Meeting of the School Transportation Working Group

Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 1:30 p.m.
County Center, 18th Floor, Plan Hillsborough Room

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment - 3 minutes per speaker, please

III. Approval of Minutes – April 25, 2018 (no May meeting)

IV. Agenda Items

A. W. Busch Blvd. Corridor Study (Brian Shroyer, FDOT Staff or Cris Schooley, Jacobs consultant)

B. Systemic Safety Approach to Crash Prediction (Chad Polk, Jacobs)

C. It’s Time Tampa Bay: Outreach on Tri-County Growth Concepts (Johnny Wong, MPO Staff)

V. Share Success Stories, Updates and Results (Cindy Stuart, Chair)

A. Jurisdiction/FDOT Updates – extended school year and 2019-20 school year bell times and beacon operating times, news on signal box wraps-HS Art Contest Project with Safety Messages (Alex Henry FDOT), Farnell, Wharton and Steinbrenner actions, MPO School Safety Implementation Results, New High School TTT boundary meeting July 2018, MPO Safety Study at CTST June 27
   a. 2018 Hillsborough Summer Driver Education Classes

B. School District Updates: Sherriff Office follow up meeting, preparation for the new school year open houses with bike/ped safety messages, New High School TTT boundary meeting July 2018, County Meeting for circulation improvement at Big Bend Road, onsite Circulation reviews at Strawberry Crest, Lake Magdalene and Seffner, Hunters Green -Benito pedestrian access improvements/gates, Blake HS FDOT mtg.

C. Health Partner Updates

VI. Old Business & New Business

A. Back to School Bash, August 4, 2018, at Buccaneers Stadium-if interested contact MaryLou Whaley at mwhaley@sdhc.us
B. Special Info BBQ and STWG Luncheon Meeting, August 29, 2018 - Traffic Gardens/Safety Town (Lisa went on Pasco Field Trip June 21, 2018)

C. Cleveland Painted Intersection event tentatively September 29, 2018 (Amber Dickerson, SDHC)

D. Next meeting July 25, 2018

VII. Potential Future STWG Topics
   A. Road Diets-Lane Elimination (Gena Torres, MPO Staff)
   B. Transit Projects
   C. Institutionalize STWG into School District Committee, revisit Pinellas STEPS, (Chris Farkas, SDHC Staff)
   D. Charter Schools (Jenna Hodges and/or non-School District Rep.)
   E. CTST Involvement (William Porth, CTST Chair, and City of Tampa Staff)

VIII. Adjournment

IX. Addendum
   A. MPO Meeting Summary & Committee Report
   C. Regional Transportation Leadership Workshop #2 – August 27

The full agenda packet is available on the MPO’s website, www.planhillsborough.org, or by calling (813) 272-5940.

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If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.
CALL TO ORDER
The meeting of the School Transportation Working Group (STWG) was held in the Plan Hillsborough Room on the 18th floor of the County Center. Ms. Cindy Stuart called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There were no public comments.

STWG #22 MARCH 28, 2018 MEETING SUMMARY
The STWG does not vote on or approve meeting summaries; however, if there are any corrections or additions, please inform Lisa Silva or Sharon Snyder. A Chair’s report will be forwarded to the full MPO Board for review, and will be part of the MPO’s agendas.

ACTION ITEMS
A. Sidewalk Stompers Coleman Road Safety Project (Emily Hinsdale and Students)
Ms. Hinsdale and students from Coleman Middle School presented on the student led road safety project which was developed and designed to encourage students to observe traffic rules while reaching school by foot or bicycle. Sidewalk stompers promotes a healthy, pedestrian-friendly and safe school zone system by encouraging walking and supporting the development of walking infrastructure. It is a reward-based program for students on foot or bike and the community is engaged with donations for student rewards.

Roadwise Awards was started in January 2018 at Coleman Middle School. Roadwise Awards are presented by the Roadwise Champions, which are Coleman student and parent volunteers. Students can win an award for exhibiting safety, by crossing at a crosswalk, waiting for a light or walk signal, if available, using sidewalks, if available, not texting while walking, not cutting through parking lots, the bus ramps or traffic and wearing a bicycle helmet. The students presented the crosswalk locations, the prizes and the hazardous roads and dangerous intersections near their school. In addition, they presented their goals for the 2018-19 school year, which include randomizing prize days, communicating through a Sidewalk Stompers Instagram and Edsby page, and more community engagement and education programs. Finally, the students presented what the STWG can do to help, which include installing crosswalks, sidewalks and other safety signage, providing crossing guards, encouraging/rewarding student volunteerism, start early with elementary programs, and share the program with other County Middle Schools.

B. Citrus Park Drive Extension (John Lyons, Hillsborough County Public Works)
Mr. Lyons presented the Citrus Park Drive Extension, starting at the intersection of Countryway Blvd and ending at Sheldon Road. The project connects end points of Citrus Park Drive, extends from Sheldon Road to Countryway Blvd. and includes a 2.73 mile section of a four-lane, divided urban road with 6’ wide buffered bike lanes and a sidewalk. The project includes installing a signal at Fawn Ridge Blvd. and in front of Deer Park Elementary. The project goals are to provide east-west mobility in NW Hillsborough, including pedestrian and bicycle users.
Mr. Lyons reviewed the intersection of Citrus Park Drive and Countryway Blvd., which includes the addition of a bicycle box intended to benefit cyclists that use the new 6 foot wide bicycle lanes. A new sidewalk will also be added on the western side of Countryway, from Citrus Park to Racetrack Road.

