

1 **SARASOTA/MANATEE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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3 **USF Sarasota-Manatee Campus**

4 **Selby Auditorium**

5 5700 North Tamiami Trail  
6 Sarasota, Florida

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8 **AGENDA FOR MARCH 25, 2013**

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11 Chair Nora Patterson called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. followed by a moment of silence. Nanette  
12 Eubanks, Office Manager, confirmed a quorum was present.

13  
14 **PRESENT**

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16 **City of Palmetto**

17 Commissioner Brian Williams for 43  
18 Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant 44

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20 **City of Bradenton**

21 Councilman Patrick Roff 45

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23 **Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority**

24 Commissioner Jack Rynerson 46  
25 47

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27 **Sarasota County**

28 Commissioner Joe Barbetta 48  
29 Commissioner Carolyn Mason for 49  
30 Commissioner Christine Robinson 50  
31 Commissioner Nora Patterson 51

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33 **City of Sarasota**

34 Commissioner Terry Turner 52  
35 Commissioner Shannon Snyder 53

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37 **City of North Port**

38 Mayor Linda Yates 54

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40 **City of Venice**

41 Councilman Jim Bennett 55

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43 **Manatee County**

44 Commissioner John Chappie 56  
45 Commissioner Michael Gallen for 57  
46 Commissioner Larry Bustle 58  
47 Commissioner Betsy Benac 59

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49 **Town of Longboat Key**

50 Commissioner Phill Younger 60

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52 **(ITPO) Anna Maria**

53 Mayor Sue Lynn 61

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55 **Non-Voting Members**

56 Secretary Billy Hattaway, FDOT District One 62  
57 Commissioner Cheryl Cook for Commissioner 63  
58 Rhonda DiFranco, City of North Port 64

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60 **MPO Staff**

61 Michael Howe, Executive Director 65  
62 Nanette Eubanks, Office Manager 66  
63 David Hutchinson, Planning Manager 67  
64 Mike Maholtz, Transportation Planner 68

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70 **Others**

71 Alex Davis Shaw, TAC Vice Chair 69  
72 Jennifer Stults, FDOT 70  
73 Roxann Lake, FDOT 71  
74 Zac Burch, FDOT 72  
75 Aaron Kaster, FDOT 73  
76 Rod Warner, Citizen 74  
77 Roger Barry, Citizen 75  
78 Kevin Ingall, FDOT 76  
79 Amy Blair, FDOT 77  
80 Donnie Holcomb, HDR 78

79  
80 **I. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

81  
82 There was no one from the public who wished to speak.

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2 **II. CAC/TAC CHAIR'S REPORT**  
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4 Mr. David Hutchinson, MPO Staff, reported on the activities of the March 7, 2013 CAC meeting.  
5

6 Ms. Alex Davis Shaw, 2013 TAC Vice Chair, reported on the activities of the March 11, 2013 TAC  
7 meeting.  
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10 **III. FDOT REPORT**  
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12 Ms. Roxann Lake, FDOT, reported on the following:  
13

- 14 - Governor Rick Scott held a press conference in Ft. Myers on Friday, March 15, 2013:
  - 15 ~ Announced the Transportation Plan as part of the Families First Budget.
  - 16 ~ Sarasota County, I-75 from North of Sumter Boulevard to South of Toledo Blade,  
17 expansion from 4 lanes to 6 lanes, has been advanced to Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 for  
18 \$22.4 million as part of the Governor's initiative.
  - 19 ~ FDOT Secretary Ananth Prasad and District One Secretary Billy Hattaway spoke  
20 at the conference regarding the importance of the Governor's budget.
- 21 - Provided an update on projects:
  - 22 ~ The Department is in the processing of replacing and repairing mast arms at  
23 various locations and should be completed by May 2013; US 41 and Gulf Gate  
24 Drive and Bay Acres Avenue; SR 789 at Sunset Drive; SR 72 at Beneva Road and  
25 Sawyer Road; and SR 758 at Murdoch Avenue and Honore Avenue.
  - 26 ~ SR 64 from Wingate, East to the Hardee County Line and SR 70 East of Lorraine  
27 Road to Cattlemen and SR 675 improvements consisting of milling, resurfacing,  
28 widening, turn lanes, drainage improvements, pavement markings and guard rails  
29 which should be completed by late Spring of 2013.
  - 30 ~ On I-75 the Department is in the process of constructing advance lighted overhead  
31 sign structures at I-75 and Moccasin Wallow Road and I-75 at SR 70; should be  
32 completed June 2013.  
33  
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35 **IV. MPO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**  
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37 ➤ Mr. Howe reported on the following:

- 38 - Regarding possible consolidation of the Charlotte County-Punta Gorda MPO and the  
39 Sarasota/Manatee MPO, membership apportionment for the Sarasota/Manatee MPO will be  
40 brought before the Board at its April meeting.  
41

42 Chair Patterson questioned if the City of North Port would be receiving an additional seat  
43 on the Board. Mr. Howe responded that would be one option and would be justified due to  
44 the increase in population; another option would be to have a 14 member Board and  
45 eliminate one of the seats for the City of Sarasota.  
46

- 47 - Announced Commissioner DiFranco has volunteered to serve as the Chair to the Manatee  
48 County Transportation (MTD) Local Coordinating Board (LCB).
- 49 - Provided information regarding the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council  
50 (MPOAC) Training Institute.
- 51 - Referenced a letter from Secretary Hattaway justifying a request for street lighting in  
52 Bradenton on SR 64 from 59<sup>th</sup> Street West to 75<sup>th</sup> Street West that was submitted as a  
53 candidate project for allocation of safety funds.

