



# Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization

## September 26, 2022 MPO Governing Board Meeting

**DATE:** Monday, September 26, 2022

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Holiday Inn  
8009 15<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Sarasota, Florida 34243



Wireless Access Available  
WiFi: ihgconnect  
User Code Access: SRQAP

**MPO Chair, Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Manatee County**

### MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 26, 2022

Chair Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Manatee County, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The invocation was provided by Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Nanette Eubanks, Clerk to the Board, stated a quorum not present.

Chair Vanessa Baugh announced the Board meeting will move swiftly so that Members and attendees may prepare for the approaching hurricane and thanked everyone that was able to attend.

#### MEMBERS PRESENT

##### City of Bradenton

Mayor Gene Brown  
Councilmember Bill Sanders

##### Town of Longboat Key

Vice Mayor Mike Haycock

##### Manatee County

Commissioner Vanessa Baugh  
Commissioner Van Ostenbridge  
Commissioner Misty Servia

##### City of Palmetto

Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant

##### Sarasota County

Commissioner Ron Cutsinger

##### City of Sarasota

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch for  
Commissioner Liz Alpert  
Mayor Erik Arroyo, City of Sarasota

##### City of Venice

Councilmember Mitzie Fiedler

##### FDOT District One Non-Voting Advisor

Mr. John Kubler for  
Secretary L.K. Nandam

#### MEMBERS ABSENT

Island Transportation Planning  
Organization (ITPO: Anna Maria,  
[Holmes Beach](#) & Bradenton Beach)  
Mayor Judy Titsworth

##### Sarasota Manatee Airport Authority

Commissioner Carlos Beruff

##### City of North Port

Mayor Pete Emrich  
Vice Mayor Barbara Langdon

##### Sarasota County

Commissioner Alan Maio  
Commissioner Ron Cutsinger  
Commissioner Christian Ziegler

#### MPO Staff Present

Ryan Brown, Planning Manager  
Nanette Eubanks, Clerk to the Board  
David Hutchinson, Executive Director  
David Machado, Fiscal Coordinator  
Rachel McClain, Fiscal Technician  
Grace Scigousky, Public Involvement Coordinator  
Prakrati Shrivastava, Multi Modal Planner  
Wenonah Venter, Multi Modal Planner

#### Others Present

Tanya Merkle, FDOT  
Nicole Mills, FDOT  
Michelle Peronto, FDOT

**Public Comment** (Items not on the agenda)  
None

Chair Vanessa Baugh stated FDOT Staff will need to leave for the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) due to the impending storm and reordered the agenda to 7. Presentations, Item a. FDOT Report.

## **7. Presentations**

### **a. FDOT Report**

#### **1. Ringling Bridge Shared Bus Bike Shoulder (SBBS)**

Ms. Nicole Mills, FDOT District One Intermodal Systems Development Administrator, provided a presentation on the Ringling Bridge Shared Bus Bike Shoulder (SBBS):

- The City of Sarasota provided concept plans (through the MPO application process for funding) for proposed transit lanes across the Ringling Bridge that included multiple concepts.
- Due to limited width and several upcoming projects in the subject area, it was decided to implement Part Time Shoulder Use (PTSU), in the form of a Shared Bus Bike Shoulder (SBBS).
- Bay Runner Trolley Service 8:00 a.m. to Midnight, 7 days a week, operating as a circulator-no timed stops and 6 miles with 24 stops
- Bay Runner Goals: 1) Relieve Traffic Congestions; 2) Provide a Transit Option; 3) Support City's Transportation Vision
- Ringling Bridge related projects:
  - US 41/Gulfstream Avenue Roundabout-Construction completed Fall 2022
  - Ringling Bridge Repair/Rehabilitation-Construction Spring 2023
  - Ringling Bridge Approaches Resurfacing-Design Fall 2022; Construction Fall 2024
  - Coon Key Bridge-Project Development and Environment (PD&E) 60% Design Complete 2023; construction is unfunded; possible Design/Build
- Authorized Users: Public Transportation, Emergency Vehicles, and Bicycles & Scooters
- Speed, Safety, and Passing/Following Distance Protocols will be set

## **3. Reports**

### **a. Public Transportation Task Force (PTTF) Chair, Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto, reported on the following:**

- Received reports from Manatee County Area Transit (MCAT), Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT), and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).
- Ms. Michelle Peronto, FDOT District One, also presented on the Ringling Bridge Shared Bus Bike Shoulder (SBBS).

### **b. On behalf of Florida Department of Transportation Secretary L.K. Nandam, Mr. John Kubler, District Director of Transportation Development, and Ms. Tanya Merkle, FDOT, reported on the following:**

- The 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue project was programmed to begin in 2017 but due to unforeseen issues (pandemic for one) it has taken longer than it should have to finish the Project Development and Design (PD&E). The Department is committed to expediting the completion of the PD&E and the Design Phase will be programmed as soon as possible (Fiscal Year 2024/2025).
- Mobility Week will occur October 21<sup>st</sup> through October 28<sup>th</sup> with various events hosted by the FDOT and its partners.

### **c. MPO Executive Director, David Hutchinson, reported on the following:**

- Recognized and welcomed new MPO Board Member Councilmember Mitzie Fiedler, City of North Port.
- Introduced new MPO staff members, Ms. Grace Scigousky, Public Involvement Coordinator, and Ms. Prakrati Shrivastava, Multi Modal Planner.
- Attended meetings of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council (MPOAC) and workshops of the Statewide MPOAC Policy & Technical Committee held in conjunction with Floridians for Better Transportation Summer Camp Meeting.
- MPO Planning Manager, Mr. Ryan Brown, presented at the MPOAC Best Practices Committee.
- Participated in an Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) Summer Meeting focusing on Safety.