Mr. Lyons discussed the future circulation pattern for Deer Park Elementary School and the reconfiguration of the entrance to Fawn Ridge, where the existing entrance off Sheldon will now only be open to residents south of Citrus Park Drive. The residents of Fawn Ridge will have a new signal onto Citrus Park Drive. These improvements also include new pedestrian access and turn lanes onto Citrus Park Drive.

The design is being finalized now, and the procurement process will take place in late summer or fall, with construction to begin in winter 2018. The total construction cost is estimated at $57 million with total project costs estimated to be $65 million.

C. MPO School Safety Top Ten Field Review Results (Matt Weaver, Element Engineering)

Matt Weaver presented the MPO School Safety Top Ten Field Review Results. The purpose of the study was to improve safety for students in the County and the task was to prioritize school areas for multimodal safety and access reviews aimed at identifying opportunities to enhance the safety and comfort of getting to and from school. The result of the study is to develop stakeholder action plans.

The study identified enhancements for the highest priority schools and they are nearing completion of school safety audits, as well as follow up activities. Recommendations for consideration are systemic, site specific and could potentially be included in ongoing projects. Key systemic recommendations include intersection and corridor lighting, connections to adjacent properties, sidewalk connectivity, enhanced signage and crosswalk striping.

Mr. Weaver reviewed a summary of the key systemic recommendations at each of the top ten schools. He also discussed the ongoing projects and opportunities with Hillsborough County, the City of Tampa, the Florida Department of Transportation and the School District of Hillsborough County. The next steps are to finalize the report, present the findings to the School Board and move forward with implementation. Mr. Weaver estimates the total cost to be around $12.5 million.

Ms. Silva suggested a meeting with the technical members on STWG to discuss the next ten schools (#11-#20).

Mr. Porth thank Mr. Weaver and the Consultant team for their work on this study. Ms. Silva thanked the jurisdictions for nominating school projects to be included in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Discussions ensued regarding the Florida Statute which requires funding for sidewalk connectivity near or around schools, crossing guard coordination for adjacent properties surrounding Coleman Middle School, the culvert replacement in front of Coleman Middle School along Waltrous and Manhattan, heavy bus activity near Muller Elementary School, the revised boundary map for Van Buren Middle School, and if the Consultant solicited feedback from the elected officials.
Ms. Stuart requested Mr. Weaver schedule a meeting with the City of Tampa and the County to prioritize projects. Mr. Weaver will make this presentation to the School District Transportation Committee on Thursday, April 26, and at the MPO Board meeting in July. Ms. Silva stated Mr. Weaver has already presented to the jurisdictions and solicited their feedback.

**D. School Transportation Student Tracking Technology 2017 Pilot Project Results (Jim Beekman, SDHC)**

Mr. Beekman presented the School Transportation Student Tracking Technology 2017 Pilot Project results. The current provider is Edulog (tablets), a computerized routing company, who routes all students in Hillsborough County. The database downloads every night and the student is assigned to a bus, if eligible. The County was running a different GPS program but Edulog’s system builds routes based on their own GPS, which back feeds speeds into their system to provide more accurate routes. It also provides an automatic vehicle locator system to provide location and speed information for each bus. This system provides accurate routes for substitute drivers. Edulog’s navigation is designed specifically for school buses, with student safety in mind. The tablets have seamless integration with the District’s hardware and routing software.

Edulog provides a passenger list, which includes the rider’s picture, making it easier for the driver to know who the riders are, where they’re going and if they’re boarding the correct bus. Each student will receive an identification badge to swipe when getting on their bus. Edulog offers a complete student ridership management system. This system provides the ability to record student ridership for many purposes. FTE, Florida’s funding mechanism, can now be automated, increasing accuracy. The system can obtain operational efficiency with updated rosters being imported to the routing software to balance loads and utilize bus capacity correctly allowing for a safer ride for our students.

It also provides time and attendance, allowing drivers to clock in and out just like a time clock, saving time and money while increasing efficiency. Drivers can also clock in and out of all extra assignments, such as field trips or activity runs.

There is also a parent portal which puts essential student transportation information directly into parents’ hands online. Parents will have access to their child’s transportation with a unique login and can approve users for their own child. The GPS tracking system lets parents know if a bus is early, late or on time. Parents will have the ability to be notified when their child scans their card to get on the bus.

Edulog will allow bus routes to be switched between buses while the original bus is in for maintenance.

The tablets have been installed and there is a small test pilot being conducted. The District is handling the identification badges during the pilot.

Discussions were held regarding if schools will have access to Edulog and if there is ridership data for before and after Edulog.

**E. Hunters Green Circulation Plan Pilot (Chris Farkas, SDHC)**

Mr. Farkas presented on the improvements being made to the Hunters Green Elementary School circulation plan, due to the boundary changes, and the School District anticipates more walkers and car riders. Mr. Farkas reviewed the changes to the circulation plan, which was developed by County and School engineers. Construction will begin as soon as school ends to be operational by the 1st
day of school in August 2018. There will also be a pedestrian gate at the sidewalk leading to neighborhood next to the school, which was a parent’s suggestion. The principal will push out the new circulation plan to the community.

