



PALM BEACH METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Summary Points of the September 19, 2013 MPO Board Meeting

*PDF versions of all presentations are available for review at
<http://www.palmbeachmpo.org/committees/agenda.htm>*

1. REGULAR ITEMS

F. Comments from the Chair

The Chair noted that USDOT Secretary Foxx formally announced the awarding of a federal TIGER grant in the amount of \$13.75 million for southeast Florida regional rail projects at a Sep. 13 event in Broward County. One project to be funded by the grant is a rail connection between the FEC and CSX rail lines along 25th Street in West Palm Beach. This connection will assist with the northern expansion of Tri-Rail's Coastal Link project, and will allow many freight trains to transfer from the FEC tracks to the CSX tracks which generally travel through less populated areas.

G. Executive Directors Report

The director expressed desire for a second public announcement of the TIGER grant to be held in West Palm Beach.

The director introduced Arlene Tanis as the new FDOT liaison to the Palm Beach MPO, and thanked Jeremy Mullings who recently left the position.

The director provided an update and timeline for a federally funded study being conducted by a partnership of the Broward, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach MPOs to address the impacts of climate change. The purpose of the study is to determine return on investment for various implementation strategies.

The director announced "National Plug In Day" to be held on Saturday, Sep. 28 for 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the West Palm Beach Waterfront Commons. The event will promote electric vehicles and energy independence.

The director announced that a representative from the City of Greenacres would replace the current representative from the Village of Royal Palm Beach for a seat on the MPO Board in October. That position alternates annually between the two municipalities.

H. General Public Comments

Mr. David London spoke about a decades-old technology of fueling engines with compressed air. He feels the technology holds promise, and circulated a handout to MPO Board Members.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. 2013/2014 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan/ Human Service Transportation Coordinating Board

Palm Tran Connection Director Ron Jones presented the annual update of the Plan, developed jointly with the MPO. The MPO Board unanimously approved the 2013/2014 Transportation Disadvantaged Service Plan/ Human Service Transportation Coordinated Plan.

Document link: www.palmbeachmpo.org/pdf/2013-14_TDSP-HSTCP.pdf

B. Alternate appointment to the Technical Advisory Committee

The MPO Board unanimously approved the appointment of Ms. Charlotte Presensky as the second alternate for the City of Palm Beach Gardens to the MPO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

C. Amendment #1 to the FY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program

The MPO Board unanimously approved TIP Amendment #1 to the FY 2014-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include FDOT's FY 2013-14 Roll Forward Report.

D. Safety/ Quiet Zone Infrastructure on the FEC corridor as an MPO Priority for Further Study

Jose Gonzalez of Florida East Coast Industries (FECI) gave a presentation to announce a major revision to funding responsibilities for the construction of safety equipment at all grade crossings along the FEC corridor that will be required for the All Aboard Florida project, noting that "AAF would absorb the necessary and reasonable capital investments to install crossing improvements to the extent required for the Project to comply with currently applicable laws regarding safety at public crossings." This shift takes a significant financial burden off of local governments. He noted that agreements will be required with the local governments along the corridor to memorialize this commitment and that the local governments will be responsible for on-going operations and maintenance costs for the crossing improvements. A suggestion was made to create a forum for attorneys from local governments to work towards creation of a legal template that could be used for agreements with FECI to outline grade crossing related responsibilities.

On behalf of the MPO, Dr. Kim DeLaney of the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council reported on a two-day regional Quiet Zones technical workshop that was held on Aug. 27-28. The workshop trained local government staff members and officials to evaluate supplemental safety measures that may enable grade crossings to qualify for quiet zone designations. The workshop included presentations from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and FDOT, along with a field trip to survey various grade crossing examples.

With the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project on the horizon, synchronization of work to explore funding options to leverage local dollars was encouraged. Financial responsibilities for future Tri-Rail stations and the timeline for the Tri-Rail Coastal Link project were briefly discussed.

The MPO Board voted unanimously to include a study of quiet zone infrastructure as an MPO priority, allowing the use of federal transportation funds up to \$500,000 to evaluate and make recommendations for each grade crossing, quantify potential costs, identify funding sources and strategies, and facilitate public meetings with impacted municipalities.

E. FY 15-19 Project Priorities

The MPO Board unanimously adopted FY 15-19 Project Priorities identified in the agenda package along with three additions: The funding of design and construction for two Palm Tran maintenance facility expansions, the installation of a bus shelter on Camino Real east of Dixie Hwy. in Boca Raton, and the installation of a bus shelter on Forest Hill Blvd. west of Federal Hwy. in West Palm Beach.

F. MPO Board Meeting Location

The MPO Board tabled discussion of the meeting location to a future meeting.

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. South Florida Regional Transportation Authority Transit Development Plan FY 2014-2023 Major Update

The SFRTA provided a presentation on "SFRTA-Moving Our Region Forward," a major update of SFRTA's Transit Development Plan, covering a ten-year period through FY 2023. Key elements

of the recently adopted transit development plan update include expansion of Tri-Rail service onto the FEC corridor, construction of a northern layover facility in West Palm Beach, and identification of other system needs and projected costs over a full ten-year period.

Link to the SFRTA project website: www.sfrtaforward.com

B. I-95 at PGA Boulevard/Central Boulevard PD&E Study

FDOT provided a presentation regarding a mobility study that has commenced to evaluate a new I-95 interchange and its impacts on traffic congestion in the PGA Blvd. corridor. The study area includes I-95 between Northlake Blvd. and Donald Ross Rd.. In spring 2014, FDOT will present various alternatives for a single new I-95 interchange within the study area, with potential locations at Central Blvd. or Hood Road.

C. 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan Existing + Committed Projects and Socioeconomic Data and Public Involvement Plan

Leftwich Consulting Engineers, Inc., consultants for the Directions 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), presented a summary of transportation improvement projects that have been completed (existing) or fully funded (committed) since the last LRTP; projected population and employment growths; and a draft outline of public involvement strategies.

D. Correspondence

A number of letters and e-mails were received suggesting projects for inclusion in the FY 15-19 Project Priorities.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

B. Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2013, at 9:00 AM in the 12th Floor McEaddy Conference room of the Palm Beach County Governmental Center in West Palm Beach. The public is always encouraged to attend, provide input and learn how their transportation tax dollars are put to use.