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2 **SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
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4
5 8009 15th Street East
6 Sarasota, Florida 34243
7

8 **9:30 A.M.**
9

10 **MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2014**
11

12 Chair Bustle called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and provided the invocation followed by the Pledge
13 of Allegiance. Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager, confirmed a quorum was present.
14

15 **PRESENT**

16
17 **Sarasota County**

18 Commissioner Joe Barbeta
19 Commissioner Christine Robinson
20 Commissioner Nora Patterson

21
22 **Manatee County**

23 Commissioner John Chappie
24 Commissioner Larry Bustle
25 Commissioner Betsy Benac

26
27 **City of Sarasota**

28 Commissioner Susan Chapman
29 Commissioner Shannon Snyder

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31 **City of North Port**

32 Commissioner Linda Yates

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34 **City of Venice**

35 Councilman Jim Bennett

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37 **City of Bradenton**

38 Councilman Patrick Roff

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40 **City of Palmetto**

41 Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant

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Non-Voting Members

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

**Island Transportation Planning
Organization (ITPO) Bradenton Beach**

Mayor Bill Shearon

ABSENT

Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority

Commissioner Jack Rynerson

Town of Longboat Key

Commissioner Phill Younger

MPO Staff

Michael Howe, Executive Director
Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager
David Hutchinson, Planning Manager

Others

Alex DavisShaw, TAC Chair
Stanley Hochman, CAC Chair
Roxann Lake, FDOT
Lou Costa, Citizen
Susan Montgomery, SCAT
Brian Blair, FDOT
Amy Stechell, FDOT

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78 **I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
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80 Mr. Lou Costa Citizen, expressed concern with the lack of lighting along University Parkway
81 and possible safety issues along the Parkway and the I-75 interchange with increased traffic due to
82 development of new homes, opening of the new mall and the new rowing facility.
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2 **II. CAC/TAC/BPTAC CHAIR'S REPORT**
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4 Mr. Stanley Hochman, Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Chair, reported on the activities of the
5 September 11, 2014 CAC meeting.
6

7 Ms. Alex DavisShaw, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair, reported on the activities of the
8 September 8, 2014 TAC meeting.
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11 **III. PTTF Report (Public Transportation Task Force)**
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13 Commissioner Barbetta, Chair elect, reported on the following:
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- 15 ~ Mr. Richard Shine, FDOT provided updates of the 5305 and 5310 Federal Transit
16 Authority (FTA) Grants
- 17 ~ Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) and Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT)
18 provided their Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Updates
- 19 ~ The new Siesta Key service is now under FDOT in Sarasota
- 20 ~ Pictures were distributed of the newly installed bus shelters at the Sarasota International
21 Airport (SRQ)
- 22 ~ Discussion ensued regarding the excellent coordination between the directors of SCAT
23 and MCAT
- 24 ~ MCAT's over the age of 80 free ridership program is up to over 1,300 riders
- 25 ~ Once again, MCAT will provide free fare for riders on election day (November 4th)
26

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28 **IV. FDOT REPORT**
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30 Ms. Roxann Lake, FDOT, reported on the following:
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- 32 ~ An update of the Central Manatee Alternative Network will be presented at the October
33 MPO Board Meeting.
- 34 ~ Also at the October Board Meeting an informational presentation will be given
35 regarding the SR 64 Cortez Bridge from SR 789 to 123rd Street project.
- 36 ~ FDOT will provide information at the end of the week regarding resurfacing projects on
37 SR 776.
- 38 ~ The schedule for the Midnight Pass and Beach Road: design is scheduled for 2014/15
39 with construction programmed for 2016/17. FDOT's Project Design and Environment
40 (PD&E) Office will hold a public workshop in January of 2015 and possibly a second
41 work shop one or two months later incorporating feedback from the public.
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44 **IV. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**
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46 Mr. Howe and reported on the following:
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- 48 - Attended the Director's meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Counsel
49 (MPOAC) that was held in St. Lucie.
- 50 - Last Friday attended the West Central Florida Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) meeting
51 in Tampa.
- 52 - Discussions are being held regarding the potential consolidation of the CCC and the Tampa
53 Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA); this will be a future agenda item.

- 1 - Three more signatures are needed for the Reapportionment Plan; once it is fully executed the
2 City of Bradenton will receive an additional seat and the Non-Voting City of North Port seat
3 will become a voting seat.
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6 **V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

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8 Chair Bustle had nothing to report on.
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11 **VI. CONSENT SECTION**

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13 Commissioner Chappie: I move approval of the consent agenda.