F. Safe Routes to Schools letter of support – sample (Kristi Nalls, St. Joseph’s)
The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) State Coordinator, John Edwards, has asked for letters of support from agencies that he can share with the Department of Transportation asking for more money for SRTS programs. Funds are available for next year, but it’s not guaranteed for following years. Members of the STWG were encouraged to send a letter of support. Ms. Silva will send an email to the STWG members and other agencies requesting letters of support. She will include the template in the email. Ms. Stuart asked Ms. Nalls to communicate to Mr. Edwards that the STWG will ask the MPO Board to draft a letter of support.

Motion: The STWG took action to ask the MPO Board to draft a letter of support. (Dickenson-Tait).

SHARE SUCCESS STORIES, UPDATES AND RESULTS
There was a wonderful Vision Zero event on Monday, April 23, at King High School on 56th Street, with a great attendance.

There was a Hazardous Walking Conditions presentation at the Policy meeting on Tuesday, April 24. The Policy Committee is interested in hearing more about the Transportation Directors group meeting during which they will discuss Hazardous Walking Conditions.

National Bike to School day is May 9th.

OLD BUSINESS & NEW BUSINESS
Ms. Licor discussed Florida Statute 316.1895 which states school zones can be enforced 30 minutes prior to breakfast. She would like to see all school zones flashers activated 30 minutes prior to breakfast. Mr. Campbell stated that is what the County already does. Ms. Stuart suggested Ms. Licor contact Mr. Campbell about specific schools. Mr. Campbell explained how the County programs the flashing school zone signs. Mr. Beekman stated breakfast starts 20 minutes prior to bell time, the start of school, but some schools have to adjust their time based on the number of students they are serving. Mr. Campbell stated the County works with the School District on what time to set the flashers. If there is a school that doesn’t have flashers activated 30 minutes before the start of breakfast, he asked that he be contacted so he can work with the school district. Mr. Porth stated the law requires the City work with the School Board, not the School Principals. Mr. Beekman, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Porth agreed they prefer to have one point of contact to coordinate start times, etc. The County has a consultant that changes the times and the City programs their computers themselves. The challenge is County schools within City limits.

A. STWG Next Meeting: The next meeting is June 27, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in the Plan Hillsborough Room on the 18th Floor of the County Center. Due to the number of graduations in May, the Group chose to recess in May.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.
Board & Committee Agenda Item

**Agenda Item**
West Busch Boulevard Corridor Study Update

**Presenter**
Brian Shroyer, FDOT staff

**Summary**
FDOT District 7 staff will provide an update to the committees on the West Busch Boulevard Corridor Study from Dale Mabry Highway to Nebraska Avenue. The study kicked off earlier in 2017 and is expected to take 18 months to complete. FDOT has prepared a [webpage](#) for the public to learn more and leave comments. A number of corridor alternatives have been developed, from no-build to adding lanes. Committee members will be asked to weigh-in on the alternatives, picking a first and second choice, and to discuss opportunities for lowering the design speed.

**Recommended Action**
Discuss alternatives and recommend a first and second choice.

**Prepared By**
Gena Torres, MPO staff

**Attachments**
West Busch Boulevard Newsletter #1
West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) Corridor Study
From North Dale Mabry Highway to North Nebraska Avenue
Hillsborough County, FL
Financial Project ID Number: 435908-1-22-01

Corridor Study Begins!

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), District 7 is conducting a corridor planning study along West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) from North Dale Mabry Highway to North Nebraska Avenue in Hillsborough County – a distance of approximately 3.3 miles. The West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) corridor is an east-west urban principal arterial connecting and serving local commuters and visitors between North Dale Mabry Highway and Nebraska Avenue. The corridor study area includes portions of unincorporated Hillsborough County and the City of Tampa and is the main route to the Busch Gardens Amusement Park (located approximately 2.15 miles east of the project limits at McKinley Drive).

The corridor supports a variety of land uses and demographics, including schools, churches, large and small businesses with direct access to and from SR 580, transit services, pedestrians, bicyclists and many small communities. The corridor also serves a large commuter population as a connection between Veterans Expressway to the west and I-75 to the east.

The West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) corridor study will use FDOT's Complete Streets policy to showcase how Complete Streets approaches can shape a corridor. The study, which began in March 2017, is expected to continue for approximately 18 months and will include technical work and data analysis, along with various opportunities for the public to be involved in discussing a vision for West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) that makes it accessible for all users.

What is a Corridor Study?

A corridor study is the first step in planning by defining the corridor’s needs. A corridor study generally defines the relationships between a roadway and its adjacent land. Corridor studies are also used to: define acceptable levels of access and mobility; determine transportation system needs to support surrounding land uses, and identify operational deficiencies, among other things. This corridor study will include establishing a shared vision that will allow the community to help set project goals and objectives. The vision will guide the project team to develop a set of improvements that leverage local resources, match local conditions and desires, and are consistent with ongoing planning and development efforts.

Learn more about the project here: www.fdotd7studies.com/westbuschblvd/
Project Schedule

The West Busch Boulevard (SR 580) Corridor Study began in March 2017 and is anticipated to be completed in 18 months. Project activities will include:

- Identifying the travel related needs and issues within the West Busch Boulevard project corridor.
- Coordinating with key stakeholders to establish the vision for the corridor and identify solutions to the corridor issues and improve operational efficiency within the West Busch Boulevard corridor.
- Document the vision for all future improvements within the West Busch Boulevard corridor to maximize the “livability” for all users.