1 - Noted the 2013 Florida MPOAC Legislative Priorities and Policy Positions.

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3 ➤ Mr. David Hutchinson reported on the following:

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5 - Noted Memos that were mailed to the MPO Board and Technical Advisory Committee  
6 (TAC) Members regarding the change of date requested by the FDOT:

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8 ~ Each jurisdiction must take all candidate projects to their local government  
9 elected boards for approval prior to consideration by the TAC Subcommittee for  
10 prioritization.

11 ~ A Priority Project Information Sheet will need to be completed in full for each  
12 project you intend to have on the Priority List.

13 ~ No new US 41 Multimodal Emphasis Corridor (MMEC) projects are being  
14 accepted this cycle.

15 ~ Project information must be submitted by Friday, May 10, 2013.

16  
17 Ms. Jennifer Stults noted there has been conversation and FDOT is open to revisit the change that was  
18 requested based on the last Work Program to remove US 41/301 from 17<sup>th</sup> Street to 13 Avenue Project  
19 Development and Design (PD&E) Study and replace it with a Feasibility Study from Haben Boulevard to US  
20 41 North through US 41/301 10<sup>th</sup> Street intersection and East on US 41 to 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue East.

21  
22 Commissioner Gallen requested clarification regarding if the County went forward with a PD&E, as was  
23 historically approved, did local dollars need to be earmarked for those projects. Ms. Stults responded FDOT  
24 is talking with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for clarification and to get the PD&E approved  
25 the County has to show it has committed to the project; FDOT would have the next phase of study (design)  
26 programed for the entire length of the project or everything would need to be funded through construction  
27 for one segment of the project. With FHWA's concurrence FDOT does have the ability to roll up a  
28 Feasibility Study in the front end of the PD&E.

29  
30 Discussion ensued regarding moving forward with a PD&E and its possible effect on the traffic signal at 7<sup>th</sup>  
31 Street in Palmetto becoming operational. Ms. Stults noted the traffic signal does not have to be included in  
32 the PD&E Study for it to become operational; it is something FDOT's Traffic Operations monitors.

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35 **V. CHAIR'S REPORT**

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37 ■ Chair Patterson reported on the following:

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39 - A meeting of the Chairs Coordinating Committee (CCC) was held in Lakewood Ranch at  
40 the Gulf Coast Eagle Distributing courtesy of Mr. John Saputo, Owner, who graciously  
41 hosted the CCC. Councilman Bennett chaired the meeting and Commissioners Benac and  
42 Bustle were also in attendance.

43 - Attended a Town Hall meeting held by Congressman Vern Buchanan. Congressman Bill  
44 Shuster, head of the House Transportation and Infrastructure was also at the Town Hall  
45 meeting.

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47 Mr. Howe recognized in the audience Mr. Gary Tibbets of Congressman Buchanan's office.

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50 **VI. CONSENT SECTION**

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52 Chair Patterson entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

1 Commissioner Gallen: I move approval of the Consent Agenda.

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3 Commissioner Snyder: I second the motion.

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5 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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7 The consent items approved were:

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9 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes

10 Approved the January 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes.

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12 2. Appointment/Reappointments to the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

13 Ratified the appointment of Mr. Thomas Arthur and reappointments of Mr. Rod Warner and Mr.  
14 John Hendricks to the CAC representing Sarasota County.

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16 3. Sarasota County Area Transit's (SCAT) Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307  
17 Grant Application

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20 Endorsed SCAT's FTA Section 5307 Grant Application.

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24 **VII. BOARD ACTION**

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26 1. Appointment of Members to the TRIP and Regional Trails Negotiating Committee

27 Chair Commissioner Patterson, Vice Chair Commissioner Bustle, Commissioner Benac and  
28 Mayor Yates were appointed to the TRIP and Regional Trails Negotiating Committee.

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32 **VIII. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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34 1. I-75 AT University Parkway Diverging Diamond

35 Chair Patterson opened the floor for public comments:

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38 Mr. Rod Warner, Citizen, referencing information found at [www.rampofframpon.com](http://www.rampofframpon.com) noted  
39 safety, construction and financial issues with the proposed Diverging Diamond Interchange  
40 (DDI).