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15 Mayor Groover Bryant: I second the motion.
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17 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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19 The consent items approved were:

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21 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

22
23 The July 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes of the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board Meeting were
24 approved.
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27 2. Appointment to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

28 Ratified the appointment of Ms. Eva Maria Rey from Manatee County to the CAC.
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31 **VII. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARING**

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33 **Please note that the following public hearing item was scheduled for 10:00 a.m. or reasonably**
34 **thereafter and was advertised accordingly.**
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36
37 1. Amendments to the FY 2014/2015 – 2018/2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

38 Mr. Howe explained action taken by the MPO at its June 23, 2014 MPO Board meeting was to
39 not approve three (3) safety projects for inclusion in the MPO's 5 Year Transportation
40 Improvement Program (TIP). FDOT's position is the three (3) safety projects are important
41 projects and removal of these projects per State Statute require joint action of the MPO and
42 FDOT. In addition, FDOT stated these projects are required to have approval by the MPO in
43 order to have the MPO's 5 Year Program approved.
44

45 Secretary Hattaway stated all of these projects meet the cost benefit for Federal funding; these
46 are legitimate safety concerns that FDOT is trying to address.
47

48 Chair Bustle stated his understanding is safety projects are continuously evaluated by FDOT and
49 citizens concerns are to be considered.
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51 Commissioner Yates stated her understanding is the funding of the 5 Year Work Program is
52 contingent of MPO Board approval of the three (3) projects.
53

54 Commissioner Patterson commented this almost raises this to a policy issue; the MPO is an
55 advisory to the FDOT but to hinge the whole of the Work Program on whether we agree with

1 FDOT is almost black male. She agreed public safety has to be paramount but has issue with the
2 fact these projects appeared years ago with pedestrian and safety projects but not with a
3 roundabout or median closing. Commissioner Patterson expressed displeasure with the process
4 and stated the citizens are not happy with the FDOT, especially with the Hansen closure; but this
5 is basically going to reflect on the local jurisdictions and why they did not protect the citizens
6 and the reason is the jurisdictions really didn't know.

7
8 Secretary Hattaway stated he doesn't agree with the process either but FDOT has the
9 responsibility to take care of safety for everyone using the roads. He stated FDOT needs to
10 work on improving its communication and delivering the information not just to the staff but to
11 the Commissions. FDOT is making a commitment to work harder with the Commissions and
12 the MPO Board. Secretary Hattaway noted that Hansen is being modified not closed; the studies
13 have not been completed on any of the projects for finalization.

14
15 Commissioner Robinson concurred with Commissioner Patterson's comments. She stated she
16 drives through the Beach Road intersection each day and if the vegetation was trimmed then you
17 may be able to see cars coming and asked why not try the basics before spending a lot of money
18 on the intersection itself; it is a blind intersection for those who are veering right onto Midnight
19 Pass to avoid Beach Road. During season the entire road is at a standstill. The light helps
20 people get through the intersection and without the light people are going to go through that
21 intersection without letting anybody else in; this will create chaos. It has been labeled as a
22 roundabout and the citizens are very nervous and upset, these are people who drive it on a daily
23 basis. Commissioner Robinson stated we are being told today we don't have a choice and
24 expressed concern that this is something she would not support but is being told the entire
25 Federal dollars are at risk. She respectively requested of Secretary Hattaway that something be
26 done in this process to really make it look like it is an open process because it does not look that
27 way. Commissioner Robinson stated she does not like having to support something she is not
28 for.

29
30 Secretary Hattaway responded he understands Commissioner Robinson's concerns. He stated
31 that all options need to be considered when going into a study.

32
33 Commissioner Barbetta stated he understands the frustration but we have to look at the basic
34 foundation of public safety first and then hope that the process work.

35
36 Vice Mayor Chapman stated she was grateful to have the safety data, which is compelling. With
37 regards to the roundabout and whether there is a solution, citizens in the areas where the traffic
38 is uneven are always concerned about roundabouts and if roundabouts are designed for access
39 for less traveled lanes. If a roundabout is being considered the citizen's concerns need to be
40 addressed by the FDOT.