Project Advisory Group (PAG)

A Project Advisory Group (PAG), composed of local government and agency representatives, are working with FDOT to identify corridor challenges along with potential solutions, assist with documenting the community goals, and develop a vision for the corridor that will guide the study development and future improvements. The PAG will meet at key points throughout the study to collaborate with the project team to ensure the vision and improvement alternatives are well-coordinated with local planning efforts, adjacent projects, and community goals.

How Can You Get Involved?

The project website is your best source for up-to-date information; you can get access at this link: www.fdotd7studies.com/westbuschblvd/. In addition to the general study information that is already posted on the website, the project documents will be uploaded to this site as they are developed. However, you can already begin providing your input on this project using WikiMapping! This tool allows you to “pin” comments at specific locations along the corridor. You can pick the type of comment you have to help us understand the issues you observe in the corridor. Some of these issue types include: Bus/Transit, Connectivity, Intersection Issue, Pedestrian, Safety, and Traffic/Parking. If you have a comment on an issue that does not have a specific description, just use the “Other” category. The link to the WikiMapping tool is provided on the project website, but for direct access you can click on the following link: http://wikimapping.com/wikimap/West-Busch-Boulevard-Corridor-Study.html. The project team will utilize this information to help inform the process and guide solutions.

Future opportunities for you to get involved include the upcoming Corridor Visioning Workshop that will be conducted in the Fall 2017. At this workshop, we will gather your input on the existing corridor and document your ideas to resolve some of the issues that you have observed. Our goal is to enlist your help to identify improvements that can be implemented in the West Busch Boulevard corridor to resolve the challenges. In advance of this workshop, a User Preference Survey will be available on the website in October; hard copies of this same survey will be available at the Corridor Visioning Workshop. These surveys will be used by the project team to understand the issues and concerns that you have regarding the corridor.

We want your input! We urge anyone interested in shaping the future of the West Busch Boulevard corridor to actively participate by visiting the website, get informed, document issues in the WikiMapping tool, attend meetings, and provide your ideas.

For more information or to comment, please contact:

Brian Shroyer, Project Manager
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
Office Phone: (813) 975-6449
brian.shroyer@dot.state.fl.us

Kristen Carson, Public Information Officer
11201 N. McKinley Drive
Tampa, FL 33612
Office Phone: (813) 975-6202 or 800-226-7220
kristen.carson@dot.state.fl.us
Board & Committee Agenda Item

**Agenda Item**
Systemic Approach to Safety

**Presenter**
Chad Polk, P.E., Jacobs

**Summary**

The committee will hear about a data-driven approach to benefit the safety performance of the roadway network. With limited resources, this proactive approach can target risk, develop a list of defensible projects, in a consistent, predictable and repeatable way.

A lunch and learn was held last month introducing this approach, the flyer from that event is attached.

**Recommended Action**
None. For information only.

**Prepared By**
Gena Torres

**Attachments**
Flyer from lunch and learn
Too many crashes/ Not enough $$$

Systemic safety is a proactive approach that targets risk

Led to 25% reduction in fatalities on county roads in Minnesota

Date: April 19, 2018
Time: 11:30 - 1:00 (Lunch Provided)
Location: City of Tampa Traffic Management Center | 1104 East Twiggs Street, Suite 200 | Tampa, FL 33602
Board & Committee Agenda Item

**Agenda Item**

It's Time Tampa Bay Outreach on Tri-County Growth Concepts

**Presenter**

Johnny Wong, PhD (MPO Staff)

**Summary**

The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) provides both a regional and Hillsborough County-specific vision over the next 25 years. The LRTP identifies priorities and directs federal and state dollars toward transportation projects in support of those priorities.

The 2045 update to the LRTP will present three high-level growth concepts to the public, which may accommodate population and job growth across the counties of Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas. To get meaningful feedback from the public related to those growth concepts, we have developed a digital survey tool which will be distributed in mid-July and remain online until the first of October.

An update on the development of those growth concepts, as well as regional and local public outreach strategies will be provided to committees.

**Recommended Action**

None. For information only.

**Prepared By**

Johnny Wong, PhD (MPO Staff)

**Attachments**

None.
Hillsborough MPO
Metropolitan Planning for Transportation

Board & Committee Agenda Item

**Agenda Item**
Jurisdiction-Agency Update

**Presenter**
Hillsborough County/FDOT staff

**Summary**

Hillsborough County Sidewalks:

A federal grant will be used to improve sidewalks at several Hillsborough County schools. The project is scheduled to start this fall and be completed by spring of next year. The $850,000 investment will be used to improve sidewalks at the following schools:

- Eisenhower Middle School
- Stowers Elementary School
- Summerfield Elementary School
- Cypress Creek Elementary School

Signal Box Wraps:
FDOT is waiting for scope approval from FHWA. This wrap project should let communities know FDOT is seriously working on safety. It may involved high School Art Students.

**Recommended Action**
None.

**Prepared By**
Lisa Silva, AICP, PLA

**Attachments**
None
# 2018 Hillsborough Summer Driver Education Classes

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* X = A planned class that was canceled*
The Bullard Family Foundation and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers join hands to support Hillsborough County Public School students with

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH! 2018

Saturday, August 4, 2018
8:00AM – 2:00PM
Raymond James Stadium

The NFL requires all guests and attendees to follow the guidelines for clear bags in the stadium. Details at www.NFL.com/allclear

This is a FREE event for all Hillsborough County K-12 students.
Parents and guardians can register their child on site to receive FREE:
School physicals • Immunizations • Eye exams
School supplies • Food and fun for the whole family • And much more!