- MPO Multi Modal Planner, Ms. Wenonah “Nina” Venter, presented at the American Planning Association (APA) Florida Chapter Annual Meeting.
  - Coordinating with the FDOT regarding funding for jurisdictions’ priority projects and resolving project delivery issues.
  - The MPO will be implementing its Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) allowing Staff to work remotely.
  - Noted a Draft 2023 Sarasota/Manatee MPO meeting calendar had been provided.
- d. MPO Chair, Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Manatee County, requested a moment of silence for former MPO Director, Mr. Michael Howe, who passed on August 24, 2022. Chair Baugh reported on the following:
- The Manatee County Port Authority (Port Manatee) was awarded close to \$12 million for phase three of its south container yard project. The project will be approximately 16.5-acre container yard, with the installation of electrical systems for two previously acquired mobile harbor cranes, construct an access road, construction of approximately three foundations and utilities for future radiation portal monitors.
  - FDOT received \$15 million for the I-4 West Central Florida Truck Parking Facility, construction of a new truck parking facility with approximately 120 spaces, electric charging stations, and pedestrian infrastructure to access nearby commercial amenities.
- e. MPOAC Report, Commissioner Vanessa Baugh, Manatee County, reported on the following:
- MPOAC Executive Committee meet on July 27<sup>th</sup> in Gainesville and the Staff Directors met on July 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - The October meeting has been cancelled.

## **5. Consent Agenda**

Chair Commissioner Vanessa Baugh asked for a motion for the Consent Items.

Commissioner Misty Servia: I move to approve the Consent Agenda items.

Councilmember Bill Sanders: I second the motion.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Consent items approved:

- Approved the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Board Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2022
- Confirmed the Committee Appointment of Ms. Madeline Spencer, Citizens with Disabilities, to Serve as Member of the Manatee County Transportation Disadvantaged Local Coordinating Board (LCB)
- Approved the Amendment to 2022/23-2023/24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
- Adopted the Sarasota/Manatee MPO Travel Policy

## **6. Action Item**

a. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23-2026/27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

### **1. TIP Roll Forward**

Ms. Tanya Merkle, FDOT, explained there is a three (3) month gap (July 1 to September 30) between the start of the State Fiscal Year and the start of the Federal Fiscal Year. The Federal Fiscal Year begins October 1. During that three (3) month gap, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) still regard the old State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) as being in effect.

If there is a project in any of the four (4) federally recognized years of the old TIP that was not authorized by June 30, 2022, FDOT can still get federal authorization for that project based on the old TIP, provided the authorization request occurs between July 1 and September 30. There is still a need to make sure that such projects are in the new TIP if the projects are to be authorized after September 30.

Inclusion in the TIP is needed to ensure authorization of federal funds. This is accomplished through a Roll Forward TIP Amendment, which must occur before October 1. This action simply reconciles the documents for the period between the beginning of the State and Federal fiscal years. This process does not replace the usual

committee review and Board approval that is followed for regular TIP amendments that are required at other times of the year.

Ms. Tanya Merkle stated FDOT has requested that the Sarasota/Manatee MPO amend the TIP for FY 2022/23 through 2026/27 to incorporate the attached "roll-forward" report. Sarasota/Manatee MPO Committee Recommendation is to Recommend MPO Board Approval.

Chair Vanessa Baugh noted this item required a vote by the show of hands.

Mayor Gene Brown: I move Board approval of the FDOT requested TIP Roll Forward Projects.

Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch: I second the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. 2023 Legislative Priorities

Mr. Ryan Brown, MPO, explained the Legislative Priorities will be presented at both Manatee and Sarasota Counties' Legislative Delegation Meetings. They will also be distributed to partner organizations including the counties, municipalities, League of Cities, chambers, EDCs, and others, for consideration as part of their legislative agendas.

The priorities may be brought back to the MPO Board for updates after transportation bills are filed and the Legislative Committee process begins.

Sarasota/Manatee MPO Committee Recommend MPO Board Approval with the Addition of Grant Program Language.

Mayor Erik Arroyo: I move Board approval of the 2023 Sarasota/Manatee MPO Legislative Priorities.

Mayor Gene Brown: I second the motion.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**7. Presentations**

b. MPO Report

1. Interim 2022 Safety Report

Ms. Wenonah "Nina" Venter, MPO, provided an overview of the MPO's Interim Safety Report. Evaluating safety performance measures trends to allow the MPO to make a more informed decision in establishing the next set of 2023-2024 targets and helps identify areas for focused attention to allocate resources and funding to make the transportation system safer.

**8. Member Comments**

None

**9. Adjournment**

Chair Commissioner Vanessa Baugh stated this is probably one of the worst hurricanes to come to Sarasota/Manatee and wished everyone the best. Chair Baugh adjourned the meeting at 10:32 a.m.



**Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
**September 26, 2022 MPO Governing Board Meeting**

NO STENOGRAPHIC RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER WAS MADE OF THIS MEETING. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PERSON WHO MAY SEEK TO APPEAL ANY DECISIONS INVOLVING THE MATTER HEREIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE AT THIS MEETING UPON WHICH ANY APPEARS TO BE BASED.

BY: Commissioner Ron Cutsinger  
MPO Vice Chair

State of *Florida*  
County of *Manatee*

Dated this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October 2022

ATTESTED

BY: Nanette Eubanks, Clerk to the Board  
Notary Public State of Florida