41
42 Commissioner Yates stated these particular areas have been identified by FDOT as safety issues
43 and something needs to be done, but the jurisdictions and the public as well will have a say in
44 the outcomes of what the best solutions are. We need to put forth alternatives that we believe
45 might be better suggestions and solutions for the areas.

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

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

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52 Commissioner Yates: I move to approve the amendment to the TIP.

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54 Councilman Roff: I second the motion.

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2 MOTION CARRIED (14 for and 1 against)

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4 Commissioner Patterson requested the minutes reflect Members' comments.
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7 **IX. BOARD ACTION**

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9 1. 2015 MPO Legislative Policy and Issues Committee

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11 Chair Commissioner Larry Bustle, Vice Mayor Susan Chapman, Commissioner Betsy Benac,
12 Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, and Commissioner Linda Yates were appointed the Committee
13 to develop the MPO's 2015 Legislative Policy Positions and Issues for the 2015 Florida
14 Legislative Session.
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17 **X. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS (May Require Board Action)**

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19 1. Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian, Safety Initiative Update

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21 Secretary Hattaway provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Statewide Bicycle and
22 Pedestrian, Safety Initiative Update.
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24 2. I-75 and SR 70 Interchange Design

25
26 Ms. Amy Stechell, FDOT, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the I-75
27 at SR 70 interchange project in Manatee County. FDOT is preparing design plans for the future
28 widening of approximately 6 to 8 miles of Interstate 75 from north of University Parkway to
29 south of State Road (SR) 64 and the reconstruction of the I-75/SR 70 interchange in Manatee
30 County. More information regarding the project may be found at www.I75Manatee.com.
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32 3. Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update

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34 Susan Montgomery, Transit Planner, Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT), provided a
35 PowerPoint presentation regarding SCAT's 2015 Major Update of its Transit Development Plan
36 (TDP). The TDP is the strategic guide for public transportation in Sarasota County over the next
37 10 years. Its annual update and completion is required by Florida Statute.
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39 4. Revenue Equity Study

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41 This item was deferred for a future meeting.
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43 5. FDOT Presentation on the US 41 Venice Bypass Project

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45 Brian Blair, FDOT, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an update on the US 41
46 (Venice Bypass) project from Gulf Coast Boulevard to Bird Bay in Sarasota County.
47 This project consist of reconstructing US 41 on the Venice Bypass from a four lane divided
48 urban roadway to a six lane divided urban roadway with bike lanes, concrete sidewalks,
49 lighting and signalization. Letting will be January 28, 2015. This project includes the
50 intersection of US 41 and Venice Avenue. The construction cost is estimated at
51 \$12,436,667.
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1 **XI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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3 1. Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA)

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5 Commissioner Benac reported on the August 22, 2014 TBARTA Meeting:

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7 ~ Approved a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with the Hillsborough County MPO in
8 order to implement the TBARTA Commuter Assistance Outreach Program.
9 ~ Approved another JPA with the Hillsborough County MPO for the TBARTA Commuter
10 Van Pool Program for 2015.
11 ~ Approved a contract with the University of Florida (UF) for the Safe Routes to Schools
12 funds; a regional school youth program.
13 ~ Continues in the search for an Executive Director; TBARTA has one candidate for
14 consideration.
15 ~ Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) has received funding for regional fare
16 boxes; please contact HART for more information.
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19 **XII. MEMBER COMMENTS**

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21 Ø Councilman Roth stated the City of Bradenton granted approval for a gas station at the entrance
22 to Braden River Woods, which has one entrance into and out of. The City is requesting
23 permission from FDOT to put a sign up before the 48th Street Court entrance telling the citizens
24 there is a separate entrance for the gas station in an attempt to keep as much of the gas station
25 traffic out of the only in/out for Braden River Woods. Secretary Hattaway stated he would look
26 into this.
27 Ø Commissioner Robinson asked the process regarding bold landscaping; how FDOT would
28 consider interchanges for same and how would they be prioritized. Ms. Lockwood responded
29 the District asks for input from the MPOs. In the Sarasota/Manatee MPO area FDOT is looking
30 at I-75 and Laurel in the next 5 Year Work Program. Chair Bustle suggested the interchange at
31 I-75 ad SR 70 for bold landscaping.
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34 **XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

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36 The next regular meeting will be held October 27, 2014, at the Holiday Inn, 8009 15th Street East,
37 Sarasota, Florida 34240.
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40 **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

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42 Vice Chair Snyder adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.
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