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATIONS
All4 Kids • City of Tampa • Hillsborough County • Hillsborough Education Foundation • Caspers McDonalds • PDC
Hillsborough County Department of Health • Metropolitan Ministries • St. Joseph's Hospital • Tampa General Hospital • BayCare
Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office • Tampa Police Department • Suncoast Credit Union • WellCare • American Heart Association

For information on sponsorship and to register to volunteer for the event visit www.volunteersuncoast.org/backtoschoolbash
Info BBQ: The Traffic Gardens (Safety Towns)

Please join us in August for another special School Transportation Working Group meeting, in partnership with the Planning Commission’s quarterly Info BBQ. The meeting will begin with an informative Safety Town presentation and FREE lunch! Stay to join in the STWG’s meeting discussions. (AICP credit-pending)

August 29, 2018
12:00pm - 1:00pm Info BBQ; 1:00pm - 2:00pm STWG meeting
County Center, 26th Floor Conf. Rooms A & B
601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa

For lunch, please RSVP to Sharon Snyder at snyders@plancom.org by August 27th

Guest Presenters:
Mary Butcher, Torti Gallas + Partners (Silver Springs, MD)
Fionnuala Quinn, The Bureau of Good Roads (Washington DC area)
MPO Board Meeting Summary  
Tuesday, May 1, 2018

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & INVOCATION

Chairman Les Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Stacy White led the pledge of allegiance and gave the invocation. The meeting was convened on the 26th floor of the County Center.

Commissioner Miller read, for the record, a memo from Councilman Luis Viera informing the Board that he was unable to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rick Fernandez, the President of the Tampa Heights Civic Association and Citizens Advisory Committee member commented on Action Item VII. D. Letter of Comment on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan. Mr. Fernandez was surprised that the Board directed staff to reframe comments more positively, and expressed concerns of the CAC being disrespected when they are asked for input on items brought before the MPO Board and then their comments are not utilized in the final product.

Mr. Gary Cloyd, transit advocate, spoke regarding the criticism that has been going on and how to move forward following the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan.

Ms. Nicole Rice, Citizens Advisory Committee member, voiced concerns regarding public trust and stated that the letter of Comment on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan in the agenda does not include items discussed and agreed upon at the committee meeting.

Mr. Chris Vela, resident, expressed concerns about prioritizing regional needs over local, appropriate representation of the urban core and undervaluing of the CAC volunteers serving the MPO Board.

Ms. Kimberly Overman, Citizen Advisory Committee member, reiterated everything that other CAC members stated. She urged the MPO Board to reject approval of the letter.

Mr. Taylor Ralph, resident, spoke in opposition of Bus Rapid Transit on the interstate and recommended the board take a look at the numbers and facts on ridership.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, ONLINE COMMENTS

Ms. Gena Torres, MPO staff, read the various MPO Committee reports. Committees approved and forwarded items on the Consent Agenda. She shared online comments received from: Mr. Dale Tindall regarding delays on I-275; Mr. Robert Sawallesh regarding concerns of the intersection near Bruce B. Downs Blvd. and the VA Hospital; Ms. Bardine Hicks about Garden Steps at Williams Park Senior Program providing fresh vegetables; Susan regarding Vision Zero presentation in Seminole Heights. Staff received seven Facebook comments from Ingrid Jacoba, Jason Ball, Michelle Cookson, Amanda Brown, Jim Shirk, Lauren Adriaansen, and Rochell Reebok regarding transit options and the feasibility plan comment letter.
CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes – April 3, 2018
B. Committee Appointments
D. FY17-FY18 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment for Funding Deobligation and FHWA Resilience & Durability Grant

A motion was made by Commissioner Stacy White to remove item IV. C. Health in All Policies Resolution for a separate discussion and vote. The motion was seconded by Councilman Harry Cohen and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sandra Murman to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cohen and carried unanimously.

ROLL CALL VOTE: TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT FOR FHWA RESILIENCE & DURABILITY GRANT

A motion was made by Commissioner Murman to approve the Resilience and Durability Pilot Project Grant for inclusion in the TIP. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cohen. Following a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. (Note: Councilman Maniscalco, Councilman Viera, Mr. David Mechanik, and Ms. Cindy Stuart were absent)

GUEST SPEAKER, FDOT DISTRICT 7 SECRETARY DAVID GWYNN: QUARTERLY UPDATE

Secretary David Gwynn provided an update on Tampa Bay Next. It has been one year since the process began, and there have been eighty-three community events, twenty community working groups/open houses, seventy-six presentations, and five newsletters with 3,880 active subscribers. Information has been generated based on community input and stakeholders. With the input received, they have removed express lanes from being considered on I-275 north of Downtown, and moved the express lane corridor to I-75. They also have reduced the potential right-of-way impacts of the downtown interchange reconstruction from 170-190 parcels being affected to as few as 30.

On transit, FDOT is not pushing any particular transportation alternative but is awaiting direction from TBARTA, whose role is regional transit. Last year the Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group tasked Jacobs Engineering to come up with a regional catalyst project that would be a good candidate for federal funds. FDOT too wants to ensure that any transit project is viable before moving forward with funding. If local support and local funding are present, they are ready to partner. With resolutions and prioritization from Pasco MPO, Pinellas MPO, and Hillsborough MPO, as well as the County Commissions, the region would be in a better position to compete for federal funds. If federal funding is not sought, then that will open other doors; however, that would increase the amount of money that the state and local governments would have to contribute.

