal
- 9 accessibility with the urban flexible funds and strategically allocated federal and
- 10 State funds combined with local impact fees to fund high priority regional roadway
- 11 capacity projects.
- 12 ~ The MPO has followed a policy consistent with the local comprehensive plans,
- 13 where new local road capacity needed to accommodate growth will be paid for by
- 14 local impact fees/mobility fees.
- 15 ~ With lower revenues forecast for the 2040 LRTP Update, the MPO will have to use
- 16 all available resources to provide multimodal accessibility and regional mobility,
- 17 and will have to prioritize amongst competing needs.
- 18

19 2. Congestion Management Process (CMP) 2014 State of the System Report (Richard Dryer,  
20 Tindale Oliver)

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21  
22 Mr. Richard Dryer, MPO Consultant, provided a presentation of the CMP State of the System  
23 Report:

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- 25 ~ Maintenance of a Congestion Management Process (CMP) is a requirement for all
- 26 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) under Florida law and for MPOs in
- 27 transportation management areas under federal law.
- 28 ~ In May 2009, the Sarasota/Manatee MPO developed an update to its CMP.
- 29 ~ Two key recommendations of the 2009 CMP update included updating the CMP on
- 30 a five-year cycle and developing a State of the System Report in the interim years to
- 31 track effectiveness of the implemented strategies and to evaluate trends and
- 32 conditions for the multi-modal transportation system.
- 33 ~ In accordance with these recommendations, the MPO developed the CMP Summary
- 34 Report in 2011, which only covered the state of the roadway system.
- 35 ~ As the second CMP annual report, the MPO has asked Tindale Oliver to prepare the
- 36 2014 CMP State of the System Report that covers the multi-modal transportation
- 37 network, including roadways, public transit, and bicycle/pedestrian/trails in Sarasota
- 38 and Manatee Counties.
- 39 ~ In addition to evaluating the trends and conditions for the multi-modal
- 40 transportation network, the State of the System Report will also use roadway level
- 41 of service (LOS) data to develop congested corridors maps for the two-county area.
- 42 ~ As no new data is being collected, this project will rely solely on existing and most
- 43 current LOS data provided by Sarasota and Manatee Counties and the cities,
- 44 including North Port, Venice, Bradenton, Bradenton Beach, Palmetto, Anna Maria,
- 45 Holmes Beach, Longboat Key and City of Sarasota.
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2 1. Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)  
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4 There was no report.  
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6 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**  
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8 Ms. Vicki Nighswander, Citizen, expressed her appreciation with crash data being included in the planning  
9 process.  
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12 **XII. MEMBER COMMENTS**  
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14 ~ Commissioner Chappie requested FDOT to consider installing lighting at 119<sup>th</sup> Street West  
15 on Cortez Road to the bridge; it is a dark area and several accidents have occurred. Ms.  
16 Lockwood agreed this is a safety concern and FDOT will look into the request.  
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19 **XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**  
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21 The next meeting will be held July 27, 2015, at the Holiday Inn, 8009 15<sup>th</sup> Street East, Sarasota,  
22 Florida 34243.  
23

24  
25 **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**  
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27 Chair Bennett adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.  
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