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42 Mr. Kevin Ingall, FDOT and Mr. Donnie Holcomb, HDR, FDOT Consultant provided a  
43 PowerPoint presentation regarding the interchange:

- 44  
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- 46 • The scope of the project is to reconstruct the existing diamond interchange, which  
47 accommodates six 12-foot travel lanes on I-75, to a Diverging Diamond Interchange  
48 (DDI) that accommodates the I-75 ultimate 10-lane configuration with two express  
49 lanes and three general use lanes in each direction.
  - 50 • This will be the first DDI in Florida to advance to the final design stage.
  - 51 • The DDI is a relatively new and unique concept and is based on a standard diamond  
52 interchange, with a shift in crossroad traffic within the interchange.
  - 53 • Through traffic on the crossroad crosses paths twice as traffic shifts to the left side  
54 of oncoming traffic between the ramps, allowing left turn movements to occur  
without crossing oncoming traffic.

- DDIs can provide extra capacity while significantly reducing the space required for implementation.
- Improvements at the interchange will also require the replacement of the I-75 bridges and widening/reconstruction of University Parkway, including portions of the Cattlemen Road/Cooper Creek Boulevard and Market Street/Lake Osprey Drive intersections.
- A northbound and southbound 12 foot auxiliary travel lane will be constructed on the inside of the existing I-75 lanes from the northbound entrance ramp termini of Fruitville Road to the northbound entrance ramp termini of University Parkway, which includes widening of two I-75 bridges over Erie Creek.

Discussion ensued regarding the improvements at the intersection requiring local roads (Cattlemen, Cooper Creek and Market Street) needing to be improved and the cost for same falling on the local jurisdictions. Mr. Ingall pointed out that they are local roads, not State roads and FDOT is looking to partner to make system wide improvements.

Secretary Hattaway stated FDOT can work with the local governments and will be involved with major improvements to the intersection but it's the demand from the rowing centers, mall and other local attractions that is bringing in the extra traffic volumes into this area. It has to all work together for it all to make sense and FDOT and local governments will need to partner.

#

2. US 41 from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street (Sarasota) PD&E Report

Chair Patterson opened the floor for public comments:

Mr. Roger Barry, Citizen, expressed support of this project.

Mr. Aaron Kaster, FDOT and Mr. Bill Howell, HW Lochner, FDOT Consultant provided a PowerPoint presentation of the project:

This project is a continuation and further refinement of concepts previously approved in the City of Sarasota's Bayfront Connectivity Study. The project will include the following multimodal improvements:

- Two-lane roundabouts at 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 14<sup>th</sup> Street
- Signalized pedestrian crosswalks
- Narrower travel lanes (11-ft wide instead of the existing 12-ft wide lanes)
- Reduced design speed for US 41
- 4-ft wide bicycle lanes
- Enhanced landscaping in the median and the center islands of the roundabouts
- Enhanced bus stop facilities, including a bus bay at Centennial Park, bus shelters, bus landing pads, benches, bike racks, signs, etc.
- Continuous ADA-compliant 6-ft wide sidewalk on the east side of US 41
- Expansion of the 10-ft wide Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT) along the west side of the project to connect Centennial Park with Whitaker Gateway Park

Commissioner Turner: I move the Board endorse the recommended alternative.

Commissioner Snyder: I second the motion.

MOTION CARRIED (1 no)

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2 3. US 41 from 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Cortez Road (SR 684)/Pedestrian Islands

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4 Ms. Amy Blair, FDOT, presented an overview on the US 41 from 69th Avenue to Cortez Road  
5 (SR 684) Pedestrian Islands safety project.

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7 This federally funded safety project scheduled for construction in Fiscal Year 2013/2014 will  
8 construct raised concrete pedestrian islands and associated signing and marking adjustments  
9 within the project limits.

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12 **IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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14 1. Public Transportation Task Force

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16 Mr. Howe noted the purpose of the Public Transportation Task Force (PTTF) is to plan with the  
17 transit expansions, operations and issues in our two county area, and to coordinate all public  
18 transportation. Pursuant the Bylaws each jurisdiction of the MPO Board are a member of the  
19 PTTF and suggested each Member to consider who their representatives to same will be.

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21 2. Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority Regional

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23 Commissioner Benac reported on the following:

- 24  
25 - Took action to look at various municipalities for support for the regional priority list.  
26 - Received a report by Michael Howe regarding the Revenue Committee Study.

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29 **X. MEMBER COMMENTS**

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31 Commissioner Younger pointed out concerns with the traffic backing up several miles on the island  
32 and onto St. Armand's to US 41 and requested for FDOT to attend a Town of Longboat Key  
33 Commission Meeting to discuss traffic flow.

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36 **X. NEXT MEETING DATE**

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38 The next meeting will be held April 22, 2013 at USF's Selby Auditorium.

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41 **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

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43 Chair Nora Patterson adjourned the meeting at 11:17 a.m.