FDOT is not opposed to approaching CSX, but they do not feel that it is not the right time for them to get involved in discussion. If there was a project and a funding plan in place, then they would be ready.

Following the update, members inquired about the I-275/SR 60 interchange bottleneck “punch-through” project’s effect on the airport (response: a lot of traffic should be freed up); reinforcing the shoulders of the interstate (response: willing to look at this, even though it is not funded through the statewide emergency evacuation plan); interchange at Big Bend Road - ramp improvements (response: new ramp improvements are a high priority); whether or not transit “spine” projects are part of the regional plan or a local project (response: if it connects, it’s part of the regional system); and a problem with items falling off of trucks on I-75 (response: working with Florida Highway Patrol for increased maintenance).
ACTION ITEMS

A. Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Request to Board

Mr. Patrick Thorpe, Chair of the BPAC, presented a request from the committee to meet with two volunteer MPO Board members, once annually in a workshop format during a regular BPAC meeting in order to develop and inform a continuing narrative that can become actionable items on the MPO agenda to improve the health, safety & welfare of the community, provide real choices when not driving, and prevent inequity in mobility options across our region. The annual workshop is usually held in July. There were no questions following the presentation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murman for designation of MPO Board members to attend the annual BPAC workshop. The motion was seconded by Mayor Mel Jurado and passed unanimously.

B. FY19-FY20 Unified Planning Work Program Draft

Ms. Allison Yeh highlighted information on the biennial update and discussed what has taken place the last two years. A major focus in the next two years is updating the Long Range Transportation Plan, along with assisting some governments and agencies with planning studies they have requested. Another required activity is to coordinate regional performance measure target-setting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murman to approve the FY19-FY20 UPWP document. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kemp and passed unanimously.

C. MPO/FDOT Joint Certification

Mr. Rich Clarendon, MPO Assistant Executive Director, summarized notable achievements and recommendations of the annual review, in which the MPO’s planning process is certified as following federal and state rules through a cooperative review conducted by the FDOT District 7 office and MPO staff. There were no corrective actions noted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Murman to support re-certification of the MPO and authorization for the MPO Chairman to sign the Joint Certification Statement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kemp and passed unanimously.

D. Letter of Comment on Regional Transit Feasibility Plan

Ms. Beth Alden, MPO Executive Director, presented the letter of comment on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan. The Plan is currently in a public comment phase.

Commissioner White stated that he is not opposed to sending the letter but feels that some of the issues posed in the letter are premature. On April 18th, the BOCC requested County staff to work with CUTR to convene a panel of experts to review the Plan. He sees value in postponing the letter until substantial information has been received from the panel; which will be early August.

Commissioner White made a motion to postpone action on the letter of comment on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan until the August MPO Board meeting, or such time as the information from the panel would be available. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Murman. Following the discussion described below, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp stated she supports the motion and finds the letter disturbing. She has written her own letter and provided copies to board members.
Commissioner Murman stated she brought up the peer review panel under future issues at the Board of County Commissioners’ meeting. Since the review has not taken place, she feels the letter is premature. She suggested staff have TBARTA present information on their role to the MPO Board.

Councilman Cohen stated he supports the motion, however, he is concerned that waiting until August may be too long. He also stated that the group needs to work together and figure out what should be communicated to the TMA, since that group is awaiting a response from Hillsborough County to determine how to move forward. He stated that comments from Secretary Gwynn this morning regarding the express lanes being removed from the I-275 section, between Downtown and USF, show that public comment on major transportation issues is being heard and reacted to.

Mayor Lott was prepared to vote no on the letter, for reasons expressed at the last meeting, but supports the motion. For anything to happen in Hillsborough County, the BOCC must take a leadership role. He respects the County Commission and they work well with the community, but he is ready for them to step up and bring forward a plan to vote on and take action.

Commissioner Kemp spoke regarding opposition that she has heard to interstate BRT. She distributed information to members, and stated that she feels like none of her questions have been answered at any of the forums where she has been. She also stated that the letter should be addressed to Mr. Jeff Seward since Scott Pringle is no longer with Jacobs Engineering.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to have a presentation at a MPO Board meeting on the market study for the region of the top commuter routes, which has been done at the expense of taxpayers. The motion was seconded by Commissioners White and Murman. Following discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Commissioner Kemp suggested the ridership expert from MPO staff present the requested presentation.

Commissioner White stated that MPO staff should decide the appropriate person to make the presentation.

IV. C. Health in All Policies Resolution

This item was pulled from the Consent Agenda by Commissioner White for separate discussion. He voiced concerns about potential impacts on local governments’ capital needs and operations. He would like to see Hillsborough County Administration, administration from the three municipalities, and the Planning Commission review the resolution and share their thoughts. He would like the information to come back to the MPO Board in the form of a report.

A motion was made by Commissioner White to send the resolution to the Hillsborough County Administration, administration from the three municipalities, and the Planning Commission to look at the land use and transportation linkage for potential impacts of costs, growth, and any other implications, and have the resolution come back accompanied by a report on the review for the MPO Board’s consideration. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kemp and Mr. Joe Waggoner and passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORT

A. Vision Zero Update – Top 20 Corridors Community Engagement & Quarterly Report

Ms. Gena Torres introduced Alana Brasier with Renaissance Planning who provided a quarterly overview of many local activities to move the Hillsborough community towards its goal of zero traffic deaths. A written
summary was provided. In addition, two of the high-crash roadways were chosen as a pilot to see what a coalition of residents, businesses, and others around a corridor could do when they take ownership and work to reduce the alarming numbers of severe crashes. 15th Street (Fowler to Fletcher) and 56th Street (Slight to Busch) are the focus of the current Corridor Community Engagement project. A community event is being organized on each corridor.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group: May 11, 9:30 a.m., Pasco County Utilities Building, 19420 Central boulevard, Land O’ Lakes

Ms. Alden provided information on upcoming events:

- May 2nd Tampa Bay Smart Cities Alliance Workshop at Collaborative Labs to discuss big data solution
- May 17th Civic and Stakeholder group discussion on growth scenarios
- May 20th Vision Zero Top 20 – Focus on 15th Street
- June 1st – Regional Transportation Leadership Workshop #2
- July 20th – Regional Transit Forum

She also advised members of the MPO’s quarterly report that was provided in their board folders.

The next MPO Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd Floor of the County Center.

OLD BUSINESS & NEW BUSINESS

There was no old or new business.

ADJOURNMENT

A quorum was maintained for the duration of the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.
Committee Reports

Meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on May 9

Due to the resignation of David Wilson, who was CAC Chairman, the committee elected officers to serve for the rest of the year. They elected:

- Bill Roberts as Chairman
- Rick Fernandez as Vice Chairman
- Nicole Rice as Officer at Large.

They recommended approval of the Transportation Improvement Program priorities for FY 20-24, but passed a motion regarding priority #32 to recommend deleting the funding request to reconstruct the SR 60 and Downtown interchanges on I-275, pending re-evaluation of the environmental impact study.

The committee also approved and forwarded to the MPO Board:
- Transportation Improvement Program for FY19-23
- Public Participation Plan Amendments
- School Safety Study and Top 10 Report

The CAC was briefed by:
- FDOT on Tampa Bay Next
- Hillsborough County Public Works on the study of 42nd Street / 46th Street

Meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on May 21

The committee approved and forwarded to the MPO Board:
- Transportation Improvement Program for FY19-23 – The committee asked about the Water Ferry project and learned of Pinellas County taking the lead.
- Public Participation Plan Amendments – A suggestion was made to coordinate with the Autism-Friendly Community initiative.
- School Safety Study and Top 10 Report

The TAC was briefed on:
- Tampa Bay Next – A suggestion was made to pay special attention to the design where the I-4 express lanes will merge with off-ramps from the Selmon-I-4 Connector.
- Hillsborough County Public Works’ Study of 42nd Street & 46th Street
- Systemic Approach to Safety

Members requested an update from the Aviation Authority on the exciting changes at Tampa International Airport.
Meeting of the Policy Committee on May 22

The committee **approved and forwarded to the MPO Board:**
- Public Participation Plan Amendments
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council Interlocal Agreement
- Safe Routes to School Education Support Letter

The committee was briefed by:
- TBARTA on the Regional Coordination & Best Practices Research study which will come up with a scenario for a merger of three MPOs. A public workshop will be held at St. Pete College Collaborative Labs in August or September;
- The MPO Director on strategic directions coming from March’s Plan Hillsborough Joint Boards Retreat.

The committee directed staff to:
- **Identify as a priority,** in the MPO’s draft TIP Priority List, improvements needed at HART’s transit operations & maintenance facility;
- **Schedule presentations for the board on:**
  - The I-95 Express Bus service in South Florida, including FDOT’s perspective and how the service is working in the managed toll lanes;
  - Public-private partnerships for joint development at Bus Rapid Transit stations;
- **Bring back for future discussion a possible name change,** from “Hillsborough Metropolitan Planning Organization for Transportation” to “Hillsborough Transportation Planning Organization.”
- Cancel its June meeting.

Meeting of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) on May 9

The committee **approved and forwarded to the MPO Board:**
- FY19-FY23 Transportation Improvement Program
- Public Participation Plan Amendments
- School Safety Study and Top 10 Report

The BPAC was briefed on:
- Hillsborough County Public Works’ study of 42nd Street / 46th Street

Some members expressed concern about the level of funding in the TIP for single occupant vehicles and related infrastructure, in comparison with transit, pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. It was also suggested that more detail about the resurfacing and intersection projects would help members to better understand the investment levels in those modes.

Meeting of the Livable Roadways Committee (LRC) on May 16

The committee **approved and forwarded to the MPO Board:**
- FY19-FY23 Transportation Improvement Program
- Public Participation Plan Amendments
- School Safety Study and Top 10 Report

The LRC was briefed on:
- Hillsborough County Public Works’ study of 42nd Street / 46th Street
- A preliminary review of the Maydell Bridge Replacement

Meeting of the School Transportation Working Group

The STWG recessed in May due to conflicts with multiple graduation events.
Tampa Bay Transportation Management Area (TMA) Leadership Group Executive Summary

Representing the MPOs in Pasco, Pinellas, & Hillsborough Counties

Summary for 5.11.18 meeting

Based on the importance and reach of the conversations that happen at the TMA Leadership Group, we are looking to keep our stakeholders aware of the outcomes of these meetings. The following is a summary of the most recent meeting highlights; you can find the full age. This meeting was also videotaped and is available on YouTube.

The May 11 Tampa Bay TMA Leadership Group meeting was spent in intense discussion of the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan and its place on the regional priority list.

- The draft priority list came into the meeting as follows:
  - Interstate Modernization Projects
  - Regional Transit Catalyst Project(s), which may include:
    a. Central Avenue BRT, St. Petersburg downtown to St. Pete Beach
    b. Westshore Multimodal Center with fixed guideway connections to downtowns and airports
    c. Further development of the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan
  - Regional Express Bus - opportunities include SR 60/Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, the Veterans Exwy/Suncoast Pkwy, the Gandy/Selmon Exwy corridor, the SR 54/56 corridor, and as a part of Tampa Bay Next; and expansion of regional farebox system to adjoining counties
  - Elevated transit in the SR 60 corridor – pilot project from downtown Clearwater to Clearwater Beach
  - CSX Rail Corridors – Funding is requested for right-of-way preservation for development of potential commuter routes
  - Waterborne Transportation Projects – Funding is requested for regional waterborne transportation priority projects, which could include the Cross-Bay Ferry, waterborne service from south Hillsborough County to MacDill Air Force Base, and other regional projects
    - SR 54/56 Corridor, from US 19 to Bruce B. Downs – Funding is requested to complete a Multimodal Concept and Corridor Assessment/Impact Study
    - I-75 Improvements
      a. I-75 at Overpass Road – new interchange (funding requested for construction)
      b. I-75 at Big Bend Road – interchange reconfiguration
The originally identified catalyst project for the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan - for which the stated purpose was to identify a project competitive for federal funding - was a shoulder-running BRT system along I-275 from St. Petersburg to Wesley Chapel that would coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation’s planned interstate modernization projects.

- A second catalyst project was using the CSX lines from downtown Tampa to USF for urban commuter rail, but the initial cost-per-trip numbers were not as competitive for Federal Transit Administration funding
- At its meeting the week prior to the TMA meeting, the Hillsborough MPO board had decided to withhold comment on the Regional Transit Feasibility Plan, pending the outcome of a peer review Hillsborough County intends to ask USF’s Center for Urban Transportation Research to perform, and which among other outcomes would determine its benefits and connectivity for Hillsborough County
  - As a result of that decision, Hillsborough MPO Director Beth Alden suggested an addition to item c in the regional catalyst project section of the priority list
    - The addition would prioritize phased implementation of the RTFP project with an initial segment from downtown St. Petersburg to Tampa International Airport/Westshore on I-275 in order for the MPOs to put the project on the regional priority list without waiting for the results of the peer review study

Feelings on the BRT project differed by county, and the priority list required consensus - defined as no member of the group disagreeing strongly enough to block action - to have any changes made.

- From Hillsborough County, Commissioner Pat Kemp said she could not, at this time, support any priority list that advanced the BRT plan’s progression in Hillsborough, while Commissioner Sandra Murman said she supported the RTFP and the process behind it moving forward but also wanted to see the results of the peer review before fully committing to the project as proposed in Hillsborough County
  - Kemp said she would support the addition of phrasing to allow implementation from St. Petersburg to Westshore/TIA
- Among the Pasco County representation, Commissioner Jack Mariano wanted to see more research on the CSX lines as an urban rail alternative, while Commissioner Kathryn Starkey wanted to see the BRT project progress
  - Both commissioners felt it essential that Pasco County be included in any project that goes forward
- Both Forward Pinellas MPO representatives in attendance (County Commissioner Dave Eggers and Dunedin Commissioner John Tornga) uniformly supported the BRT catalyst project, or in the absence of the full group supporting the entire project, they supported advancing a segment of the project from St. Pete to Westshore/TIA
  - County Commissioner Janet Long, in attendance representing the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, also strongly supported the plan as proposed
- FDOT District Seven Secretary David Gwynn expressed concern that a phased PD&E study to move into design and engineering for the regional project might not be acceptable for FTA funding and that a full regional show of support would be necessary
  - Gwynn also expressed concern about continuing to set aside $5M for the RTFP PD&E study when there didn’t appear to be regional consensus for the project
In response to a question from Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton, Gwynn and other FDOT staff indicated that the PD&E could resolve questions about mode, technology and other aspects as part of its evaluation of the full corridor from St. Petersburg to Wesley Chapel.

Alden felt that a PD&E that is already occurring for Hillsborough MetroRapid in a parallel corridor would overlap with a PD&E specifically for the RTFP.

- Despite Secretary Gwynn’s concern about phased implementation of the PD&E effort, there did seem to be group consensus about the addition to item c
  - Gwynn noted that, ultimately, the decision about how to go forward with the implementation of the project belongs to the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA).
  - He said that phased implementation of the project would be acceptable based on local funding commitments for capital and operating costs, but that the three counties would need to state their policy commitment to supporting the project toward the end of 2018 for it to move into the next phase for the PD&E study.

There was also a brief presentation at the end of the meeting on the MetroQuest survey for the regional Long Range Transportation Plan, which will be rolled out to the public in the coming months to gauge their desires about transportation investments and regional growth.

The next TMA meeting is scheduled for September 7 at FDOT District 7 Headquarters.
We need your Input!
August 27, 2018 – 10:00 am to 4pm

How we plan for and deliver transportation projects now will define how our region will grow…….

- Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) influence every state and federal transportation project and dollar in your community
- The Tampa Region MPOs are examining ways that they can improve the delivery of their transportation services and products right now

Register by August 8, 2018
Event Registration: https://mporegionalworkshop2018.eventbrite.com

Collaborative Labs @ St. Petersburg College
13805 58th Street North
Clearwater, FL 33760
Doors open 9:00 am
Workshop 10:00 am – 4:00 pm